



NORTH DAKOTA GUARDIAN



THE
Happy Hooligans

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Digital photos should be at least 300 dpi.

On the Cover



Groundbreaking: Brig. Gen. Alan Palmer, Air National Guard chief of staff; Gov. John Hoeven; Sen. Kent Conrad; Sen. Byron Dorgan; Rep. Earl Pomeroy; Maj. Gen. David A. Sprynczynatyk, adjutant general; Brig. Gen. Robert Udland, Joint Training and Operations Command commander; Col. William Seekins, RTI commander; and Command Sgt. Maj. Gerald Miller, RTI commandant, turn the first shovels of dirt at the May 19 Regional Training Institute groundbreaking ceremony. Please see story on Page 4. (Photo by Sgt. Jon Haugen, Joint Force Headquarters)

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Dave Jundt

Consider Benefits of Becoming a 'Chief'

The role of the warrant officer in the Army has evolved over the years as has most everything else. Many of us have known, worked with, or worked for a warrant officer during our careers. If you need to know something about maintenance, personnel, supply, and so forth, you sought out "chief" for advice. The "chief" can be relied on to fly you safely from one point to another.

Today, warrant officers are still considered the Army's subject-matter experts in their chosen fields, but the warrant officer in today's modern Army is now a leader, much more so than in the past. Today's warrant officer is a Soldier, officer, leader, technician and coach.

By definition (DA Pam 600-3), "The Army WO is a self-aware, adaptive technical expert, combat leader, trainer and advisor. The WO administers, manages, maintains, operates and integrates Army systems and equipment across the full spectrum of Army operations. Warrant officers are innovative integrators of emerging technologies, dynamic teachers, confident war fighters and developers of specialized teams of soldiers."

We have been accurately referred to as "experts who lead." Warrant officers may command detachments, units and activities. Warrant officers lead, coach, train and counsel subordinates. We are technical experts who provided valuable skills, guidance and expertise to commanders and organizations in their specific fields.

The North Dakota Army National Guard has 77 warrant officers assigned to MTOE and TDA units and activities. We have 34 warrant officer vacancies to fill. Multiple critical vacancies exist within

aviation (MOS 152B & 153B), military personnel technician (MOS 420A), utility operations and maintenance technician (MOS 210A), electrical/missile systems maintenance officer (MOS 948D) and engineer equipment technician (MOS 919A). We also have vacancies in other important fields.

Join the warrant officer ranks today! Non-waiverable requirements to become a warrant officer include: be a U.S. Citizen, GT score of 110 or higher, be a high school graduate or have a GED, have or be able to obtain a "secret" security clearance, and pass the standard three-event physical fitness test. Additionally, candidates must have experience in certain enlisted feeder MOSs applicable to the warrant officer MOS being sought.

You do not need to hold a specific enlisted feeder MOS to become an aviation warrant officer. In addition to the non-waiverable requirements, you must pass a Flight Aptitude Selection Test (AFAS) with a minimum score of 90 and pass an appointment physical.

Let your chain of command know you are interested in becoming a warrant officer. Then, contact the North Dakota Army National Guard warrant officer recruiter, Warrant Officer Jon Sigl, at 701-333-3156 or jonathon.sigl@us.army.mil. You also may contact me, the state command chief warrant officer, at 701-333-3025 or david.jundt@us.army.mil. We will work with you, your unit and your chain of command to get your warrant officer predetermination packet prepared and submitted for approval. You will soon be on your way to the most rewarding job in the Army!



"We have been accurately referred to as 'experts who lead.'"

NATIONAL 
GUARD
North Dakota

Construction Begins For New Training Center

A line of golden shovels got the construction of a new Regional Training Institute building off to an appropriate start during a May 19 groundbreaking ceremony at Camp Grafton Training Center, Devils Lake. This kicks off the \$30.5 million Phase I of the two-phase project.

"The expansion of the Regional Training Institute is part of our five-year strategic plan to increase the force strength of North Dakota's National Guard and to enhance the skills and preparedness of Guard members," Gov. John Hoeven said. "The institute's growth from a regional training center to a first-class facility that attracts students from around the world is a testament to the outstanding work of our National Guard and will continue to provide exciting opportunities for the Devils Lake region and the state."

The new building will contain about 182,372 square feet and will include administration facilities, education facilities, a vertical construction lab and the first of three billeting wings. The expected completion date is Aug. 2010.

Phase II, budgeted at \$14.6 million, will begin in fiscal year 2015. It will add 68,179 square feet and two additional billeting wings. When complete, the building will include 216 rooms.

"This new facility will help the Regional Training Institute continue to grow and keep pace with the increased demand for professional military engineer training," said Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, North Dakota National Guard adjutant general.

The annual direct economic impact of the Camp Grafton Training Center, including the Regional Training institute, reached about \$17 million for the 2006 fiscal year.

The Regional Training Institute provides 25 fully-accredited engineer courses each year. More than 200 classes will be provided this fiscal year. The Institute's reach spans far beyond North Dakota's borders, with 60 percent of all Army Reserve and Army National Guard engineers across the United States receiving training there.

— Joint Force Headquarters

See artist rendering of new facility on pg. 9...

Soldiers Close to Regional Win

Staff Sgt. Scott Obrigewitch, 816th Engineer Company (Horizontal), and Spc. Carl Smith, 1-188th Air Defense Artillery, competed in the Region Six Noncommissioned Officer/Soldier of the Year competition May 15-19 in Helena, Mont.

After three grueling days of compe-

tion, Smith was named runner-up — he missed taking it all by two points — and Obrigewitch placed third for the region.

"These two warriors represented the North Dakota Army National Guard in an outstanding manner," said State Command Sgt. Maj. Jack Cripe, who accompanied the Soldiers to the competition.

Lieutenants Place in Top 30% at National Guard Marathon

By Sgt. Amy Wieser Willson
Joint Force Headquarters

Two members of the North Dakota National Guard Marathon Team recently competed in the 31st Annual Lincoln National Guard Marathon and Half-Marathon in Nebraska. 1st Lt. Sheldon Shell Track and 2nd Lt. Matthew Voeller, both of Fargo, completed the 26.2-mile course in less than 3 hours, 45 minutes, on May 4.

Shell Track, 34, placed 187th with a time of 3 hours, 25 minutes, 19 seconds. The race was his 16th marathon, and the fifth time he has competed in Lincoln.



Voeller, 28, placed 346th with a time of 3 hours, 43 minutes, 18 seconds. The race was his third marathon.

Nearly 1,200 runners took part in the marathon, and another 4,224 ran the half-marathon. The winning time for the full marathon was 2 hours, 26

minutes, 55 seconds, by Levi Ashley of Lincoln, Neb.

"It was a very fast group of military runners that made the National Guard Marathon Team this year," Voeller said.

The course began in downtown



Lincoln and was extremely hilly on some stretches and narrow in others. The runners said one two-mile stretch pushed all 5,500 runners into an 8-foot-wide path, which made the race more difficult. Fortunately, it was good running weather, ranging from 39 degrees at the start to the

60s by the end.

Shell Track just ran the Fargo Half-Marathon May 17, as well, where he placed 78th out of the 3,690 runners who completed the course. He plans to work to get a time less than three hours at other marathons this year, and, by next year, he hopes his training will help him qualify for the All-Guard Team again. He previously qualified in 2004.

Voeller plans to increase his miles this summer to clock 3 hours, 10 minutes, possibly in the Bismarck Roughrider Marathon in September or the Washington, D.C., Marine Corps Marathon in October.

Anyone interested in learning more about participating on North Dakota's Marathon Team should contact Capt. Ann Mutzenberger at 701-240-9586.

Fargo VA Sponsors Welcome Home Event

A welcome home celebration honoring recently returned veterans from deployments, such as Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, will take place from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. June 5 and from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. June 6 at the Fargo VA Medical Center, 1201 N. Elm St. Attendees are encouraged to come and go as they please during the event, which is designed to provide outreach services to recent veterans of all branches and their families. The celebration will offer valuable information, education and support. Food, entertainment and giveaways also will be provided.

Services that will be provided during the celebration include readjustment services, employment and academic support, general health screenings, consultative services, veterans' benefits, educational seminars and other veteran-related services. Compensation exams also will be performed.

For more information, call 701-239-3787 or go to www.fargo.va.gov. Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom staff includes: Deb Kunkel, program manager; Amy Gunkelman, case manager; and Heidi Sanger, case manager.

— Submitted by Fargo VA Medical Center



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

Senior Airman Justin Giere, of the 119th Civil Engineering Squadron, gets a big welcome home hug from friends and family as he arrives at Hector International Airport May 7, after a four-month deployment to Kuwait.

N.D. Team Expedites Return Home

The 164th Engineer Battalion (SECFOR) demobilized and out-processed the active-duty Army at Camp Shelby, Miss., in May while the 132nd Quartermaster Company demobilized at Fort Hood, Texas. The North Dakota National Guard sent teams to both locations to help expedite the demobilization process.

According to Sgt. 1st Class Pam Anderson, who has been involved with many of North Dakota's demobilizations and mobilizations in multiple capacities, North Dakota's team is designed to get the Soldiers home to their families as fast as possible and to ensure

all paperwork is in order.

"We do this to take care of Soldiers. We do 100 percent of the state process on-site so that once the Soldier steps off the plane in North Dakota, they are released to their families."

Not all states are as involved in the process, but North Dakota's team believes in the what they are doing and Anderson says that knowing that it helps the Soldiers get that much closer to their families as quickly as possible makes her completely committed to her work.

— Staff Sgt. Billie Jo Lorus
116th Public Affairs Detachment

Reintegration Program Off to Strong Start

By 1st Lt. Rachael Walters
Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, Suicide Prevention Officer and Reintegration Officer

Most readers have heard of reintegration, although some may not be aware of what exactly it means. The North Dakota National Guard has always been thankful for the service of its Soldiers and Airmen and has created a program to help the transition from warrior to citizen.

Reintegration is not only for Soldiers and Airmen, but for family members, as well. The sequence of events happens at the 30-, 60- and 90-day intervals after the service members return home. The events include stations, such as VA benefits, Tricare, vet centers and education, workshops, on making relationships work, reconnecting with children and single Soldier challenges, and presentations on anger management and compulsive behavior.

These events are followed by a 1-, 3- and 5-year reunion. The program is still in the early stages and will only continue to grow with the input of the service members.

The reintegration program began with the Air Defense Artillery SECFOR in July 2007. Reintegration efforts continued with the Mobile Public Affairs Detachment and now the 1-188th Air Defense Artillery (RAID), which will be followed by the Engineer Brigade and 164th Engineers.

No service member is the same, so the process is unique to every person. No one will be left behind with this process. This is not only a process for future deployments and current units, but will be offered to everyone who has deployed since the Global War on Terrorism began.

I urge all of you reading this, whether a parent, Soldier, Airmen, contract employee, spouse, child or community member, to contact me if you have input for the program. I am passionate about reintegration and strive to make it a program that will help everyone. Please feel free to contact me at 701-333-3148 or rachael.walters@us.army.mil.

Read about the 1-188th Air Defense Artillery (RAID) experience with the Reintegration Program on Page 15.

Every Soldier and Airman Takes Part in the N.D. National Guard Mission

By Chaplain Justin R. Schmidt
68th Troop Command

As a full-time chaplain in the state of North Dakota for the past year, I have had the opportunity to see many great people making our organization work. I have worked with the 119th Wing, engineers, staff, air defenders, military police, civilians and many more. I have worked with many people in the North Dakota National Guard who have not gone to war (yet). I sense that those who have not gone to war sometimes feel like they are not in the fight. This could not be farther from the truth.

As an organization, we take pride in preparing Soldiers and Airmen for their missions. We take pride in knowing that our Soldiers and Airmen are trained to the highest standard for their mobilizations. We are all part of this.

From the adjutant general down, we work hard to help our Guardsmen reintegrate back into North Dakota society. We send more people than any other state to help at the demob site. It takes administrative personnel, finance, social workers, chaplains, other staff and a whole lot of Sgt. Maj. Bob Schuchard, 68th Troop

Command, to get our Guardsmen back to North Dakota.

We also have a great honor guard that fulfills a very important duty in the state — honoring our dead. We support and help the families who have lost loved ones. The honor guard helps with all veterans' funerals across the state.

I do not seek to take away from the sacrifice and hard work our Soldiers and Airmen do in Iraq and Afghanistan, but we are all in this fight. As I read the Bible, and the Gospel books specifically, I always wonder about the disciples that get very little ink. Some of these men only get listed and mentioned in a few events. When the disciples leave to preach about Jesus in the known world, many of them are lost to history and myth. They were important. They did hard work. People were blessed by them, but in the end, little is known about them.

Our state is full of people doing hard work for others, which is a North Dakota value that we all live.

Another example of every Guardsman being involved in the North Dakota National Guard mission is the Soldiers of the Camp Grafton Combined Support Maintenance Shop. These Guards-

men have made a die to stamp out crosses on ID tags. We try to give them to all Soldiers and Airmen before they leave for mobilizations. Any Guardsman can have one. The state chaplains have them and if you want one, just ask. They are popular and I believe the personnel who make the tags take pride in providing a service to their fellow Soldiers and Airmen. I also keep a stack of them in the chapel at Camp Grafton. If you want one, stop by, say hi and pick one up.

I am proud of all the Airmen and Soldiers in the state. They are all in the fight, one way or another.

God bless America and God bless North Dakota.



A Close Shave at LDC

Jodi Renschler, 119th Wing, shaves Chaplain (Capt.) Justin Schmidt, 68th Troop Command, during a coaching, counseling and mentoring skit performed by N.D. Air and Army National Guard students at the recent Leadership Development Course at Camp Grafton April 28 - May 9.

LDC is a two-week leadership course available to N.D. National Guard members. Some of the topics that the course focuses on are leadership skills, meeting facilitation, presentation skills, conflict management and personality profiles. Contact Tech Sgt. Shane Amundson for more information about LDC or Basic Leadership Training at 701-451-2377.

Gov. Hoeven presents Air Force Combat Action Medal to 119th Wing Airmen

By Capt. Penny Ripperger
119th Wing Public Affairs

In a first for the North Dakota Air National Guard Detachment, two Airmen were presented with the Air Force Combat Action Medal by N.D. Gov. John Hoeven during a May 13 ceremony at the Minot Air Force Base.

Master Sgt. Dominic Cook, West Fargo, and Staff Sgt. Aaron Giere, Hawley, Minn., were presented the medal by Hoeven and Brig. Gen. Patrick Martin, assistant adjutant general for air, in recognition of actively participating in combat operations while serving in Iraq in 2003.

“This medal recognizes Master Sgt. Cook and Staff Sgt. Giere for outstanding work,” Hoeven said. “It’s your willingness to put your life on the line that sets you apart. You step up and serve our nation. Nobody could do it better.”

The AFCAM is awarded to individuals who go outside the defended perimeter to conduct duties under lethal enemy attack and are at risk of grave danger.

Cook and Giere served in Baghdad, Iraq, with the Security Forces Oscar 1 team where they responded to off-base hostile

threats directed at U.S. and coalition forces. Cook and Giere distinguished themselves while responding to a dispatch in which they rescued coalition forces during a small arms fire assault. The Airmen also bravely performed security sweeps of the area to ensure the location was safe preventing harm to civilians and U.S. and coalition military forces.

“Master Sgt. Cook and Staff Sgt. Giere epitomize the best qualities of the Airmen of the N.D. Air National Guard and the Air Force. There is no finer unit in the world than our National Guard. I am so proud of you,” Hoeven said.

Both Airmen expressed pride and a humble appreciation for the honor they were bestowed, adding they were overwhelmed with receiving the medal.

“Certainly the brave actions displayed by these Airmen deserve our praise and respect,” Martin said. “Their achievements are in keeping with the finest traditions of the Happy Hooligans and the Air National Guard.”

The AFCAM has been awarded to two other members in the history of the N.D. Air Guard; Cook and Giere are the first to receive it for the Air Guard Detachment in Minot.



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

North Dakota Gov. John Hoeven pins the Air Force Combat Action Medal on Staff Sgt. Aaron D. Giere, of the 119th Detachment 2, right, at the Minot Air Force Base, May 13. Master Sgt. Dominic A. Cook, of the 119th Detachment 2, also was presented the Air Force Combat Action Medal by Hoeven, who was assisted by Brig. Gen. Patrick L. Martin, North Dakota National Guard assistant adjutant general for air. Giere and Cook received the medal in recognition of actively participating in combat operations while serving in Iraq in 2003. The AFCAM has only been awarded to two other members in the history of the N.D. Air Guard. Cook and Giere are the first to receive the medal for the Air Guard Detachment in Minot.

Happy Hooligan F-16s Featured in First-Place Photo

By Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp
119th Wing Public Affairs

A photo of two North Dakota Air National Guard Happy Hooligan F-16A Air-Defense Fighters flying a combat air patrol mission over Washington, D.C., shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack on the Pentagon has been selected as the first-place photo in the North American Aerospace Defense Command 50th Anniversary Photo Contest.

The large gap in the Pentagon created by the commercial airliner that crashed into the building can be seen in the background of the photo as Happy Hooligan F-16s flown by then Maj. Brad Derrig and Maj. David Hill defend the skies over the United States Capitol.

The top-prize photo was taken by then Staff Sgt. Greg L. “Cactus” Davis, who left the service in 2004, but was then assigned to the 20th Fighter Wing, Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., as the Wing’s aerial photographer and base photojournalist.

“I’m honored to receive this award and to have played my part in documenting history. My photo is the visual representation of the teamwork and coming together that occurred after Sept. 11. From the tanker support to the pilots flying the F-16s as they performed their CAP mission, to the pilot flying the chase F-15 aircraft,” Davis said, “it all came



Photo by Greg L. Davis

Award-winning photographer Greg L. Davis (shown below) took this first-place winning photograph of two North Dakota Air National Guard F-16s flying a combat air patrol mission over the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001.

together in the early morning as we did a mission hand-off.”

Davis began his photography career more than 20 years ago with a report on the local Air National Guard unit near his home in San Antonio, Texas. In just a few years, he rose to the top of the aviation photography world while flying with all branches of the U.S. military forces in various aircraft. He served on active duty from 1996-2004 and was often requested by-name for aerial photo shoots, as was the case in documenting the CAP patrols that produced the winning photo.

The North Dakota F-16s were in position to fly missions over Washington, D.C., because of their NORAD alert status at the N119th Fighter Wing Detachment 1, based at Langley Air Force Base, Va., which they maintained from October 1998 through October 2006.

It was the Happy Hooligan F-16s at Langley that were scrambled the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, and they were the first on the scene at the Pentagon after the attack. They continued to fly the patrol missions from the alert detachment over Washington, D.C., for several years following the attack.

The North Dakota Air National Guard has had an unparalleled flying safety record while flying NORAD alert missions from Aug. 15, 1954, until 2006 with their recent mission change from the F-16 to the MQ-1 Predator and the C-21 Lear Jet. The safety record includes more than 70,000 accident-free hours in the F-16 fighter aircraft, and more than 142,000 combined flight hours without an accident, including the fighters preceding the F-16s — a period that spans 34 years from March 1973. This includes more than 51,000 flight hours in the F-4 “Phantom” aircraft (1977-1990) and nearly 21,000 hours of accident-free flying in the F-101 “Voodoo” fighters (1973-1977).

As a civilian photographer, Davis continues covering the exciting world of military aviation and shooting promotional photos for air show performers and on-assignment for numerous well-known magazines. He has flown more than 800 aerial photography flight hours.

“I’m always looking for units to profile and missions to highlight for the aviation press. I love the fact that even as a civilian now I’m still able to work with these great professionals and enjoy showcasing the people and aircraft that help protect and defend America,” Davis said. He can be contacted through his Web site at www.focalplaneimagery.com.

The first-place photo is being prominently displayed on the NORAD 50th Anniversary Web site: www.norad.mil/50/contests.html.



Courtesy Photo

Photographer Greg L. Davis

Certification Recognizes Quality Commitment

Submitted by Combined Support Maintenance Shop

“Git’r done good and get better at it!” With these words and several months of preparation, Camp Grafton’s Combined Support Maintenance Shop recently received special recognition for its Quality Management Program.

After a series of internal audits conducted by Perry Johnson Registrars, the CSMS achieved Certification to the International Standards of Organization 9001:2000.

“This certification confirms our commitment to customer service and quality standards,” said Maj. Ed Johnson, CSMS supervisor. “CSMS personnel are extremely committed to quality and this achievement is reflective of the hard work and dedication of all the employees of the CSMS.”

ISO 9001:2000 is a series of quality standards established to

simplify international trade by creating a common set of quality standards. ISO 9001:2000 has two core principles: establishing a commitment to customer satisfaction and showing a commitment to continual process improvement.

“Going through the process of becoming ISO 9001:2000 certified has validated the process we use in our maintenance facility,” said Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Johansen, CSMS senior production controller. “It establishes to outside agencies that we are on track for what our customers need and expect from us. We are hoping that this will allow us to expand our customer base and maintenance activities within the Army community.”

The CSMS’ 35 full-time and five temporary employees provide a variety of maintenance support to the Guard, including mechanical, electronic, armament and calibration services. It is the largest maintenance facility in the North Dakota Army National Guard.

“Our goals in pursuing ISO 9001:2000 certification were to validate repair processes and posture the CSMS for contract maintenance opportunities with U.S. Army Material Command,” Johnson said. “With a certified quality management program we have positioned ourselves to have a greater impact on equipment readiness at both the state and national levels.” The CSMS also will be able to offer increased support to the 3662nd Maintenance Company by providing training components.

“With certification to ISO 9001:2000 standards, the CSMS has significantly improved process efficiency and overall productivity,” Johnson said. “I am very pleased with the positive results I have seen with this program and I expect that our organization as a whole will continue to improve as a result of our commitment to quality.”



Courtesy Photo

The Combined Support Maintenance Shop at Camp Grafton Training Center, Devils Lake, recently earned an ISO 9001:2000 certification.

A First Look at New RTI Facility



From page 4, The completed version of the new RTI facility is shown in this artistic rendering. Once complete, it will span more than 250,000 square feet.

FINALLY!

Back in North Dakota

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

It's been a long time coming. At least it seems like forever to the families that have missed their loved ones serving in Iraq for nearly a year. Finally, Soldiers' families were able to welcome home two more North Dakota Army National Guard units. Both the 132nd Quartermaster Company and the 164th Engineer Battalion are now home. Both served in Iraq and were alerted for mobilization in November 2006.

Both units experienced a shift in return dates as they were preparing to go home, but the welcome home hugs and handshakes made it all worth the wait.

Grand Forks-based 132nd Quartermaster Company returned to North Dakota on April 26 and Minot-based 164th Engineer Battalion Security Forces (SECFOR) returned May 3. The 132nd also has detachments in Bottineau, Rugby and Cando.

"The 164th Engineer SECFOR led a security forces mission comprised of National Guard companies from Minnesota, Iowa, California and North Dakota while the 132nd Quartermaster Company was instrumental in providing water for our fighting forces in Iraq," said National Guard Adjutant General Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk.

The 164th Engineers deployed with 118 Soldiers and has been on active duty since June 2007 and in Iraq since last September. The 132nd Quartermaster Company mobilized with 20 Soldiers in May 2007 and has been serving in Iraq since last July.

During their deployment, the 132nd performed water purification missions throughout western Iraq. Their efforts were used to provide necessities for service members, such as showers, laundry and toilets.

According to 1st Lt. Donald Williams, commander of the unit, a lot of maintenance was needed on the equipment when they arrived in Iraq because it was

the same gear that has been used since the beginning of the war. The Soldiers spent a majority of their time getting the equipment up-to-speed to perform the tasked mission. After the gear was good to go, the Soldiers did their job and did it well, Williams said.

"The mission was very successful. The Soldiers put a lot of hard work and effort into their work," he said.

Halfway through the deployment, the unit was tasked to move all their equipment, which is no small feat for a 20-person detachment. For Williams, it was the most memorable part of the deployment because he was able to see the dedication and commitment to duty that his unit had.

"The amount of work everyone put in made the move go off without a hitch. I will remember everybody pulling together and working hard to get the mission accomplished."

Like other units preceding them, North Dakota Soldiers are known for their work ethic and can-do attitude. Lt. Col. Steven Jahner, commander of the 164th SECFOR also praised his unit for their performance while deployed.

"We had a very successful mission, and I am very proud of our Soldiers. It's a good team that we had – made up of Soldiers from Minnesota, California, Iowa and North Dakota. Most importantly, we brought all of them back," he said.

After the task force from four separate states unified into one cohesive battalion, they conducted base defense operations that directly affected more than 50,000 military and civilian personnel on the Camp Victory complex in Iraq. The Soldiers conducted more than 1,400 combat patrols to locate potential IEDs. Other missions for the 164th included force protection, operation of the Joint Visitor Bureau and civil military operations.

According to 1st Lt. Dana Schagunn, who coordinated much of the 164th civil



Left, Chaplain (Maj.) David Johnson hugs his sons, Isaac, Micah and Caleb upon his return from Iraq at the Bismarck Airport on May 3. Chaplain Johnson was deployed with the 164th Engineer Battalion, Security Forces in Baghdad.



Photo by Spc. Christopher Erickson, 116th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Serving VIPs in Iraq

Sgt. 1st Class Larry Jacobson had a unique mission while in Iraq. He was assigned to the Joint Visitor Bureau hotel a couple of miles from the main unit at Camp Slayer. Jacobson planned menus for dignitaries coming through the area. Among those visiting was Col. Oliver North.

"Him and I swapped war stories," Jacobson said. "He had a few more than I do."

Some of the others that he developed specialized menus for included Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, country singer Aaron Tippin and high-level division commanders. He was able to witness the planning of military operations in Iraq, but he said the best part was seeing all the different military organizations like the Navy, Army and Air Force work together to accomplish a common mission. "It's a totally different military today," he said.

He said that he was able to see all the different countries that have a military presence in the war on terror. At one point, he saw representatives from 15 countries sitting at one table to talk about military operations in Iraq. "We are not in this by ourselves," he said.

"I met a lot of interesting people. It's the best deployment I've ever had. I'd do it again.

Absolutely." He added, "It was a good time and I am glad they allowed me to come along."

Jacobson came out of retirement to deploy with the unit and now he plans to stay in the military "until they kick me out."

For now, he is looking forward to spending time with his family and eating at the Cracker Barrel. And for him, the return home came at just the right time. He returned on Saturday, May 3, and he and his wife's anniversary was the next day.

military operations, one of the jobs for the unit was to "look at infrastructure to make sure things were in good condition and then repair what wasn't. The basic premise was to help the economy by rebuilding the infrastructure."

As part of this mission, the unit rebuilt schools. The Soldiers liked that they were able to see the results of these improvements. "We were brought together from all types of units. We didn't know each other and now people have formed lasting relationships," Schagunn said.

As for the Soldiers conditions while in Iraq, they say the conditions for troops in Iraq have improved vastly since the beginning of the war. "It's been a lot better than what it was for lifestyle," said Sgt. 1st Class Troy Kramer.

Kramer's main duty was to take care of battalion needs - everything from getting food to overseeing Soldiers' basic every day needs. When asked about his favorite part of the experience he said, "Getting to see what everyone else (who has been deployed) has already been through. And overcoming the fear of the unknown."

He said the experience hasn't really changed him as a person, but it has given him an appreciation for the life he has at home in North Dakota. While in Iraq, he went on a humanitarian food drop in a poor neighborhood. "It was a good feeling to help those that needed the food. It made me realize how deprived the country is. Until you see it firsthand, it doesn't set in," he said.

For most Soldiers, experiences "outside the

wire" were the most memorable being deployed. For Chief War-Officer 3 Theresia Hersch, it was "operation flip flop" that impacted most. Hersch came up with the humanitarian effort that resulted in more than 500 pairs of summer-time flip flop sandals being sent from Bismarck-Mandan in February to give out to Iraqi children and adults who oftentimes are too poor to even afford shoes.

When she actually handed out the flip flops to Iraqis, she said that she will always remember "the kids running up to us that were so grateful and the families were very appreciative. It was a good experience to see how they live over there and appreciate how fortunate we are as Americans. It's almost like at home you are in your own little world and finally now I am able to see outside it and be part of something completely different."

Now that they've returned, the Soldiers are now enjoying the little things in life that they've been without for the past year. Hersch said, "I am looking forward to spending time with my family and friends and taking a hot bath, as well as not having to use a port-a-john."

All Soldiers have been looking forward to home, with a new appreciation now of what home really means.

Above, Spc. Kalli Swenson shakes Gov. John Hoeven's hand as she deplanes. Swenson was returning from Iraq with the 164th Engineer Battalion, Security Forces in Baghdad.

'Deuce' Named Most War Ready Following Iowa Annual Training

By Sgt. Jonathan Haugen
Joint Force Headquarters

Some say the most overlooked specialties in the military are Soldiers behind the scenes making the N.D. Army National Guard function. The cooks, administration, supply support staff and the maintenance personnel help to make operations continue to work seamlessly.

The 3662nd General Support Maintenance Company Soldiers help the Army conduct its mission. If you need an engine repaired in your truck, tank, loader or any other military vehicle, the 3662nd, better known as "The Deuce," can keep it operating. That is just what the company was doing at Camp Dodge, Iowa, and Anniston Army Depot for their annual training in April and May.

"We can repair anything from the M1 tank transmission to the engine on a Humvee," said Master Sgt. Brian Kilzer. "The Deuce is very capable at handling any of the maintenance for the Army."

The Deuce is a regular Mr. Goodwrench for the N.D. Army National Guard. It has everything Soldiers need, from the capability to order parts and supplies to shipping engines and parts to the theater of operation. The unit will tear down the engine or transmission, rebuild it, test it and then pack it back up and ship it to where it is needed.

"We are a complete operation from beginning to end," said

Capt. Mike Lowe, commander of the 3662nd. "We will ensure the job is done and done right."

Although the unit was split between two locations, the Soldiers were doing the same job. Rebuilding engines and transmissions for the Army at both the National Maintenance Training Center and Anniston Army Depot ensures the Army has mission-ready vehicles.

"It's a good thing for the Soldiers to be at Camp Dodge and learn the proper procedures for the rebuilds," said Staff Sgt. Tim Scherr, platoon sergeant for construction repair platoon. "Learning how to do things step-by-step according to the technical manuals is always good."

This hard work has proven its worth. The NMTC voted the 3662nd as the most war-ready maintenance company to rotate through. This recognition means the unit is the most trained, professional and technically proficient component repair company in the nation, according to the NMTC.

Rebuilding engines and transmissions starts with the tear down, when mechanics inspect the parts for damage that will need to be fixed or replaced. The unit then orders those parts. The next step is to put it back together. This process can take a couple of days or a couple of weeks depending on the job.

After it is reassembled, the engine is tested by a Dynamometer, which measures an engine's power. The final step is shipping it to the Army depot for distribution.

This is the second year in a row the 3662nd has trained at Camp Dodge and the National Maintenance Training Center.

The unit has been working on components for the NMTC at Camp Grafton and Bismarck for a couple of years. The unit transports the parts to Camp Grafton and sends them to Camp Dodge, and then the unit travels to Camp Dodge to test them.

"These components the 3662nd rebuilds on drill weekends and during annual training are not training aids," Lowe said. "These components are sent back to the Army Supply System for fielding to units all over the world as needed."

"The National Maintenance Training Center is the best component repair training center for the 3662nd to train on their wartime mission," Lowe said. "The Soldiers always enjoy coming to the NMTC. They practice their skills and become more efficient at their jobs."



Photo by Sgt. Jonathan Haugen, Joint Force Headquarters

Sgt. Robert April, Spc. Matthew Ziegler and Spc. Jacob Burdick turn an engine over on its mount. The 3662nd Soldiers recently trained at Camp Dodge, Iowa.



Guardian *Snapshots*



Prickly Encounter

Nathan Hogue, right, and his younger sister, Payton, get a close look at a porcupine through a Plexiglas barrier during the North Dakota Air National Guard Zoo Day May 10 at the Red River Valley Zoo in Fargo. Nathan and Payton are the children of Tech. Sgt. David Hogue .

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

Community Concrete

Pfc. Donald Olson, Pfc. Derrick Reese, Sgt. Jesse Eversvik, Spc. Shawn Hill and Staff Sgt. James Scheen work on pouring concrete at the Cooperstown Swimming Pool. The Soldiers are with the 897th Concrete Team. The unit was conducting annual training by performing Innovative Readiness Training in Cooperstown with the 835th Asphalt Team. Both units are based in Carrington.



Photo by Sgt. Jonathan Haugen, Joint Force Headquarters

Sometimes It's Good to be a 'Big Loser'

By Tech Sgt. Jacy Vogelwede
119th Services Flight

Being a "big loser" can be a good thing — a very good thing when you're talking about weight loss.

The North Dakota Air National Guard recently concluded its first Biggest Loser Weight-Loss Contest. It ran Feb. 28 through April 24.

Participants recorded their weight every Thursday throughout the eight weeks.

The contest included separate categories for men and women based upon percentage of body weight lost.

Twenty-one people participated in the contest and lost a combined total of

"I just burned more calories than I consumed and did some jogging. It was not difficult."

— Tech. Sgt. Eric Fluge, Biggest Loser Weight-Loss Contest winner, male division

144.5 pounds.

The first individual winners are Tech. Sgt. Eric Fluge, with 10.86 percent loss, and Master Sgt. Belinda Reep, with 6.25 percent loss.

"I just cut back on sweets and carbs," Reep said, "and I stuck with my cardio

workouts in addition to weight training."

Fluge said, "I just burned more calories than I consumed and did some jogging. It was not difficult."

The "losers" were each presented a traveling plaque with their names engraved on it and a cash prize. The plaques have room for several more name plates and will be awarded to future contest winners upon completion.

The next Biggest Loser Contest will begin June 11. There is a \$10 entry fee, which goes toward the winners' prize money.

Those interested in competing in the contest should call Master Sgt. Reep at 701-451-2619 or Tech. Sgt. Jacy Vogelwede at 701-451-2687.



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

Master Sgt. Belinda Reep runs on a treadmill in the gym May 16, at the North Dakota Air National Guard. Reep is the female winner of the Air Guard's biggest loser contest.



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

Tech. Sgt. Eric Fluge takes part in a timed 1.5 mile run May 16 for the North Dakota Air National Guard annual physical fitness test. Fluge won the male division of the Air Guard's biggest loser contest.



Courtesy Photo

While deployed to Afghanistan, the 1-188th Air Defense Artillery (RAID) gathered intelligence and provided force protection. Now, after returning home in January, they have completed the first full session of the North Dakota National Guard's Reintegration Program.

Reintegration Vital for Successful Return

By Maj. Jon Erickson
RAID Detachment Commander

After 12 months boots-on-the-ground, the RAID detachment arrived at demobilization station at Fort Hood, Texas on Jan. 23 to greetings by the adjutant general, senior leadership of the North Dakota Army National Guard, and the state demobilization team. Demobilization went surprisingly fast with all Soldiers on their way home within 36 hours. It was an extraordinarily efficient process with lots of hard work provided by a dedicated state demobilization team.

Our arrival home marked the end of the deployment and the beginning of the unit's reintegration back with our family, friends, employers and everyday life.

The adjutant general has said that reintegration of veterans and their families is his top priority. We were the first unit to experience the formalized reintegration program. I'm pleased to report that the program is simply outstanding. The program, under the leadership of 1st Lt. Rachael Walters, is well organized, well planned and well executed from the first drill to the last.

The program is tailored to the unit. Our first reintegration drill occurred 30 days after our return and was voluntary, but all

the Soldiers that could make it were in attendance. One of the main objectives for this drill was to see everyone again and ensure they were doing well. For many Soldiers, just being together again was therapeutic. Another objective was to expose Soldiers and family members to available resources, such as the Veteran's Administration, Guard therapeutic team, Tricare and the Family Programs Office. More than 20 personnel representing different agencies and organizations presented what they offer redeploying service members and their families. It was amazing.

The focus of our second drill (at the 60-day mark) was to build upon the first with more detailed briefings on resources, one-on-one time with the therapeutic team, and small group panels where everyone was free and open to discuss the challenges, the concerns, and certainly the benefits of being home once again.

Our third drill (90-day mark) was our final drill as a formed unit. This drill built upon the previous two with a focus on small groups and team building. We also conducted Post-Deployment Health Assessments and capped the weekend with our Freedom Salute and social.

It's important to note that reintegra-

tion continues far beyond the first 90 days a unit returns home. Friendships made from a deployment last a lifetime, and our unit is already planning its first reunion. Knowing these Soldiers like I do, I'm sure it will be an annual event. No doubt, our unit's reintegration will continue for years to come.

Finally, I believe reintegration is about helping Soldiers and their families bring closure to a long, and often stressful, absence from home. Reintegration is as much about the family as it is about the Soldier. After all, it's not just the Soldier who makes the enormous commitment to serve. It's also the spouse, children, parents, significant other. They not only support their Soldier, they too make sacrifices when their loved one is gone.

With the continuing Global War on Terrorism and the fact that many Soldiers and families are enduring second and third deployments, this program will remain vital for the health and welfare of the Guard's greatest resource for a long time to come. It's what we're about as an organization: taking care of our Soldiers and their families. Reintegration is an extremely important piece to making that happen.



Photo by Sgt. Eric Jungels, 116th Public Affairs Detachment

Members of the N.D. National Guard Ceremonial Platoon fire a French 75 millimeter cannon, WWI vintage, for a 21-cannon salute for the 2008 Memorial Day service at the North Dakota Veterans' Cemetery May 26.