



NORTH DAKOTA GUARDIAN



THE
Happy Kooligans

Volume 2, Issue 3

March 2009



State Combined Associations Conference 2009

YEAR
OF
THE
NCO

» Also Inside:

Artistical Ops, Equipping Leaders, G-RAP Changes

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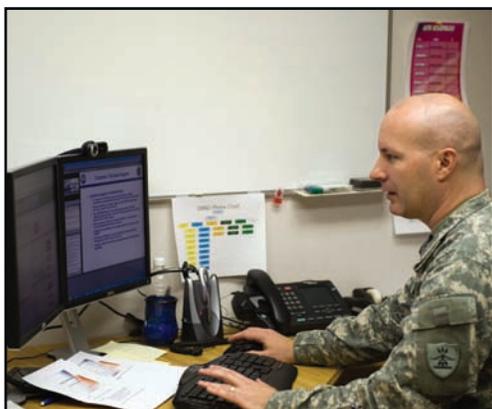
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ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

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Digital photos should be at least 300 dpi.

On the Cover



Year of the NCO:
Best of the Best: The Outstanding Airmen of the Year as well as the Army Soldier and NCO of the Year winners have been announced, but the North Dakota National Guard NCO Corps will be recognized throughout the year because 2009 has been named "Year of the NCO." (See extended captions on page 4)

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Comments from North Dakota National Guard Leadership

This is the Year of the NCO

Last October, Secretary of the Army Pete Geren announced that:

"At the front of every Army mission in the United States or overseas, you'll find a noncommissioned officer," he said. "They know their mission, they know their equipment, but most importantly, they know their Soldiers."

This was part of the Secretary's speech declaring 2009 as "The Year of the Non-Commissioned Officer." This was not the first time that the Army has formally recognized and honored its NCOs, the first time was in 1989 when the Army Theme was "The NCO."

Maj. Gen Sprynczynatyk recently announced that in 2009 the North Dakota National Guard will recognize all NCOs; both Air and Army and that we will celebrate the contributions, service and accomplishments these leaders contribute to our organization everyday.

Our NCOs and their leadership, initiative, responsibilities and professionalism make our military the envy of the world. Often, when training with other nations, our focus is helping allies and other friendly armed forces understand why our NCO Corps is the glue that leads and holds our military together. Professional Soldiers and Airmen non-commissioned officers combining technical competence with initiative.

We have been called by names other than Noncommissioned officers; NCOs for short, enlisted leaders, Sergeant, Corporal, Sarge, Non-Comm, Gunny (USMC), First Sergeant, First Shirt, Chief (Air Force and Navy), Top and other terms of professional recognition and endearment.

Our NCOs Corps has a rich legacy of famous Soldiers that have earned our nation's highest award, the Medal of Honor. Names like Audie Murphy, Alvin York, and most recently Woodrow Keeble come to mind as true American heroes.

I support the Command Sergeant Major of the Army National Guard Sgt. Maj.

John D. Gipe, for urging our NCOs to participate in this effort for personal and professional improvement and for telling our story. His three initiatives in support of the Year of the NCO are:

1) To enhance policies and programs that support our NCO Corps; 2) To recognize the NCO Corps for what it is and what it has done for the Army, and; 3) To inform the public and our government leaders and institutions on the roles, responsibilities and the high level of quality that exists in the NCO Corps.

The North Dakota National Guard has come a long way since its inception before statehood and so has our NCO Corps. Most of the challenges we face are different than the sergeants of that era but the single greatest aspect of our responsibilities have not changed; taking care of our Soldiers and Airmen by training them, motivating them and ensuring that their health, morale and welfare needs are met.

In summary I congratulate all of our NCOs for their contributions and service. I encourage all our young Soldiers and Airmen to find their role model and mentor within our NCO Corps which will not only help work them toward joining our NCO ranks but will provide them a solid base for becoming a good, reliable NCO themselves, ready lead and to take up the fight in defense of our nation.

We remain a nation at war and therefore, more than ever, all of our military services rely on their "backbone" — the professional Noncommissioned Officer in order to succeed on the battlefield.

Thank you Citizen-Soldiers and Citizen-Airmen for all that you do in defense of our homeland and for your service to our state and communities.

Sincerely,

Command Sgt. Maj. Gerald Miller



Command Sgt. Maj. Gerald Miller
North Dakota National Guard
State Command Sergeant Major

"... our focus is helping allies and other friendly armed forces understand why our NCO Corps is the glue that leads and holds our military together."



Army Guard Soldier Participates in Presidential Inauguration

A N. D. Army National Guard Soldier participated in the inauguration of the nation's 44th president in Washington, D.C., Jan. 20.

Master Sgt. Ken Baer, of Garrison, N.D., worked for the Public Affairs Office – Visual Information branch of the Armed Forces Inaugural Committee (AFIC) by documenting the military support provided to the inaugural parade with photographic images and video.

AFIC is a joint service committee comprised of all branches of the military including National Guard and Reserve. Their mission is to coordinate military ceremonial participation and support of inaugural events including color guards and marching bands. Nearly 700 service members were assigned to AFIC during the presidential inauguration this year.

Baer, who works as a public affairs specialist as a traditional Guardsmen, was chosen to support AFIC from Jan. 3 to Jan. 24 after applying for the duty through the Guard Knowledge Online Web site. He has long worked in the Army public affairs arena including a 2006-07 mobilization to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility with the North Dakota National Guard's 129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.

In Washington, D.C., Baer was in charge of coordinating and scheduling engagements for a photographer and videographer who worked under him.

"My job was to ensure everything was taken care of prior to the inauguration so the other two members of my team could complete their assignments," he said. "We spent hours preparing in an effort to eliminate any possible glitches."

Earth Day Essay Contest Announced

The N. D. National Guard Environmental Office is holding an essay contest to coincide with this year's Earth Day April 22. Units and organizations within

the North Dakota National Guard, as well as retirees and civilian staff, are encouraged to answer, "How is your unit or organization going green?"

Participants should illustrate how their units conduct environmentally friendly training activities, how they take care of training grounds during maneuver exercises, how they practice recycling and what they are doing to ensure proper waste management.

Essay entries should be no longer than 500 words and should contain the name, rank, phone number, e-mail address and unit/organization of the individual submitting the entry. Participants also should include a roster of everyone within their organization who has helped with environmental efforts.

The winners will receive a "Go Green Earth Day 2009" t-shirt. The North Dakota National Guard Environmental Office will distribute the prizes after re-

viewing the essay entries and selecting the first-place winners. Additional t-shirts will be awarded to runners-up. Those participating in the contest should submit shirt sizes for everyone in their organization with their essay entries. Medium, large and extra large t-shirt sizes are available. The winners also will be pictured in an upcoming issue of the Guardian along with an article explaining how their unit or organization came up with "green ideas."

Essay entries can be submitted to Maj. Stephen Herda, environmental program manager, at P.O. Box 5511, Bismarck, ND 58506-5511 or via e-mail at [stephen.herda@us.army.mil](mailto:herda@us.army.mil). The submission deadline for all entries is April 3.

For more information about Earth Day, visit the Earth Day Web site at <http://earthday.gov>.

USS North Dakota to be Commissioned

Donald Winter, U.S. Secretary of the Navy, honored North Dakota by naming a Virginia-class nuclear submarine after the great state in July 2008. The naming of the submarine took effort not just from officials around the state, but around the globe.

85 years after they decommissioned the first USS North Dakota, and 20 years after an annual letter writing campaign by Judge Robert Wefald, another USS North

Dakota is scheduled to sail the seas. Judge Wefald served three years on active duty as a Naval Officer, including six months as a gunnery officer on a guided missile destroyer off the coast of Vietnam in 1966. He continued his service in the Naval Reserve retiring as a Captain in 1991 having commanded four Naval Reserve units and having been twice awarded the Navy Commendation Medal.

Last year, Wefald, the Bismarck-Mandan Chamber of Commerce, the congressional delegation and numerous other individuals, including Adm. Bill Owen, began work on a campaign to "Float the Boat." The campaign paid off and in 2014 the second USS North Dakota is scheduled to be commissioned.

The Virginia-class nuclear submarine (SSN 784) will be built in Connecticut by General Dynamic. It is the first in a new series of Virginia-class submarines, which will implement new technologies making it more efficient

and able to upgrade throughout its 30-year life.

Over the course of the next 43 years, North Dakota will have the opportunity to support their namesake through a variety of submarine endeavors, as she supports the state in return.

To commemorate the naming of the USS North Dakota, limited-edition battle coins are being sold.

To learn more about the USS North Dakota and the activities and efforts surrounding her, please contact the Bismarck-Mandan Chamber at (701) 223-5660 or visit www.bismarckmandan.com.



Master Sgt. Ken Baer



Year of the NCO Photos (Front Cover)

Army: Members of the Soldier and NCO of the Year board along with the competition finalists: From left to right (back row), Command Sgt. Maj. Gerald Miller, Cadet Carl Smith, Command Sgt. Maj. Jack Cripe, Command Sgt. Maj. Guy Boschee, Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Job, Command Sgt. Maj. Joel Walsvik, Master Sgt. David Peterson, Command Sgt. Maj. Dan Peterson, Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Brager, Staff Sgt. Scott Obrigewitch (front row) Sgt. Steve Irish, Spc. Nevon Heisler, Staff Sgt. Justin Lampert, Spc. Mark Fabian, Staff Sgt. Levi Long, Spc. Adam Walsvik and Pfc. John Stautz

Not pictured: Command Sgt. Maj. Steve Palmer, Command Sgt. Maj. Warren Heidenreich and Command Sgt. Maj. Norm Deschene

Air: Outstanding Airmen of the Year nominees 2009: Left to right, Senior Airman Sarah Rassmussen, Master Sgt. Robert Vorce, Tech. Sgt. Jolene Sauvageau, Chief Master Sgt. James Clemenson (standing in for his son Master Sgt. Erik Clemenson who is deployed), Tech. Sgt. Kimberly Kalen, Master Sgt. Rollin Swedberg, Master Sgt. Michelle Nicklay, Staff Sgt. Brian Erdmann, Senior Airman Amanda Davenport, Staff Sgt. Matt Llewellyn, Senior Airman Theta Olson and Staff Sgt. Jamie Frankl.

Joint Mentorship Program Begins Third Year

By Vicki Voskuil
Developing Leaders Program

Senior and emerging leaders of the North Dakota National Guard began the third year of the Developing Leaders mentorship program Jan. 27 with training at Bismarck State College.

"A lot of the program is about goal setting," said Nicole Beauclair, Bismarck

State College trainer. "It's nice to have somebody be your go-to person."

Mentees spend time discussing what a mentor is and assess what kind of a leader they strive to be by writing mission statements and goals that they would like to accomplish throughout the year. They later come together with their mentors to outline plans that would help them meet their future goals.

Sessions start with participants listing and talking about people they see as informal mentors and why they value that relationship. Spc. April Lauinger said she was able to overcome a recent personal challenge after receiving some advice from a person she sought out. Her experience influenced her decision to join the Developing Leaders program.

Establishing relationships are the hallmark of mentoring, and mentors have the responsibility to encourage trust. In addition, mentors can also help people be accountable, said Chief Warrant Officer Theresia Hersch, Developing Leaders coordinator.

Participants heard from Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N. D. National

Guard adjutant general; networked among themselves and enjoyed a motivational training video about the work ethic at Seattle's famous Pike Place fish market. The company's business motto makes four points: play, be there, choose your attitude and make their day.

Sprynczynatyk said program planners try to create matches that foster a better understanding of the culture and identity of the North Dakota National Guard. Developing Leaders participation also helps achieve the N. D. National Guard vision statement: A dynamic force where everyone is a leader, mentored, trained and empowered, essential to our communities, state, and nation.

"You'll find this an opportunity to expand and grow," Sprynczynatyk said. "We want to continue the program and to spread the word. This program is one reason for our success."

Sprynczynatyk shared a story about another mentorship program he started at the North Dakota Department of Transportation before becoming adjutant general. His first mentee is now an assistant district engineer in Williston.

"I would hope what he learned from me helped him succeed. I certainly learned from him. It's a two-way street," Sprynczynatyk said. "For me, mentorship is a bonding in the sense that throughout the year, you develop a relationship and friendship that ultimately helps the organization."



Spc. April Lauinger, of the 164th Engineer Battalion, talks about her future goals with Developing Leaders Coordinator Chief Warrant Officer Theresia Hersch.

Courtesy Photo

Military OneSource Offers Free Tax Service

Contributed by Angela Messmer
Family Assistance Center

Military OneSource is once again providing free tax consultation and filing services to military service members and their families during the tax season. Military OneSource users will have free online access to the TaxCut Basic program.

Users must register for Military OneSource and log on to the site for access to the online TaxCut program. A separate logon for the TaxCut site is required. Those eligible for the program include active duty, Guard and Reserve (regardless of activation status), spouses and dependent children (authorized in DEERS), family members handling the affairs of a deployed service member, DoD employees working in support roles (Army Community Services, Fleet & Family Services, Family Support Center, Marine Corps Community Services)

and severely injured service members or family members handling their affairs.

Participants will have free access to the H&R Block Basic TaxCut program. Those with more complicated returns may incur charges if they upgrade to the H&R Block TaxCut Premium program. Participants can e-file one state resident return for each federal return that they e-file with TaxCut Online.

Find out more about the program by visiting the Military OneSource Tax page at www.militaryonesource.com or contact Angela Messmer at angela.messmer@militaryonesource.com or 701-425-5478.



Chaplain's Corner: An Affectionate Farewell

By Chaplain (Col.) Jeff Franko
Joint Force Headquarters

I became a chaplain in 1988 with the 164th Engineer Battalion in Minot and for the past 16 years have served as the State Area Command/Joint Force Headquarters chaplain, assuming, amazingly, this assignment as a captain. (It just goes to show how much of life can happen not because of skill or smarts, but simply by being at the right place at the right time.) I've served in this position under four adjutants general and consider it an honor to serve during such a time as this



Chaplain (Col.) Jeff Franko

when the voice of chaplains has made such a significant impact to the character and well-being of the military.

As I bring my career to a close, like those before me, I find myself in a reflective mood, reminiscing over the incredible experiences I've had and all of the great people I've met. I could bore you with the stories ... but I'll spare you the misery.

What may be worth telling, however, are some of the lessons I've learned over the years that you might want to throw in

your hip pocket for future reference. Here's my top 10 list:

1. You never get promoted past being a servant.
2. Put your family first. And when the mission keeps you from putting them first, show them the respect and appreciation they deserve for loving you still.
3. It is always about relationships.
4. Listen! Did you hear what I said? LISTEN!

5. Make sure what you are doing is something that gives you joy and makes you proud. If it isn't, find something else to do.
6. Beware of how you treat people on your way up the ladder of success because you're going to run into a lot of them again on your way down.
7. Tell the truth especially when it's hard to do.
8. No one is an island so thank and value those around you who help keep you afloat.
9. Work hard. Do your best. And when the day is done, let it go.
10. In all things, good or bad, give God the glory.

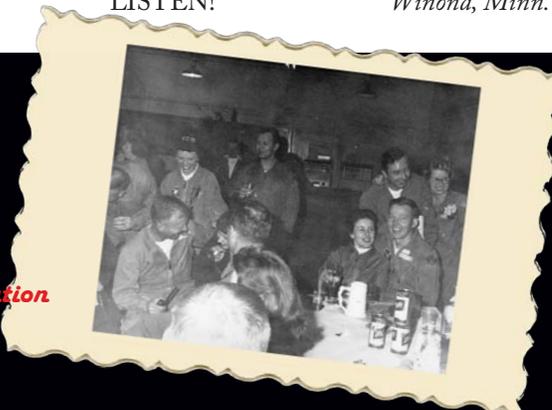
And so, in the infamous words of Gen. Robert E. Lee I take my leave, "With an unceasing admiration of your constancy and devotion to your country, and a grateful remembrance of your kind and generous consideration for myself, I bid you all an affectionate farewell."

Chaplain (Col.) Jeff Franko is the Joint Force Headquarters Chaplain for the North Dakota National Guard. He will retire in March with more than 21 years of service in the organization. Franko works as the directing pastor at Central Lutheran Church in Winona, Minn.

Welcome to the Auger Inn

50th Anniversary Celebration

By Penny Ripperger
119th Wing



N.D. Air Guard members participate in a flight suit party in the 1950's when the Auger Inn was located in the Hangar at the base.

March is the kick-off month of events honoring the 50th Anniversary of the Auger Inn All-Ranks Club at the 119th Wing. Through the years the aircraft may have changed, the missions may be different, but one thing remains the same — the Auger Inn has been the one place that Happy Hooligans can come to meet, toast and celebrate a job well done.

Beginning in March, the Auger Inn is sponsoring a 50th Anniversary Logo Contest for Airmen of the 119th Wing. Submit your logo idea to Senior Master Sgt. Belinda Reep at belinda.reep@ndfarg.ang.af.mil by May 2. One winner will be selected and his or her logo will be prominently displayed on Hooligan memorabilia and advertisements throughout the year.

Other upcoming events include a motorcycle raffle with

proceeds going to the Veteran's Home in Lisbon and a Happy Hooligan Reunion Celebration on Aug. 22 following the Fargo Air Sho.

There will be much more information to come. In the meantime, mark your calendars and be ready to reminisce with your fellow Happy Hooligans, past and present, as we honor the 50 years of the past and look forward to what the next 50 years will bring.

For more information, contact any Auger Inn Board of Directors:

Chief Master Sgt. Brad V Johnson
Senior Master Sgt. Valerie Buchholz
Chief Master Sgt. Leah Terry
Master Sgt. Michelle Nicklay
Master Sgt. Belinda Reep
Master Sgt. Melissa Woodard
Senior Master Sgt. Scott Terry

Master Sgt. Jim Ekren
Master Sgt. Jacy Vogelwede
Tech Sgt. Tyler Underdahl
2nd Lt. Jason Olheiser
Maj. John Gibbs
Master Sgt. Jody Saatoff

Army and Air Guardsmen Continue to Recruit With G-RAP Incentive Program

Contributed by the Recruiting and Retention Office

Guard Recruiting Assistance Program (G-RAP) is the referral bonus program of the National Guard that provides recruiting assistants (RAs) additional income through assisting Army and Air National Guard recruiting efforts. By identifying well-qualified men and women for service in the National Guard and mentoring them through the enlistment/commissioning process, RAs can earn up to \$2,000 per accession.

G-RAP was developed to increase the strength of the National Guard from within. G-RAP is open to individuals in the Army and Air National Guard, including Soldiers and Airmen in a traditional m-day status and retired members of the National Guard with 20 or more years of service. Previously, G-RAP was made available to Army National Guard Active Guard Reserve (AGR) Soldiers on active duty, military technicians, active duty for special work (ADSW) and mobilized Army National Guard Soldiers. This incentive is no longer available and was revised by the National Guard Bureau as of Feb. 11, 2009. G-RAP also is not available for AGR officers, full-time employees of the Recruiting and Retention Command or their family members or for prior-service individuals.

RAs for the Army National Guard receive access to the Guard Mission Zone — an online store for free Army National Guard promotional items to assist in their recruiting duties. AGR Soldiers and military technicians that were signed up and participating in G-RAP and the Guard Mission Zone will receive, if they have not yet, an e-mail stating that they are not eligible to participate in Mission Zone and their account will be disabled.

RAs in both the Army and Air National Guard can receive up to \$2,000 for each verified non prior service accession and shipment to basic training or each verified prior service accession. Referrals must be made within the respective branch or organizations (Army Guard members can refer potential Army Guard members and Air Guardsmen refer potential enlistments for the Air Guard). There is no limit on the number of referrals that a participant may provide. Referral nominations made on or after the enlistment date will not be authorized for payment.

RAs in the Army National Guard also can receive incentives for select officer accessions through the Guard Recruiting Assistant Program - Officer (G-RAP-O). The total amount of payment for an Officer Accession is determined by the Army National Guard's critical need and the G-RAP-O payment chart at the date of accession. For more information on G-RAP-O, visit www.guardrecruitingassistant.com; log in and click on "G-RAP Officers," or contact Capt. Anna Wittrock, officer strength manager, at 701-451-6056 or 2nd Lt. Nicolette Daschendorf, assistant officer strength manager, at 701-451-6044.

North Dakota Air National Guardsmen also can receive incentives of up to \$4,000 for officer accessions, specifically health professionals. For more information, contact Senior Master Sgt.



Courtesy Photo

North Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers Capt. Jaime Stephan (left) and Sgt. Maj. Brad Heim (right) hold plaques they received during a third anniversary celebration of the Guard Recruiting Assistance Program, or G-RAP, in December 2008. Lt. Gen. Clyde A. Vaughn (center), director of the Army National Guard, presented the plaques to the five pilot states that began the program: North Dakota, Iowa, West Virginia, Kentucky and Missouri. Top recruiting assistants in each of those states, including Stephan, also were recognized for their efforts in helping the program succeed.

Sandi Renville, recruiting and retention superintendent, at 701-451-2234.

NOTE: G-RAP, a civilian contract recruiting program, is not affiliated with either Army National Guard's Every Soldier a Recruiter (ESAR) nor the U.S. Army or U.S. Army Reserve's referral bonus programs.

Participants cannot submit the same referral to both programs, ESAR and G-RAP.

For more information on G-RAP, visit www.guardrecruitingassistant.com.

Full-Time Air Guard Members Eligible for Referral Bonuses of up to \$2,000

Full-time members of the North Dakota Air National Guard (Active Guard Reserve and Technician) are now eligible to receive \$2,000 in enlistment referral bonuses for enlisting individuals into a Security Forces (3POX1) position at the 219th Security Forces Squadron in Minot. This incentive is only available to full-time North Dakota Air Guard members since traditional members are already eligible for G-RAP.

Applicants must be enlisted by Jun. 15, 2009. If the individual is not able to enlist by the deadline date for any reason, the unit member referring them will not receive the bonus.

Unit members must physically bring the potential enlistee to the North Dakota Air National Guard Recruiting Office where both individuals will sign a referral verification form. Leads can be non-prior or prior service. Full-time unit members can earn multiple bonuses.

For more information about referral bonuses for the 219th Security Forces Squadron, please contact the Fargo Recruiting Office at 701-451-2238 and 1-800-972-8825 or the Minot Recruiting Office at 701-723-3276 and 1-866-422-1198.

Follow the Leader

*Guardsmen and Families
Participate in Combined
Associations Conference and
Professional Development Weekend*

By Sgt. Amy Wieser Willson &
Sgt. Eric W. Jensen
Joint Force Headquarters



Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk



Sgt. Darin Olson



Maj. Gen. Jeffrey J. Dorko

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Mike Hagburg

About 500 North Dakota National Guard service members and guests took part in a Combined Associations Conference and coinciding Professional Development Weekend Feb. 19-22. The conference joined members of the National Guard Association of North Dakota and the North Dakota National Guard Enlisted Association, professional organizations that Guard members have the opportunity to join.

This is the first year the Professional Development Weekend took place in conjunction with the conference. Organizers say that this provided an even more enlightening and educational experience while only taking up one weekend, rather than two. Numerous topics focused on the weekend's theme of "Equipping Tomorrow's Leaders Today," such as Personal Responsibility and the QBC (Question Behind the Question), presented by best-selling author John Miller; Public Affairs and Its Impact on the Service Member on the Ground, presented by the Headquarters of the Department of the Army Office of the Chief of Public Affairs; Generations in the Workplace, presented by Renee Hoffman Walker of Bismarck State College; The Creativity Within You; and Communication with Love and Respect for Couples.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to come together and talk about our successes as an

organization and the challenges that lay ahead of us," said Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, North Dakota National Guard adjutant general, in his State of the North Dakota National Guard address. "We continue to look to the future and talk about what it is that we can do as leaders to make things better for, not only members of the North Dakota National Guard, but for all the people of this great state and great nation."

Gov. John Hoeven also addressed attendees, commending them for their service.

"You're called upon to do so much more than just fight," Hoeven said. "Think about how complex your job has become as Guardsmen; not only as leaders, which you all are, but as Guardsmen operating across the world. It's a very big job."

NGAUS presented Hoeven with the Charles Dick Medal of Merit Award, which acknowledges strong support of the National Guard.

Maj. Gen. Jeffrey J. Dorko gave the closing remarks at the conference, discussing "Good to Great," a presentation that strived to answer the question: Can a good organization become a great organization, and, if so, how? It's based on the best-selling book of the same name by James C. Collins. Dorko served as the commander for the U.S. Army Engineer Division, Gulf Region, headquartered in Baghdad, Iraq, from October 2007 to October 2008. In that role, he oversaw the missions and accomplishments of North Dakota's Engineer Brigade, which was deployed from March 2007 to March 2008.

Winner's Circle



Soldier of the Year
Spc. Adam Walsvik

Walsvik, of Hazen, N.D., has been a member of the N.D. National Guard for three years. He serves in the 188th Engineer Company (Vertical).



Noncommissioned Officer of the Year
Sgt. Steve English

English, of Medina, N.D., has been a member of the N.D. National Guard for eight years. He serves in the 2nd Detachment of the 832nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance).



Officer of the Year — Company Grade (Air)
1st Lt. Bobbette (Bobbi) Bengs

Bengs, of Moorhead, Minn., works as the financial management budget officer for the 119th Wing. She has served in the N.D. National Guard for nearly 20 years.



Officer of the Year — Company Grade (Army)
Capt. Ann Mutzenberger

Mutzenberger, of Minot, N.D., has been a member of the N.D. National Guard for nearly 20 years and serves in the 816th Engineer Company (Horizontal).



Officer of the Year — Field Grade (Army)
Lt. Col. Brad Bekkedahl

Bekkedahl, of Williston, N.D., has a military service record of more than 13 years with seven in the N.D. National Guard. He serves in the State Medical Detachment.



Officer of the Year — Field Grade (Air)
Chaplain (Lt. Col.) John Flowers

Flowers, of Fargo, N.D., is the senior chaplain for the 119th Wing. He has been a member of both the N. D. Army and Air National Guard for 18 years.



Family of the Year (Air)
Master Sgt. Tanya Augdahl and Tech Sgt. Jason Augdahl

The Augdahls, of Minot N.D., both serve with the 219th Security Forces Squadron. They moved to Minot to support the new squadron in September 2007.



Family of the Year (Army)
Jeff, Annette, Tryston and Michael Simek

The Simek family, of Bismarck, N.D., have long supported military members and families. Sgt. Jeff Simek serves in Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 1-112th Aviation Battalion.



Sgt. Jonathan Haugen

Chief Warrant Officer Kiel Skager teaches a class to visual information managers at the National Guard Bureau's Professional Education Center in Little Rock, Ar. via Defense Connect Online. DCO is a collaborative Web site that enables users to conduct meetings online.

New Frontiers

Information Management Office Assists Guardsmen With New Web Communications Technology

By Sgt. Jonathan Haugen
Joint Force Headquarters

Being reluctant to embracing changing technology is all too common. While 9-year-olds chat with their friends on laptop webcams and watch their favorite television shows on streaming video sites, the uninitiated parent might still be trying to figure out how to access their e-mail inbox. Virtually every gadget on the market comes with a detailed instruction manual with referrals for multiple help desk lines. Electronic mega-store Best Buy deploys a Geek Squad to help consumers with software and equipment problems. Similarly, N.D. Army Guardsmen rely heavily on the G6/Information Management office (IT) to equip them with the know-how to manage innovations in computer and communication technology; technology that is constantly evolving from year to year. So much, in fact, that the IT office has programs they haven't even introduced yet.

"The goal of the G6 is to keep the N.D. National Guard on top of the changes in technology on both the civilian and military side," said Chief Warrant Officer Kiel Skager, G6 Information Operations manager for North Dakota. "We are constantly looking into the latest trends in

technology and seeing if they will benefit our organization."

One of the programs the G6 hopes will benefit the N.D. National Guard is Defense Connect Online (DCO) — a collaboration site that allows users control of meetings over the Internet, minus the face-to-face interaction. The file-sharing feature allows hosts or presenters to show their computer desktops or programs to attendees. Users communicate and ask questions via chat or instant messaging. The webcam feature allows a meeting to show the presenter or participants with audio and video.

"What the VI shop would like to see DCO used for is to supplement meetings that are conducted over video teleconferences (VTC) or conference call. DCO can be used to share documents, such as PowerPoint, or even your desktop with everyone involved in your working group — even those not at your location," Skager said.

Skager recently taught a class to students at the National Guard Bureau's Professional Education Center in Little Rock, Ark., from his office in Bismarck using DCO.

"Using DCO saved me numerous hours of travel for a one-hour block of instruction," Skager said. "I see DCO saving lots of time and energy for our leaders. The

days of driving miles and miles to attend meetings are slowly coming to an end."

But the ways in which the Guard will be able to communicate doesn't end there.

The G6/IT also is pushing Kiosk computers out to every armory across the state to give Soldiers the opportunity to conduct online training. Connection to the N.D. Army National Guard's network also will be much faster as the office changes the network from a T1 line to a Carrier Class Ethernet.

"Carrier Class Ethernet is going to seem to our full-time force like moving from dialup to cable Internet service," Skager said.

With this upgrade, the G6 also will be adding a wireless Internet connection at all armories so Soldiers can connect their laptops to the Internet if they need to access training manuals or courses.

"Adding wireless to the armories will enhance a unit's effectiveness to train in the digital age," Skager said. "The changes we make at the G6 are almost always to enhance the technology needs of the Guard and we look forward to helping our organization adapt to these new changes."

To learn more about Defense Connect Online, create a user name and password and visit the Defense Connect Online Web site at <https://www.dco.dod.mil>.



Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

Left, U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Katherine A. Schneller, of the 119th Medical Group, helps Jarret J. Ripperger, son of Capt. Penny A. Ripperger, 119th Wing Public Affairs Officer, as he constructs a spaceship made out of recycled materials at the first ever 'Trash to Treasure' art event at the 119th Wing Feb. 15th. Trash to Treasure is a National Guard Bureau sponsored event to help spread awareness about recycling and art appreciation. Art projects created at similar events across the nation will be judged, based on age, on Earth Day 2009.

Below, Ashley Seitz, right, and Hannah Juhnke, both of the Lake Park, Minn., work on a trash to treasure sculpture Feb. 15, at the North Dakota Air National Guard.



Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

Using recycled materials and some creativity, children from the 119th Wing created several works of art at a local Trash to Treasure event Feb. 15. The 119th Wing Family Program Office invited Happy Hooligans to bring their children and a little trash to participate in the national event.

"After collecting only recycled trash for a couple weeks, I realized how quickly it builds up. It is great to see the kids use this sometimes wasted material to create these awesome pieces of artwork," said Tech. Sgt. Katie Schneller, 119th Wing Family Program volunteer.

The event was a preview of some of the items that will be submitted to the National Guard Bureau's Trash to Treasure 3-D Art Contest. This national event is open to both Army and Air Guard members' children and will be run in conjunction with Earth Day 2009.

"It is so wonderful to hear that the Guard Bureau is recognizing the importance of recycling and offering this event to promote a more 'green' National Guard," Schneller said.

To enter the contest, participants must use a minimum of three different types of recycled materials, be related to a Guardsman or state civilian staff and be school-aged (kindergarten-12th grade). The winners of the contest will have their artwork displayed at the National Guard Bureau building in Arlington, Va. All entries must be submitted by Mar. 6.

For more information on submitting your Trash to Treasure artwork, please contact Jody Harms, 119th Wing Family Programs coordinator, at 701-451-2112.



Small Creations

Happy Hooligan Children Turn Trash Into Works of Art

By Ginny Bachman
Family Programs Office



Brush with GREATNESS

Guard
Members
Enhance
Military
Environment
with Paint

The military tends to be a place where muted colors, such as OD green and shades of brown and black, thrive. North Dakota Guard artists have been changing that almost everywhere they go. From concrete T-walls in Iraq to conference rooms in Fargo, Guard members have directed paintbrushes to depict military life in less subdued shades.

Traveling from one Guard location to the next in North Dakota, Soldiers and Airmen encounter paintings, murals and other art pieces. Much of this art bears the signature of one of three Guard members — Air Guard Maj. Teresa Luthi McDonough, Army Guard Staff Sgt. Kate Naujokas and Air Guard Staff Sgt. Alexandra Knier. All three trace their art interest back to a young age, and those many years of experience are evident in their detailed, patriotic work.

★ **MAJ. TERESA McDONOUGH**

McDonough's love for art and the military first intertwined in 1994 as she completed her art degree at Valley City State University. Retired Maj. Gen. Michael Haugen, who was the Air Guard Base commander at

the time, commissioned her to paint all seven jets from the Wing's history. The intricately detailed paintings now line the hallway leading to the base commander's conference room. Her eighth painting, of the C-21, was just added to the wall, and she'll paint the Predator next.

"I just really rely on the pictures," McDonough said of how she paints, "but I also look at the

planes closely to not miss a small part."

What looks like a reflection in a photograph actually can be a small component, and McDonough won't risk making a mistake. She knows the pilots and crew members are sharp and would catch the smallest inconsistency. The lack of any complaints is proof of how meticulously she guides her acrylic-laden brush across the canvas.

There's more to the Air Guard than planes, though.

"The support group commander at the time, Col. Roger Larsen, said, 'Let's do a mural to honor that side of the house,'" McDonough said. So in 2001, she spent 72 hours in the hallway of Building 110 at the Fargo base painting a collage-style mural of Airmen at work in the support services. She used photographs of actual people. You'll see a current officer when he was a young senior airman and Master Sgt. Eric Johnson, the Wing's longtime videographer. Personnel, communications, services, firefighters, civil engineer, explosive ordnance disposal, security forces and multimedia all are represented.

McDonough has toted her brushes and acrylics to many other corners of the base, too. She painted shields and patches, as well as a small mural for the 119th Security Forces Squadron. But she didn't stop at the base's gate. A print of McDonough's painting of Heritage Park, where the Wing displays previously flown aircraft, hangs in Fraine Barracks in Bismarck. A Coast Guard base in Puerto Rico features two of her murals, as well.

★ **STAFF SGT. KATE NAUJOKAS**

Visitors to the Army National Guard's storefront recruiting office in Fargo can't miss Naujokas' work. A gigantic American flag fills the entire west wall. Opposite it, an eagle many-times-larger than life looks nobly across the room. A subtle glimmer in its eye reflects the flag, a detail people often delight in discovering after spending a few moments staring at the wall in awe. The deep black background offers a perfect canvas for the NCO Creed and Soldier's Creed.

"It seems like it's been pretty positive," Naujokas said. "New recruits are asking to have their pictures taken in front of the eagle."

While graphite portraits are Naujokas' forte — and have provided income on the side for the past 12 years — she's growing fonder of painting on a grand scale. Naujokas' first was a 10-by-8-foot mural in front of the dining facility at Balad Air Base in Iraq. Her next will be in Bismarck's storefront recruiting office.

She worked full time for about six weeks to complete the Fargo murals, devoting the most time to building the layers of paint on the flag rather than using her unique style to detail the eagle's head feathers.

"I guess you could say I kind of finger paint," Naujokas said, sweeping her palm as if to smear paint. "I use brushes, but I'll put the paint on the wall to get the right texture and mixture."



Staff Sgt. Alexandra Knier's mural "Soaring" graces the Air Guard's Aerospace Dining Facility in Fargo.

"The eagle is in full flight. It looks towards the sun and flies higher than every other bird," Knier said. "The symbol of an eagle is appropriate for the military. I use it specifically to say that in order for us to soar like eagles, we must fix our gaze on things above and let go of the earth."



Maj. Teresa McDonough puts the final details on a painting of the N.D. Air National Guard's C-21 Lear jet. McDonough has painted seven other planes from the 119th Wing's history and will soon paint the Predator, as well. The paintings hang near the commander's conference room on the Fargo base.

Having majored in music with a minor in art history, Naujokas has no formal art training. But with a full-time job outside of the Guard and a baby at home, time may be the biggest challenge she faces. Nonetheless, art is something she thoroughly enjoys when she's able.

"I just love it. It's a fun thing for me to do," she said.

★ **STAFF SGT. ALEXANDRA KNIER**

As a traditional Airman, Knier finds that the contrasting worlds of art and the military bring a balance to her life.

"I'm proud to be in the Guard. When we have drill, I put on my uniform and serve with pride. Most of my days, however, I am arm deep in clay, teaching children how to throw pottery. I love the structure, discipline and high standards of military life yet I find that the gentleness and openness required for teaching is deeply gratifying, too."

"Soaring," a radiant mixed-media mural of an eagle that Knier completed last fall, joins those two worlds, she said, "and reveal how each can bring balance and meaning to the other."

The piece took "hundreds of hours," from providing preliminary sketches to bringing together the clay, glaze, wood and grout to finalize the piece at the Fargo Air Base's Aerospace Dining Facility.

Knier has served in the Air Guard for more than five years and has wanted to use her artistic talents to give something back.

"For several years it has been my goal to offer my art to



the Airmen of the 119th Wing. I am honored and grateful for the opportunity to do so," she said.

McDonough and Naujokas echo her sentiments. While they all find personal enjoyment in art, it's the additional way they can serve others and serve their country that inspires them most.

Staff Sgt. Kate Naujokas "finger painted" this eagle in the N.D. Army National Guard's storefront recruiting office in Fargo. She has been preparing sketches and getting ready to paint murals in the new Bismarck storefront office, as well.



Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lupp

Quick Reflexes: Senior Airman Sheryl Job practices maintaining control of a training baton as she twists the baton away from Staff Sgt. Audrey Farder, both in the 119th Security Forces Squadron, during non-lethal use of force training Jan. 29, at the N.D. Air National Guard, Fargo.

Show Men: Left to right, Sgt. 1st Class Kent Pulst, of the 3662nd Maintenance Company; Spc. Jordan Beck, of the 3662nd; Lt. Col. Dave Skalicky, of Joint Force Headquarters and Biathlon Team coach; and Spc. Brandon Pulst, of the 3662nd proudly fly the North Dakota colors outside the Camp Ripley Biathlon Range, Camp Ripley, Minn., Jan. 28. The Pulsts are father and son biathlon teammates. The team placed third in the 2009 Central Regionals for the 7.5-kilometer relay and will continue on to the National competition in Jericho, Vt., Feb. 28 through March 7.



Courtesy Photo

Guardian Snapshots



Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

Strength Beyond Strength: No.1 ranked wrestler in the Class A 119-pound weight class Kameron Hamley, of Turtle Mountain Community High School, demonstrates his pull-up contest leading technique to N.D. Army National Guard Spc. Dallas Jorgenson, of Task Force Falcon Kosovo Forces (KFOR) 12, Feb. 20, at the FargoDome during the North Dakota state wrestling tournament; Fargo. At the time of the photo Hamley, was leading the pull-up contest with a total of 40 pull-ups without dropping from the bar.



Cold as Ice: Soldiers of Company B, 231st Brigade Support Battalion, Fargo, participate in a winter training exercise at Camp Grafton Training Center Jan. 23. The 231st is part of Task Force Falcon — Kosovo Forces (KFOR) 12 and is preparing for their upcoming mobilization. Some of their training at Camp Grafton included map reading, operating in an urban environment and counter-sniper training. This is the first time many of these Soldiers have done a winter training exercise and were able to test out all of their cold weather gear.

Spc. Alan Patterson



Buddy Aid: Senior Airman Samantha Mattheis, of the 119th Civil Engineer Squadron, right, demonstrates some basic self-aid and buddy care techniques using a tourniquet on 1st Lt. Nathan Lagred, of the 119th Medical Group, during F.O.C.U.S. training Feb. 7, at the N.D. Air National Guard. F.O.C.U.S. stands for "focus on critical unit skills" and is an annual program that provides ancillary training for things such as self-aid and buddy-care.

Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp



Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

Sun Show: A pair of sun dogs or Parhelion appear on both sides of Senior Airman Michael J. Repogal as he stands guard at his post Feb. 18, at the entrance of the N.D. Air National Guard. Parhelion is the scientific name for sun dogs, which weather.com describes as "either of two colored luminous spots that appear at roughly 22 degrees on both sides of the sun at the same elevation. They are caused by the refraction of sunlight passing through ice crystals. They are most commonly seen during winter in the middle latitudes and are exclusively associated with cirriform clouds. They are also known as mock suns."