



NORTH DAKOTA GUARDIAN



THE
Happy Hoosigans

Volume 2, Issue 5

May 2009

Heavy Lifting

Guardsmen Join
Statewide Flood Fight



» Also Inside:

Zippering to Zap
'Rock' Solid NCOs

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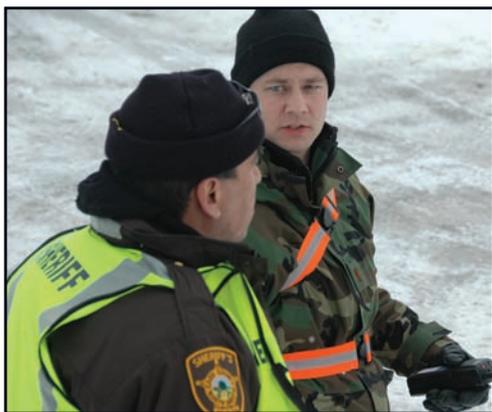
Retired North Dakota Guardsmen recall the spring drill weekend that had them chasing hundreds of college students out of the small town of Zap and later, pursuing them on a wild chase all the way to Bismarck.



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Digital photos should be at least 300 dpi.

On the Cover



Help From Above: A UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter, from the Bismarck based 1-112th Aviation, carefully places a 1-ton sandbag in the washed out portion of the emergency spillway of the Cottonwood Springs Dam – also known as Lake LaMoure, near LaMoure, N.D., April 19. The sandbags were used to create a tier system so water could slow down in different pools below the waterfall created by high water on the spillway. The emergency spillway was eroding and releasing more water than it was designed to release. (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp)

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Comments from North Dakota National Guard Leadership



Mr. Rob Keller

North Dakota National Guard
Director of Service Member
and Family Support

Providing Quality Service to Service Members and Families

I want to extend a heartfelt welcome for you to stop by the new Bismarck Military Service Center where our motto is “Serving all Service Members and their Families, Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.” That’s a big promise, but one in which our professional staff believes in. But why this new concept?

Our world has changed since 2001. We are in the “new normal.” A lot has changed within the military and the makeup of the military family. Family programs have become increasingly important within the military.

One of the most enduring elements of being a member of the U.S. Armed Forces is the sense of family. Each branch has its own unique way of caring for its members and their families. In fact, not only do we take care of N.D. National Guard Airmen and Soldiers and their Families, we service all branches of the military including Veterans. If there is a need we are there to provide a service.

In the same context, returning from a deployment can trigger a mixed bag of emotions. While you’re elated at the thought of returning home to your Family and friends, making the transition back to civilian life is a challenge. We are profoundly aware that a Service Member’s life extends beyond the deployment.

Ensuring that Families have strong programs and services boosts readiness, because it frees servicemembers to focus on the mission rather than wondering if their Families are being taken care of. Military members also have an obligation to ensure their Families are prepared to endure military separation; and they must understand the benefit and entitlement changes that take effect upon mobilization.

At the MSC, or any one of the five Family Assistance Centers (FAC) stationed throughout the state of North Dakota, you’ll find benefits and services designed to inform, encourage and strengthen. We are a resource to increase awareness of new and existing initiatives, services, and support available to all service members — past and present, along with their Families.

Our services include the following teams:

Family Readiness Team: Our staff establishes and facilitates ongoing communication, involvement, support, and recognition between military families and the N.D. National Guard in a partnership that promotes the best in both.

Family Assistance Centers: Located in Bismarck, Jamestown, Fargo, Grand Forks and Minot, FACs are operated regionally for the duration of the mobilization. Our primary goal is to be a “one stop” center where families of deployed service members can go for information and assistance.

Transitions Assistance Advisor: The TAA is the statewide point of contact to provide information, support and direction to service members, Veterans, and their Families on benefits and entitlements available through various federal and state agencies.

Reintegration and Yellow Ribbon: This program begins from the time the unit receives the alert order and continues throughout the transition period returning home. It also enables the N.D. National Guard to welcome home service members and assist them, as well as their Families, friends and employers, with the transitional issues that accompany any deployment or separation.

Outreach Program: We have trained professionals spread throughout the state to ensure that Veterans and their Families are aware of their rights and benefits. Our Outreach Specialists are available to assist Veterans of any era, any conflict, any service, and regardless of service type or time.

Suicide Prevention Team: All of our members are trained on how to recognize, assist and cope with a person exhibiting suicidal signs and how to seek help for others or for themselves. The N.D. National Guard has a very open attitude about keeping all members ready, both mentally and physically, for any and all missions.

Sexual Assault Team: This is an educational and prevention-based program to help protect the rights and safety of the members of the N.D. National Guard. It’s designed to help the victim heal through confidential reporting measures. Sexual assaults can be reported at any time and all

will be treated with respect and confidentiality.

Office of the Chaplain: This team consists of Army and Air National Guard Chaplains, Chaplain Assistants, and Licensed Social Workers. Their mission is to provide, in their respective areas, religious and spiritual support, as well as, emotional and mental health support to Soldiers, Airmen, and their Families.

Military One Source: It is a free 24/7/365 information and referral service available via toll-free telephone and Internet to Active Duty, Reserve and Guard and their immediate family members.

Military Family Life Consultants: The MFLC is a program designed to provide anonymous, confidential support to military members and their family members, especially those returning from deployments.

Psychological Health Consultant: Consults with commanders and senior leaders on issues of psychological health, morale and readiness as well as train and consult with civilian psychologists and other providers throughout North Dakota to more competently serve military service members and their Families.

The Division of Service Member and Family Support has trained staff that are looking forward to getting to know you and assisting in any way possible. We are here for your success.

If there is something we can do to assist, please contact us at 701-333-4800 or 800-242-4940.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Keller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rob Keller

Ceremony Bids Farewell to Unit Deploying to Djibouti

Despite vigorous flood-fighting efforts, families and friends of a group of Soldiers deploying soon to Djibouti, Africa, gathered in Bismarck at the Army Aviation Support Facility for a send-off ceremony March 27. The Bismarck-based Detachment 42, Operational Support Airlift unit of the North Dakota Army National Guard is deploying in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

“Everyone understands that our National Guard force is currently focused on fighting flood threats all across North Dakota,” said Brig. Gen. Patrick Martin, North Dakota National Guard deputy adjutant general. “But send-off ceremonies are important events and we must formally honor and thank our Citizen-Soldiers for all that they have accomplished in their military careers, and all that they will accomplish during their mobilization. We wish them well and await their safe return.”

Eight Soldiers with the unit received a mobilization order in December 2008 after being placed on alert in August 2008. They will serve with the Djibouti Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa for about one year, including stateside training time. This is the second mobilization for Detachment 42, which also served in Afghanistan from September 2004 until March 2005.

This small but highly specialized aviation unit operates one C-12 Huron aircraft while stateside but will fly two C-12 aircraft during this deployment. Their mission is to provide short-notice fixed-wing transportation for personnel and cargo within their area of operations. Detachment 42 is one of 42 C-12 detachments nationwide assigned to various state National Guard units

Recently, on a moment's notice, the unit flew to Omaha, Neb. in order to quickly transport a U.S. Army Corps of Engineer water hydrologist to Bismarck. He played a critical role in the effort to dislodge ice blockage that caused flooding in the Bismarck-Mandan area. The block-

age was successfully removed substantially reducing further damage to area homes and business properties.

Guard Commissions an Unprecedented Three Chaplain Candidates

The North Dakota Army National Guard commissioned three new chaplain candidates during an April 9 ceremony at the Raymond J. Bohn Armory in Bismarck. Each of the new chaplains is now the rank of second lieutenant in the National Guard.

“This is an unprecedented event,” said Chaplain (Maj.) David Johnson, staff chaplain, North Dakota National Guard. “To have three candidates take their oath of office on the same day is truly historic.”

Johnson administered the oath of office to two of the three newly assigned chaplain candidates, Scott Noyes, of Jamestown, N.D., and Brian Kiefat, of Fergus Falls, Minn.

Kiefat was accompanied by his fiancé, 2nd Lt. Elizabeth Brende, United States Air Force, Grand Forks, N.D.; his father, Gary Kiefat; his sister, Alisha Kiefat and his friend N.D. Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Michael Maples. Kiefat has been a member of the North Dakota Army National Guard since August 2000. Noyes joined the N.D. Army National Guard in October 2008.

North Dakota Army National Guard Chaplain (Capt.) Maurice Millican administered the oath of office to the third new chaplain, Yacob Makonnen, of Fargo, N.D. Makonnen's wife, Kim, attended the ceremony. Makonnen is the newest member of the North Dakota National Guard.

“American Soldiers deeply value their constitutional right to exercise their freedom of religion,”

Millican said. “It's the job of our military chaplains to help facilitate these freedoms.”

A chaplain candidate is a “chaplain-in-training” until the Soldier completes the necessary requirements to become a



Courtesy Photo

The North Dakota Army National Guard's newest chaplain candidates, from left to right, Brian Kiefat, of Fergus Falls, Minn., Yacob Makonnen, of Fargo, N.D., and Scott Noyes, of Jamestown, N.D.

chaplain. Candidates function under the supervision of a branch-qualified chaplain during this phase. The three candidates will now attend the Chaplain Basic Officer Leadership Course at the U.S. Army Chaplains Center and School at Ft. Jackson, S.C.

“The ‘chaplain-in-training’ program is an extremely important tool to help us ensure that we have sufficient chaplains to meet Soldiers' requirements,” Millican said.

There are six chaplains within the ranks of the North Dakota National Guard — which includes both Army and Air Guard chaplains — in addition to these three new chaplain candidates.

Air Guard Families Encouraged to Attend Third Annual Zoo Day

Save the date! The Third Annual Hooligan Zoo Day is Sunday, May 17 at the Red River Zoo in Fargo. North Dakota National Guard Families will be granted free admission and unlimited carousel rides. The Family Readiness Program will provide hotdogs, burgers, beverages and utensils.

Families with last names beginning with A through H please bring a cold salad. Names beginning with an I through R please bring a dessert and S through Z please bring a hot food. Don't forget your cameras and don't forget to invite grandma and grandpa!



Bill Prokopyk

Chief Warrant Officer Tyler Bridwell holds his son, Sam, during a March 27 send-off ceremony for his unit, Detachment 42, Operational Support Lift.

North Dakota Air National Guard Offers a Variety of Incentives

By Senior Airman Kari Irviss
119th Wing

The N.D. Air National Guard Recruiting and Retention continues to offer great incentives including enlistment and reenlistment bonuses. The dollar amounts for these bonuses have not changed in recent months.

The N.D. Air National Guard is still offering a cash enlistment bonus of up to \$20,000 and a \$15,000 cash re-enlistment bonus for specific career fields. In addition to the cash bonuses, other incentives are available including the \$20,000 Student Loan Repayment program and the \$350 G.I. Bill Kicker. The Student Loan Repayment program repays eligible student loans in return for satisfactory service in the Air National Guard. The G.I. Bill Kicker is paid in conjunction with the Montgomery G.I. Bill and both are non-taxable. Members may choose two of these three incentives at the time of enlistment/reenlistment.

This year, state legislation authorized an increase to the State Tuition Assistance program allowing school fees to now be covered in addition to basic tuition costs for participating schools. Previously, only basic tuition costs were allowed for reimbursements. The increase will be reflected in reimbursements starting fall semester 2009. The N.D. National Guard Tuition Assistance program provides tuition

reimbursement to participating traditional guardsmen and technician members of the N.D. National Guard who attend participating North Dakota schools and are pursuing their first undergraduate degree. The N.D. National Guard Tuition Assistance Program is available in addition to all other bonus programs.

The following amounts can be earned per month through the Montgomery G.I. Bill to students taking the required college credits:

- 12 or more credits a semester — \$329 per month for 36 months
- Nine to 11 credits a semester — \$246 per month for 48 months
- Six to eight credits a semester — \$163 per month for 72 months
- Three to five credits a semester — \$82.25 per month for up to 144 months

Recruiting and Retention Win Big at National Conference

Two members of the 119th Wing were recognized with awards at the Air Guard Recruiting and Retention workshop in Denver, Colo., Feb. 23.

Master Sgt. MJ Filloon, 119th Wing Retention Office Manager received the Gold Level Recruiting and Retention Badge. This badge recognizes retention office managers who have superior retention programs and have met an 85 percent reenlistment rate.

The Retention Office is responsible for

many Air National Guard programs including the Career Motivation Program and Career Counseling, Cash Bonus and Student Loan Repayment Programs, Montgomery G.I. Bill (Reserve and Active Duty) & G.I. Bill Kicker eligibility and information, State and Active Duty Tuition Assistance, retraining options and incoming Active Duty and Air Guard transfers. It is also the place to get your N.D. Air National Guard reenlistment gift.

For more information, call Master Sgt. MJ Filloon, Retention Office Manager, at 701-451-2248 or visit 119th Wing Headquarters Building 400, Room 171.

Master Sgt. Troy Krabbenhoft also was recognized during the event when he received a Century Mark Award for having over 200 enlistments. This award recognizes recruiters who reach increments of 100 accessions throughout their career.

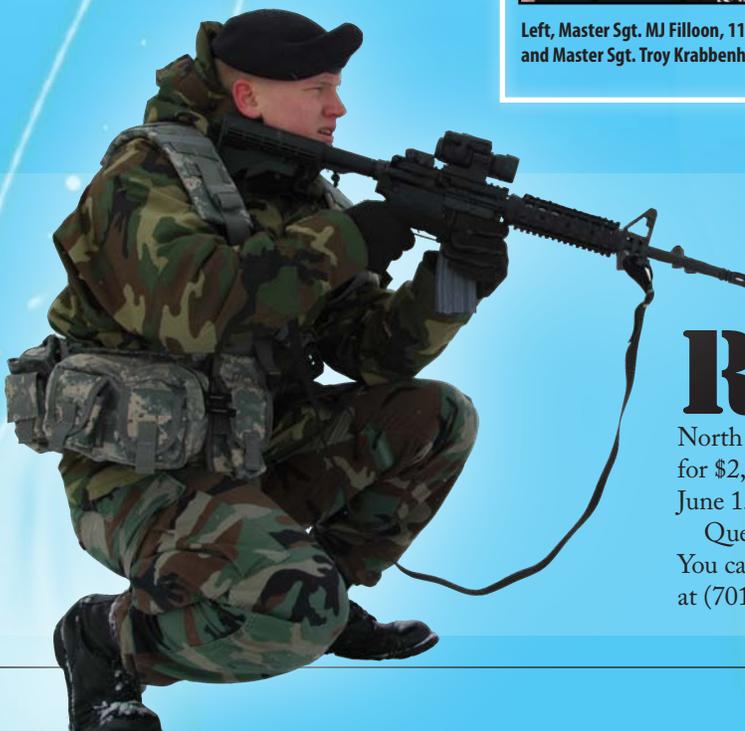


Left, Master Sgt. MJ Filloon, 119th Wing Retention Office Manager and Master Sgt. Troy Krabbenhoft, 119th Wing recruiter

HELP STRENGTHEN OUR FORCE

Recruiting needs your help to fill 219th Security Forces Squadron positions in Minot. Talk to your friends, family, and anyone you come in contact with who may be eligible to join the North Dakota Air National Guard. If they join, you could be eligible for \$2,000 through G-RAP or the Minot Referral Bonus program! June 15 is the deadline for using the Minot Referral Bonus program.

Questions can be directed to the Recruiting or Retention offices. You can reach Fargo Recruiting at (701)451-2238, Minot Recruiting at (701)723-3276.



Wounded Warriors Are Regular Joes

While attending the Combat Medical Ministry course at Brook Army Medical Center (BAMC), Fort Sam Houston, I was privileged to tour the new Center for the Intrepid (CFI). Intrepid means “fearless.” The Center is dedicated to our severely wounded warriors whose selfless and fearless sacrifices on behalf of our nation entitle them to the best rehabilitative care possible.

The Center for the Intrepid provides service members with severe injuries, burns and amputations the opportunity to maximize their ability to live and work productively. At CFI, the best our nation has to offer in medicine, therapy, spirituality and technology come together to care for wounded warriors.

I met one of our nation’s warriors who was wounded in action in Iraq when an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) detonated near his vehicle. He sustained burns on 35 percent of his body, and was severely disfigured. The fire-blast of the IED burned off his ears, lips, scalp and hands. He has had eight surgeries, and more to come. He has endured his suffering with courage for almost a year now.

Going out in public is sometimes awkward for him. He said



Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain (Maj.) Maurice Millican
141st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade



D. Myles Cullen

Army Sgt. James Ford and the Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. George W. Casey Jr., talk while other Soldiers practice physical therapy at the Center for the Intrepid, Ft. Sam Houston, Texas.

that he doesn’t like it when people stare at him. He just wants to be treated like a normal human being. “It really hurts when other Soldiers just stare at me and walk away. I would rather they just come up to me and ask what happened.”

Apart from his appearance, he has a normal life. He is married and has three children. He has an amazing sense of humor. He still wears the uniform. He still has his faith. And he is developing a sense of purpose again.

He would love to tell you the story about his life growing up, his Army career, two combat tours, the IED attack that changed his life, the trauma and treatment of his wounds, his recovery at the Center for the Intrepid and the life he now lives with his wife and kids.

He wants people to know: “I am a regular Joe. Just talk to me. I am a normal guy.”

He asked me to tell his story...

New Online Videos Help Military Families Understand Health Benefits

Contributed by Shari Lopatin
TriWest Healthcare Alliance

Grab the popcorn...military families throughout TRICARE’s west region now have a new, easy way to learn about their healthcare benefits through one of America’s favorite pastimes—the movies.

TriWest Healthcare Alliance—the Department of Defense contractor that administers TRICARE, the military’s healthcare entitlement, in 21 western states—is expanding its beneficiary education program to include streaming videos designed to help service members and their families understand their healthcare benefits.

“TRICARE 2 You” video topics, which run an average of three minutes in a prime-time news format, include explanations of TRICARE plan options, how to



access specialty care, behavioral health resources, pharmacy options and newborn enrollment, among others.

“We wanted to do whatever it takes to help our beneficiaries maximize use of their TRICARE benefit and avoid out-of-pocket costs,” said David J. McIntyre, president and CEO of TriWest Healthcare Alliance. “This is especially useful for service members, particularly those in the National Guard and Reserve who live or work in rural areas without convenient access to military base resources.”

Produced by TriWest, in partnership with TRICARE Regional Office-West,

the videos are housed in the company’s new “TRICARE 2 You Online Library” at www.triwest.com/T2U. The portal also includes eNewsletters and published articles that answer frequently asked questions about TRICARE topics, as well as links to related resources, enabling families throughout the west region to find answers to common healthcare questions anytime, from anywhere with an Internet connection.

For more information about TRICARE benefits or TriWest Healthcare Alliance, visit www.triwest.com or call 1-888-TRI-WEST (874-9378).

Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp



Carving a Niche

By Sgt. Amy Wieser Willson
Joint Force Headquarters



Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

Top left, the intricate elements of Sgt. 1st Class Michelle Morgenroth's carvings come through in this detailed photo of a 4.5-by-16-inch piece of hard pine from Chile that she carved for her husband, Jim, while deployed to Iraq. Much of the inspiration came from "my very good friend Marsha Peterson," Michelle said. "She sent me cards almost every week that had the whimsical animal designs that I used in a lot of my carvings for Soldiers and families over there." The piece also holds a fun memory for Jim and Michelle, who fish frequently. On one trip, the motor stopped and Jim began rowing back to shore. Michelle continued fishing. Agitated, Jim asked what she was doing. "You're going at the perfect trolling speed," Michelle grinned in reply. Their dog at the time, Nikki, was along for the ride, as well.

With Dremel in hand, Sgt. 1st Class Michelle Morgenroth uses her artistic talents to express gratitude, friendship and love. She guides the small rotary tool across blocks of hickory, butternut, quartersawn oak or cherry, turning nature's beauty into human-touched art. After hours of carving intricate details, eagles, fish, deer, flags, words and more emerge from the timber.

It's a skill that developed from Morgenroth's desire to recognize her fellow Soldiers.

"I started out doing retirement plaques for Soldiers who have 20 years or more in the Guard because I saw a need for it at the time," she said. "Our state has come a long way now with all they do (for retirees) ... but that wasn't the case 15 years ago."

Her design inspiration comes from old recruiting materials with an eagle and flag. She personalizes each plaque with a nameplate and pins with Soldiers' unit crests and rank at retirement.

"It really meant a lot to me to receive a plaque from Michelle. You receive a lot

of things from the state when you retire but knowing the pride and the time that Michelle puts into her work really makes it special. You know that Michelle's plaques come straight from the heart," said Jack Willson Jr., of West Fargo, who received one of Morgenroth's plaques when he retired from the Guard last year.

Morgenroth refined her skills when she deployed to Iraq with the 142nd Engineer Combat Battalion in 2002-03, and found the absolute attention she needed for carving such details distracted her from other work.

"That's why it was very good — I guess, therapeutic — for me in Iraq because you didn't have time to think about missions or anything else. I had to focus," she said of carving.

Morgenroth took along a piece of burl walnut and spent nearly 50 hours creating a cribbage board with a ruffed grouse on a log for her dad. She did about 20 plaques while deployed for the commands with which she served — one plaque is now displayed in a case in Hohenfels, Germany — and in response to

Soldiers' requests.

"A lot of them wanted me to do a plaque for their parents or to send home to their spouse. It kept me busy," Morgenroth said. "I wanted them to be involved in the design process, so it gave them something to look forward to."

As she prepares to deploy to Kosovo with Company A of the 231st Brigade Support Battalion's Multinational Task Force, Morgenroth already has plans to again share her talents with others — this time in the form of classes. She'll bring a footlocker full of tools and wood, as well as materials for other craft projects. Morgenroth recently made a loom to craft a pair of Mukluks, and she regularly makes knives, carving the handles and fashioning a leather sheath for each.

Just as her woodcarving hobby started, her focus remains on Soldiers. Some might even say that Morgenroth's art is Soldiering, and the Dremel is simply a tool she uses to support that, whether it's through plaques of recognition or improving the passage of time during a Kosovo deployment.

THE PARTY CRASHERS

By Sgt. Eric W. Jensen
116th Public Affairs Detachment

Forty Years Later, Retired N.D. Guardsmen Reminisce About Restoring Order to the Little College Spring Party That Turned Into One Big Disaster — The Infamous "Zap-In"

Memories of "Zipping to Zap," N.D., might be a little murky for the nearly 3,000 drunken college students who descended on the small, coal mining town in May 1969. In fact, many of the now retired N.D. Guardsmen who chased this mob across half the state aren't certain about every detail of the ordeal. Forty years makes it easy to forget things. But memory doesn't linger on detail; just the focal points, and the collective memories of these retirees lead them to one anecdote in particular — seeing or hearing about the inebriated student who took a sharp bayonet to the rear end after antagonizing a tired and irritated Soldier. This confrontation would be one of a few these Guardsmen would face on a drill weekend that had them crashing the largest spring break beer bust the state had ever known.

FORT LAUDERDALE OF THE NORTH

The "Zap-In" started as an innocuous joke published in the North Dakota State University student newspaper, The Spectrum, inviting the collegiate world to convene at the small town of Zap — population just less than 300. The article sug-

gested that Zap would be a new haven for students to retreat to during spring break; a "Fort Lauderdale of the North." Mayor Norman Fuchs reacted enthusiastically to the idea, assuring prospective attendees that Zap would be ready and willing to host. Soon, the idea of "Zipping to Zap" gained momentum in college newspapers throughout the region and even the national news media picked up on the story.

"THERE WERE KIDS SCATTERED ALL AROUND; SLEEPING ON PEOPLE'S PORCHES AND IN THEIR YARDS." - Retired Brig. Gen. Jerry Engelman

There was huge potential for the event to entice a larger crowd than expected, one that Zap might not be able to handle on its own.

N.D. Gov. William Guy along with N.D. National Guard Adjutant General Maj. Gen. LaClaire A. Melhouse and Superintendent of the State Highway Patrol Ralph Wood met to discuss taking precautions to react to any emergencies that might arise from the Zap party.



A college student gets a little help from his friends on Main Street in Zap. This photo was taken at 7 p.m. on Friday night. The party had only kicked off at 4 p.m. and already the town was littered with beer cans and broken wine bottles. (Photo Courtesy of The Williston Herald)

It was later determined that the Guard would provide assistance to law enforcement officials in Mercer County, if needed, drawing on five companies led by the 164th Engineer Group with the 141st Engineer Battalion in reserve.

Soldiers assigned to these units would report for weekend drill May 9 through 11 to coincide with the "Zap-In." They would remain on a federal drill status

unless called to state active duty, with drill beginning at 7 Friday evening.

Retired Brig. Gen. Jerry Engelman remembers commuting to Bismarck from Grand

Forks where he attended school at the University of North Dakota.

"I came into town with my girlfriend, Linda, now my wife, and I remember that we were going to go to Zap with some of our friends."

A second lieutenant at the time, Engelman instead joined his unit, the 816th Engineer Company, to review civil disturbance training. The climate of the Vietnam era had put the National Guard

in a variety of events involving civil disorder and Soldiers had, at times, performed unfavorably.

"There had been student rallies that got out of control," Engelman said. "The Guard nationwide was directed to get a few hours each year of riot and crowd control training annually."

As training ended at about 11 that night, the Soldiers were told to be prepared to report back to the Bismarck armory in the event the Guard would be called to respond to any situations in Zap. An hour or so later, Engelman and more than 500 other Guardsmen were told they were moving out to evacuate "Zap-In" rabble rousers. The town, almost literally, was on fire.

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

By the time the Guard was called out on Friday night, more than 2,000 drunken college students had laid waste to Zap. The streets were littered with beer cans and a few of the local businesses had been vandalized. Alcohol compounded with sub-freezing temperatures drove students to tear apart an abandoned building on Main Street to fuel a huge bonfire.

But those who hovered around the fire in Zap were not the only ones trying to shield themselves from the cold. Engelman remembers convoying to one of four staging areas around Zap in an old MA151 jeep with side curtains and no heat.

"My driver and I had parkas on along with every piece of clothing we had been issued," he said. "Plus, I had my fart sack (old sleeping bag) around me and so did my driver who drove with one foot out; just enough to step on the gas to drive."

Engelman and his driver arrived in Beulah at about 3 in the morning. Retired Sgt. Maj. Chris Doll, who was a platoon sergeant with the 164th, remembers stopping there as well.

"We were freezing our buns off. We stopped and warmed up in the basement of the motel in town," he said.

The Guard had been ordered by the governor to move the entire crowd out of Zap at daybreak. While units grouped in various staging areas, there was already chatter about the town being in shambles.

"We heard all kinds of things on the radio," Doll said. "People were saying the whole town was burning."

Duane Dehne, who was the training officer for the 164th Engineer Group and

the vehicle driver for Col. William Tillotson, commander of the 164th, remembers the caution taken while developing the rules of engagement for the operation.

"The decision was made to not put any ammunition into the hands of the Soldiers. We didn't want to have any casualties," he said.

While the Guardsmen would be unarmed going into Zap, precautions were made to have a sniper-qualified marksman in Tillotson's vehicle. In addition, the entire force would march in with fixed bayonets.

"They (the Soldiers) got very energetic when that order was issued," Dehne said. "At the same time, they were told that you do not use the blade of that bayonet on anyone. It was just used as a method of intimidation."

At 6:30 a.m. on Saturday, the Guardsmen entered Zap and roused hundreds of college students camping throughout the town.

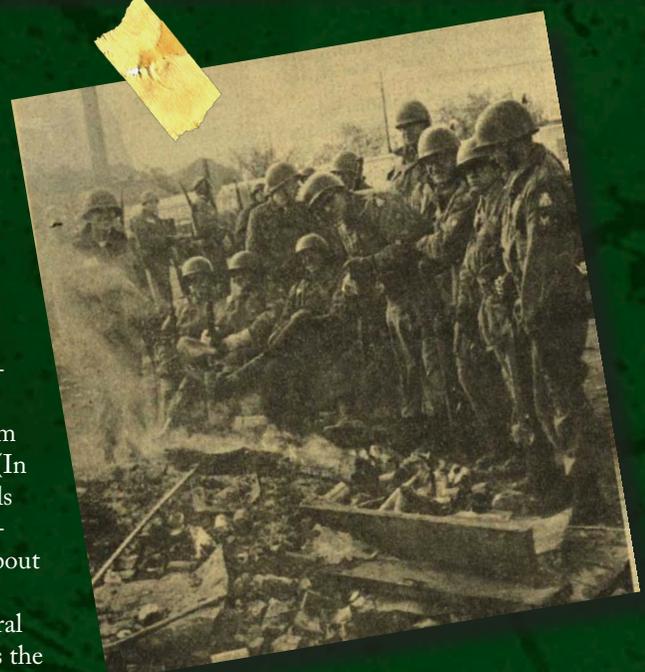
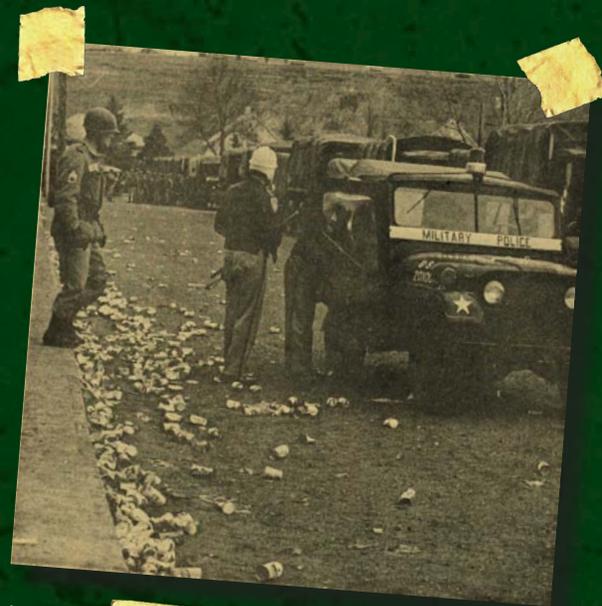
"There were kids scattered all around; sleeping on people's porches and in their yards," Engelman said.

About a hundred or so partygoers remained on Main Street, many of them drunk or hungover, as the Guardsmen made their way through Zap.

Doll remembers the poor condition the town was in.

"You could see smoke rising from town as we approached," he said. "(In one of the bars) the Sheetrock walls were all gone. It was totally demolished. The empty beer cans were about knee-deep in there."

The citizens of Zap, an older, rural community, looked on dismayed as the Guard cleared their streets.



"We saw townspeople looking out their windows wondering what the heck was going on. I'm sure they didn't get any sleep that night," Doll said.

As for the college students, it seemed as though they were ready to pull up stakes and go home. The Zap operation appeared to be a success with virtually no incidents.

"Getting them out of Zap was no problem," Doll said. "We thought it was all over with."

But the party was far from over.

THE MOB GOES WILD

Retired State Command Sgt. Maj. Ron Hopfauf, a squad leader with the 816th Engineer Company, remembers a few party-goers stealing a beer truck from behind one of Zap's two bars before the inebriated mass made its way to Beulah. No one is sure what prompted the change of venue, but the college students were still up for partying down. Civil authorities, including the Highway Patrol, followed the crowd along with the Guard.

"By the time we got to Beulah, they (college students) were passing free beer out from the beer truck ... anyone who wanted to drink it," Hopfauf said.

With the change of location, came a shift in attitude. The crowd had diminished since being kicked out of Zap, but they had also grown agitated and affirmed their disdain for the Guardsmen by yelling obscenities and hurling anything they could at the group of Soldiers.

"There were people on top of buildings throwing down tires and beers," Hopfauf said. "If there would have been anyone in that crowd with a gun, they could have sat on top of one of those buildings and started plunking away like you wouldn't believe."

"People were calling us names and throwing rocks and all sorts of stuff," Doll recalls. "...beer cans; whatever they could get a hold of."

Eventually, the crowd dispersed only to reform and convoy 10 miles east to Hazen. The chase would continue and the surly crowd met the Guardsmen head-on in the town's Main Street area.

Engelman remembers moving down the street doing the "riot shuffle," a formation learned during civil disturbance training in which a Guardsman would move forward with the left foot, then drag the right foot up to meet it while lunging forward with a bayonet.



Pay Period	May 1969	Gross	31.23
Name	Donald E. Jensen	Social Security	1.50
		Withholding Tax	5.75
		Hospital Insurance	
		Retirement	
		State Tax	23.98
		Net	

Top, Sgt. Eric W. Jensen visits with retired Guardsman, Don Jensen, (no relation) who worked as the supply officer for the 164th Engineer Group. Left, Don Jensen's pay stub from the "Zap-In" weekend. A major at the time, Jensen earned \$23.98 for a 3-day drill weekend.

"There was kind of a rhythm to it," he said.

The crowd grew more and more violent the further they were pushed down the street, yelling anti-war epithets and throwing trash at the Soldiers. Engelman even remembers one student producing a light-weight log chain and snapping it like a towel, occasionally hitting the Guardsmen's bayonets.

Dehne, along with many others, vividly remembers what happened next. One of the students had finally crossed the line, taunting the wrong Guardsman and took a bayonet to his posterior.

"One of the guys in our formation decided he was going to make a point," Dehne said. "Well, he decided to make that point right up the guy's rear end."

The wounded student was taken to a medical tent that had been set up by the Guard while trying to contain the mob.

Engelman now chuckles about how much preparedness went into the operation.

"I mean this was a full-blown war! This was like M*A*S*H," he said referring to

the television series from the '70s.

Finally, the Soldiers were able to block off all streets leading into Hazen's main intersection. From there, county sheriffs and highway patrolmen began making arrests. Remnants of the crowd made their way to Riverside Park in Bismarck where they were permitted to continue partying as long as they did not leave the area.

The exhausted Guardsmen who, for the most part, had not slept all weekend were relieved by Soldiers of the 141st Engineer Battalion. The unit and law enforcement monitored the gathering to ensure it didn't turn into another calamity.

By the time Sunday afternoon rolled around, the crowd had vanished.

"It was time to go back to school. The party was over," Engelman said.

The "Zap-In" had turned into a 24-hour affair for the North Dakota National Guard. Dehne believes the outcome for the Soldiers was positive.

"They felt that they had done the job that they were asked to do and they felt good about it," he said. "They felt they had given back the town of Zap."

Year of the NCO

ROCK ON WATER NCOs Prove Strong Leaders Through Flood

STORY BY CAPT. PENNY RIPPERGER, SPC. CHRIS ERICKSON, SGT. 1ST CLASS DAVID DODDS AND SENIOR AIRMAN KARI IRVIS



Sgt. Matt J. Walstad responds by boat to reinforce the water side of the dike at Oak Grove Lutheran School in Fargo.

Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

Harry S. Truman once said, “Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better.”

In the flood fight of 2009, NCOs embodied those traits and made significant progress across the state. Soldiers and Airmen led teams of Guardsmen in emergency responses and life-saving missions, and they kept their subordinates going through long shifts, late nights and miserable weather.

Numerous stories emerged from the weeks of flood duty of NCOs responding well under pressure or performing extraordinary tasks. Here are just a few of those great stories.

SGT WALSTAD: BY LAND AND BY SEA

Sgt. Matt J. Walstad is as comfortable behind the wheel of a 10-ton bridge-boat hauler as he is at the helm of a 12-person reconnaissance raft in rough waters.

Walstad, 22, with the 957th Liaison Monitoring Team (LMT) out of Bismarck, N.D., has gotten plenty of chances to prove his proficiency on the road and in the water while fighting floods in Fargo as a volunteer with the N.D. National Guard.

Experience and practice in the driver’s seat is key, he says.

“Everywhere we go, we do convoy and drivers’ training with our trucks,” Walstad said. “Luckily, I’ve seen what this truck can do previous to this.”

Walstad, a member of the Guard’s river rescue team, was refer-

ring to the HEMTT (Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck) combat bridge truck (CBT) he was driving March 24 on a mission to retrieve a Humvee submerged in high water in the Oxbow area south of Fargo.

About two miles into the mission, Walstad noticed the Guard cargo truck ahead of him began to swerve wildly as it crossed the interchange bridge over Interstate 29 at Cass County Road 20.

Before he could react, his truck, which was carrying an MK2 bridge erection boat, started to slide, too.

“I’d say we were at a 45-degree angle and the boat was hanging off the bridge,” he said.

Walstad said his instincts immediately kicked in and he calmly corrected and steered out of the slide, avoiding another vehicle by only a few feet in the process. Had the truck slid completely out of control, things could have been catastrophic because the truck length is much wider than the bridge and its wheels are twice as tall as the side rails.

Staff Sgt. Matt Mitzel, also with the 957th LMT, said Walstad could have let his assistant driver take the wheel that night, but he knew that conditions warranted someone with a little more experience.

“He did what any good leader should do in that kind of situation,” Mitzel said. “He stayed calm and was able to ride out the slide. That could only be done with a lot of training.”

In the early morning hours of March 29, Walstad’s rescue team

sprung into action again, when the emergency dike at Oak Grove Lutheran School buckled in north Fargo. This time, Walstad was able to show his prowess on the Zodiac reconnaissance raft.

The team took sandbags into the raft and placed them in strategic spots to fill the breach in the dike.

“(Walstad) was operating that boat,” Mitzel said, “and if you mess up, even slightly, you’re going to put a Soldier in the water.”

The breach was fixed, limiting water damage to the Oak Grove campus and sparing further damage to nearby neighborhoods.

Mitzel said that Walstad’s coolness in high pressure situations impresses him, but doesn’t surprise him.

“He’s just a good NCO (noncommissioned officer),” Mitzel said. “He’s soft spoken, but he’s someone who knows how to take control.”

SENIOR AIRMAN SPRAGUE: TRAVELING THE DISTANCE

Senior Airman Brian Sprague, of the N.D. Air National Guard’s 219th Security Forces Squadron in Minot, N.D., volunteered to cross the state assisting military forces in the Red River Valley and demonstrated his dedication and commitment to service as a future NCO. Going on state active duty for the first time, he learned that when the call comes, you have to be ready.

Sprague utilized his fresh skills as a security forces member to direct traffic assisting other military members, law enforcement, emergency response vehicles and civilian personnel to effectively mitigate their way through or by flooded areas of Fargo.

Sprague’s grueling first day was more than 20 hours long. He left the Minot area around 6a.m. to travel, in-process, and get to work while flood fighters were racing against the clock. The day ended at 1 a.m. the next day.

“It was a tough couple days being up so long. But I wasn’t the only one. We were all doing our part to help save Fargo,” Sprague said.

While on duty, Sprague and his partner Sgt. Kory G. Leach, of the 191st Military Police Company, were directing traffic at their control point when they noticed an ambulance coming their way. The ambulance was concerned about not being able to get through the flooded road to the area that had placed a 911 call. Their quick-thinking and knowledge of the land allowed them to safely escort the ambulance through a flooded road to assist a civilian in distress. Once the ambulance had secured the patient they escorted them out of the flooded area.

“This experience gave me the ability to see the difference we make,” Sprague said. “Many people, many organizations came together and virtually saved the majority of Fargo and surrounding areas. What an accomplishment for all of us.”

Sprague joined the N.D. Air National Guard in January 2007 and moved to Minot to be part of the 219th SFS in March 2008.



Senior Airman Brian Sprague

STAFF SGT LAMPERT: QUICK-REACTING SOLDIER

A N.D. National Guard Soldier who served in Iraq and later

disarmed a gunman in Las Vegas took the fight to Mother Nature last month.

Staff Sgt. Justin J. Lampert, of Fargo, had been instructing Air Assault courses in Fort Benning, Ga., when flood-fighting efforts began. After his course ended, he called his leadership in N.D. and asked what the situation was like and if any help was needed.

“Because they were short-staffed at the time, I worked with the leadership at the 818th (Engineer Company) as well as the leadership at the school and booked a flight to Fargo,” Lampert said.

1st Sgt. Kenneth Miller, senior enlisted Soldier for the 818th, deployed with Lampert and the rest of the 141st Engineer Combat Battalion to Iraq from December 2003 to March 2005.

“I hadn’t talked to him for a couple weeks, then I found out he was using personal leave to come up here,” Miller said.

Not only did Lampert use his leave, but he paid for his own plane ticket back in order to help his fellow Soldiers and Airmen fight the flood.

Lampert worked as a member of one of the many quick reaction forces in Fargo. When the dike around Oak Grove Lutheran School began leaking, QRFs began responding. Lampert was squad leader of one six-Soldier team that responded later that morning.

He said the first location his team was dropped at was perfectly fine, there were no leaks.

“Then we found out about what was happening at Oak Grove Lutheran School,” he said. “We ran about six blocks to that location. Sandbags had been delivered so we got set up and started moving them so they could be placed.”

His team continued working at that location for about eight hours.

Quickly reacting to a situation is nothing new to Lampert, who in July 2007 subdued and disarmed a gunman who was firing at people at the New York New York Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. For his actions, Lampert was later awarded the Soldier’s Medal. Lampert also earned a Bronze Star with “V” device for valor while he was deployed in Iraq with the 141st Engineer Battalion.



Staff Sgt. Justin Lampert

119TH WING FIRST SERGEANTS: TAKING CARE OF AIRMEN

Military members who hold the title of first sergeant, also known as a “First Shirt” in the Air Force or “Top” in the Army, possess the important responsibility to oversee the morale, welfare and conduct of enlisted members. Their creed begins with: “I am a first sergeant. My job is people — every ONE is my business ...”

It is the “First Shirt” that enlisted members look up to for support during times of crisis and it was the 119th Wing first sergeants who did just that during the flood operations in the Red River Valley.

119th Wing first sergeants — Chief Master Sgt. Paul E. Tangen, Senior Master Sgt. Paul R. Pederson, Master Sgts. Gary W. Weis, Cherie J. Merrick, Art M. Bakke, Dane F. Hjelden, Eddie P. Swenson, Duane R. Kangas and Rollin B. Swedberg — not



From right to left Master Sgt. Art Bakke, the 119th Logistics Readiness Squadron 1st sergeant, 1st Sgt. Michael Koshney, of the 188th Army Band and Sgt. 1st Class Jennifer Schwind, also of the 188th Army Band, discuss National Guard flood personnel transportation issues April 15 at the Armed Forces Reserve Center, Fargo.

Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

only fulfilled these important duties, but also ensured that the needs of the military members selflessly serving on state active duty were met. In addition, Master Sgt. Regina E. Staufer of the 219th Security Forces Squadron, traveled from Minot to Fargo to assist with first sergeant duties during the flood operations.

“The First Shirts worked tirelessly to address Airmen and Soldier issues ranging from sick call, to work injuries, to pay questions, to solving billeting issues. If a military member needed something, they would work with the military member until the issue was resolved,” said Chief Master Sgt. David G. Harmon, 119th Wing Command Chief.

“Much of my time was spent on the road visiting flood sites throughout the state,” Harmon said. “When an enlisted-related issue would be identified, I relied heavily on Chief Tangen to address the issue and take the appropriate action.”

The first sergeants also arranged for transportation to and from mission assignment areas, working in conjunction with

the 188th Army Band.

“The 188th Army Band served as ‘transportation central.’ They were superb to work with. We could not have done it without them,” Tangen said.

Pederson and Weis helped establish and coordinate Companies A and B of the 188th Air Defense Artillery, organized and refined rosters and dealt with various personnel issues.

Bakke worked in Bismarck where he coordinated billeting, vehicles and food support for the 219th Security Forces Squadron serving in Linton, N.D. In addition, he orchestrated the clean-up of Sand Bag Central at the Bismarck Civic Center prior to returning to Fargo to resume first sergeant duties with Swedberg and Larson, who worked as platoon sergeants for B Company on the night shift at the Armed Forces Reserve Center.

Merrick worked tirelessly as the liaison officer for the 1-1 188th Air Defense Artillery tactical operations center in Fargo and later in Grand Forks.

Swenson and Kangas assisted with

the billeting of more than 500 military members at the 119th Wing and provided morale, welfare and recreation support for the Airmen and Soldiers.

“Not only were our first sergeants looking out for the military members, but like so many Guardsmen in the flood effort, they had to think of their own homes. Master Sgt. Swenson, who is a first sergeant, would go home after working over 12 hours to sandbag in his neighborhood at night,” Harmon said.

Hjelden worked rotating 12-hour shifts with the Fargo Police Department March 25-31 until he joined up with the security forces group at the Armed Forces Reserve Center acting as their first sergeant for Company C, 119th and 219th Security Forces Squadron and the 191 Military Police, all under Task Force 119.

“It’s been quite a ride for everyone. The efforts of all the first sergeants who worked so hard behind the scenes, stood up and took care of their people have been truly exceptional,” Harmon said.

WHO AM I?

Dual Roles Common for National Guard Members

With the flood waters of the Red River rising to new record heights in the Fargo, N.D. – Moorhead, Minn. area, I was preparing to ride in a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter as a photojournalist for the N.D. Air National Guard along with national and local news journalists, in an effort to gather aerial photos and video of the dikes and levees holding the water back March 28.

Garrett Hubbard, of USA Today, sitting across from me on the Black Hawk, asked me how I was doing in the flood fight. While my house was in no more danger than many others in the low-lying areas of south Fargo (which was nearly all of it), I couldn't really think of the right words to describe myself in this situation.

Rumors of potentially catastrophic damage to property were becoming common. Evacuations of neighborhoods in surrounding communities were already happening. Evacuating the entire city of Fargo (population around 100,000) now seemed possible because of new (even higher) water flood predictions from the National Weather Service.

I found myself wishing that I had bought my flood insurance sooner, as it takes 30 days for it to take effect. The early crest was predicted to happen before the flood insurance would help me starting April 11.

I have covered several disasters while working in the National Guard, including the Hurricane Katrina aftermath along the Mississippi gulf coast and I thought back to all of the captions I have written describing the people and places. Words I used for civilians like victim, survivor or resident didn't really fit.



I had used words for military members like rescuer, humanitarian and defender. I hadn't really done anything to help any civilians in this flood fight, yet (and probably wouldn't on duty as a photographer and journalist).

I was at a loss for words because none of the words I had used in the past to describe my photo subjects seemed to fit, either

because of timing (since the event was just gaining steam), or because of actions taken.

I had awoken the night before to the alarming beeping of heavy equipment backing up and

"AS NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS WE DO OUR JOBS, WHATEVER THEY MAY BE, AND DO OUR BEST TO PROTECT OUR HOMES, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY AT THE SAME TIME."

dropping off hundreds of pallets of sandbags on the street outside my house, a common occurrence in Fargo – Moorhead neighborhoods during that time. The pallets of sandbags were followed by city buses full of sandbagging volunteers late into the evening. Neighbors helping neighbors.

I thought about stories my friends and co-workers were telling about their personal flood experiences.

"I had just videotaped a neighborhood evacuation and I began following a sandbag convoy being escorted by four city police squad cars and it drove right into my neighborhood," said Master Sgt. Eric Johnson, a 119th Wing broadcast journalist.

"Moments later my wife called and told me that we had received a 'CodeRED' automated notification system call from the city telling us that we should start emergency sandbagging near our house. My heart raced," he added.

North Dakota National Guard members in flood areas across the state performed jobs like, providing meals for other military members, in-processing other activated National Guard members, ordering supplies used to fight the floods and making sure radios are issued and working for flood fighters, in addition to the highly



Master Sgt. Eric Johnson, of the 119th Wing, shoots video footage of flood water in the Red River Valley March 29.

2nd Lt. Jeffrey Hovdeness, of the 119th Wing, leads a quick response force team as he discusses plans for civilian welfare visits in rural areas north of Fargo with a Cass County Sheriff's deputy April 1.

visible jobs like sandbagger, dump truck driver and forklift operator.

"I was back home sandbagging a neighbor's house in Adrian, N.D., because of flooding from the James River when I got the call to come work in Fargo," said Sgt. Isaac Boger, of the Det. 3, 815th Engineer Company in Jamestown. Boger is a rancher living near Adrian and another example of the stellar volunteerism and sacrifice shown by the Guardsmen in our organization.

The reality of how dire the situation was came when President Barack Obama had declared the entire state of North Dakota a disaster area March 26.

I knew there were people in my organization that were trying to build protection for their homes in time to block the rising water, which was only a matter of hours in many cases.

Master Sgt. Kimberly Harr, of the 119th Support Group said, "I was working in the Joint Task Force (JTF) east headquarters at the Armed Forces Reserve Center while Jim (husband, Master Sgt. James Harr, of the 119th Operations Support Group) was building a ring-dike around our house."

Sadly, flood water eventually made it into the lower level of the Harr home, like many National Guard home-owners in the area, despite long hours of sandbagging by friends and neighbors. Kim worked in the JTF as Jim pumped the water out.

Most of the children in the Fargo – Moorhead area in kindergarten through grade 12 attended only 2-3 days of school from March 17 through April 6, and those days were voluntary sandbagging days for grades 8 – 12. The

flood has provided a different kind of education for the youngsters of National Guard members and civilians alike. When the kids hear dump trucks driving by every two to three minutes to drop loads of clay behind their house – sometimes on the opposite side of their house from the river, they learn new words like 'contingency dike.' Parents explain that the city hasn't given up the fight for their house, but they have to defend the rest of the community if the sandbags between the river and the contingency dike fail. It's a hard concept for adults to grasp as well as children, but necessary.

"It was definitely rewarding to be part of the National Guard's flood-fighting effort. Helping your community during a natural disaster is part of serving in the Guard that hasn't been highlighted as much recently with the war on terrorism going on," said 2nd Lt. Jeffrey Hovdeness, of the 119th Wing, who was also a member of a quick response force team tasked with emergency evacuation of civilians threatened by the flood.

I guess the only words I can use to describe myself during a potential disaster in my community are the same words I use to describe my co-workers — 'National



Guard member.' As National Guard members we do our jobs, whatever they may be, and do our best to protect our homes, families and community at the same time.

My wife, Kelli, has become proficient at plugging all of our lower level floor drains, sinks, tubs and toilets in my absence. She can now remove and replace a toilet stool with the best of them. Oftentimes our family members are left to work on our own homes until we are done with our jobs in the National Guard. I think I can speak for all National Guard members when I say a huge 'thank you' to them!

We can only hope that by doing our jobs in times of crisis, we are filling a role in the National Guard that also helps protect, defend and serve our communities and helps protect our friends and families at the same time.



Pfc. Bradley Sherman, of the 815th Engineer Company, passes sandbags to civilian flood fighting volunteers Mar. 23, at what has become known as 'sandbag central' at the Fargo City garage. The sandbags were loaded on trucks and delivered to various flood fighting locations along the Red River. Sherman is from the Lisbon - Lamoure area.



Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

Flood Fight: Hundreds of thousands of sandbags are placed at the ready in the parking lot of the Fargo Dome, Fargo April 8. The sandbags were prepared for fighting the flood waters of the Red River along the North Dakota - Minnesota border. At the height of the North Dakota National Guard's involvement in flood operations, more than 2,400 Guardsmen were working across the state.