



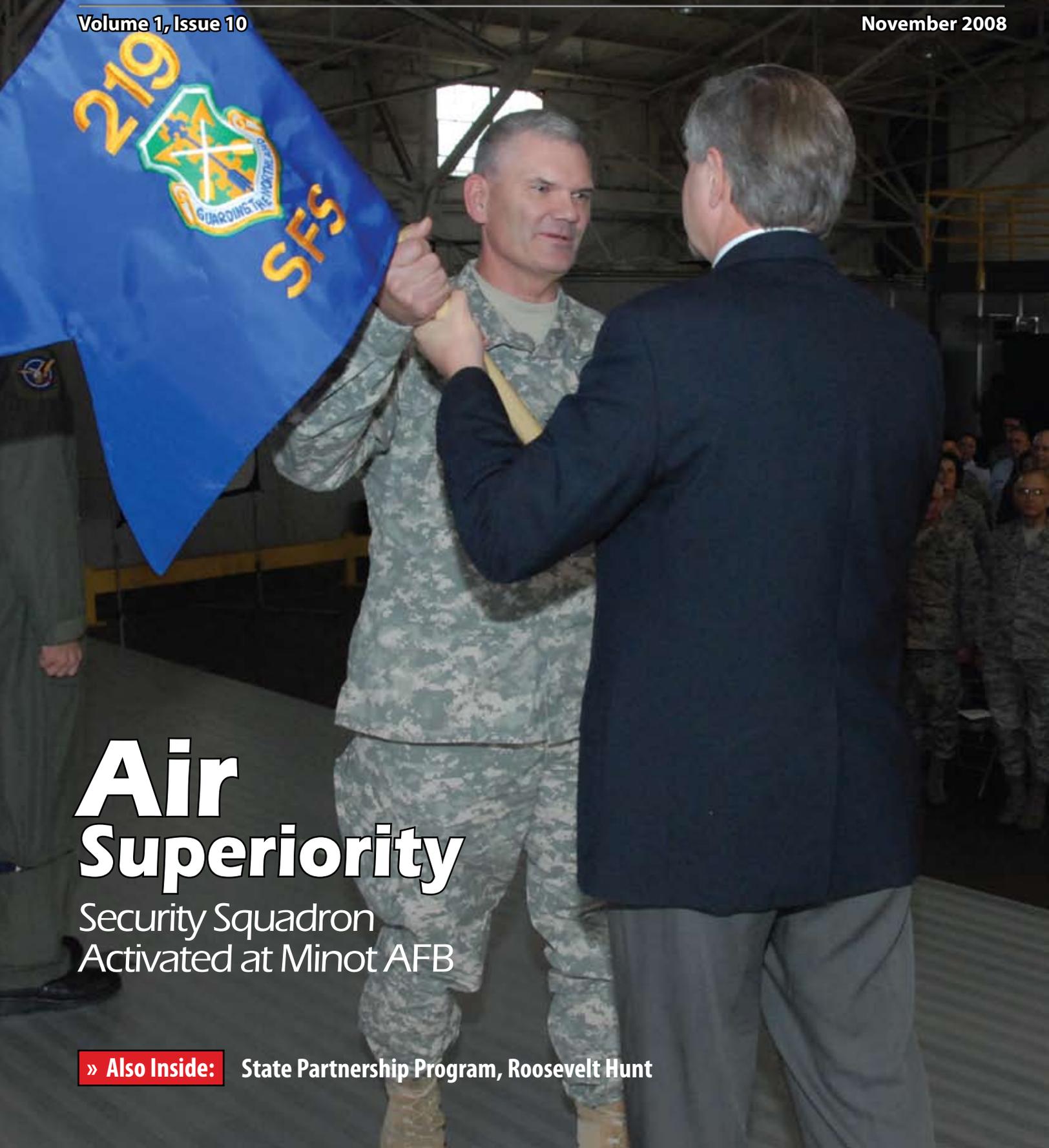
NORTH DAKOTA GUARDIAN



THE
Happy Hoosigans

Volume 1, Issue 10

November 2008



Air Superiority

Security Squadron
Activated at Minot AFB

» Also Inside: State Partnership Program, Roosevelt Hunt

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Commander in Chief
North Dakota Governor
John Hoeven

The Adjutant General
Maj. Gen. David A. Sprynczynatyk

Chief of Public Affairs
1st Lt. Dan Murphy

Editor
Sgt. Eric W. Jensen

Contributors
Capt. Penny Ripperger
Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp
Sgt. Amy Wieser Willson
Brig. Gen. Robert Udland
Spc. Brett J. Miller
Col. (Ret.) Eugene Orson
2nd Lt. Nicole Selnes
Chaplain (Lt. Col.) John Flowers
Sommer Brown
Terry Wiklund
Bill Prokopyk
Maj. Elizabeth Ortiz
Sgt. Chris Keller
Sgt. Jonathan Haugen

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- Printed by United Printing, a private firm in no way connected to the U.S. Government under exclusive written contract with the JFND. Reproduction is by the offset method with a circulation of 7,500.
- The *North Dakota Guardian* is published by the JFND Public Information Office, Box 5511, Bismarck, N.D. 58506-5511, 701-333-2007

ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

Contributions to the *North Dakota Guardian* are encouraged! Send articles, photos and art to Editor, JFND PIO, Box 5511, Bismarck, N.D. 58506-5511.

Electronic submissions are preferred. Please e-mail stories in Word format to:

eric.william.jensen@us.army.mil

Phone: 701-333-2195 Fax: 701-333-2017

Digital photos should be at least 300 dpi.

On the Cover



A New Era Begins: North Dakota Adjutant General Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk accepts the 219th Security Forces Squadron flag from North Dakota Governor John Hoeven during the Squadron activation ceremony for the new 219th Security Forces Squadron Oct. 18th at the Minot Air Force Base (AFB). The 219th SFS is located at the Minot AFB and consists of North Dakota Air National Guard members attached to the 119th Wing, based in Fargo. (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp)



Brig. Gen. Robert Udland
Assistant Adjutant General — Army

Reflections on Three Decades of Service

As I arrived on Camp Grafton for one of my last drill weekends, it was hard not to reflect on how the North Dakota National Guard has evolved during my three decades of National Guard and military service. In the case of Camp Grafton and the Regional Training Institute, the signs of change are obvious. Construction is in progress everywhere, with the new schoolhouse occupying the former parade ground. We have had other changes including our recent reorganization. However, in my observation, the three most significant changes have been in technology, operational tempo and pride of service.

The first change is the availability, utilization and implementation of technology. The most obvious example is the use of computers. The most recent example is the proliferation of BlackBerry devices, sometimes at the sacrifice of real communications between real people. The Global Positioning System is terrific, but has not totally replaced the need to know how to use a map and compass and to learn good navigational skills. The Army is on the verge of using Land Warrior and the Future Combat System. Initially for the Air National Guard, but increasingly for the Army National Guard, the use of

unmanned aerial systems has put North Dakota on the leading edge of military transformation to the future. All this technology is quite remarkable. General MacArthur once said that old Soldiers never die, they just fade away. It could be restated that old Soldiers never die. They never fade away. They just have their BlackBerry devices taken away.

The second change is in the operational tempo of the North Dakota National Guard. This has caused an attitudinal change in how we approach our missions. High op-tempo at one time meant that Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Bob Schulte (then Col.) took the Brigade Headquarters to Camp Grafton South for nine straight days without a parade during the middle

weekend of annual training. He must have seen what was coming and wanted the N.D. National Guard prepared and trained for its war-time mission. Next we went to Honduras, then

to the first Gulf War, then to Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom following the attack on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. As a result, we have emerged from being a strategic reserve for the big war to a day-to-day operational reserve that is always ready, always prepared and always deployed.

The last and possibly most important change has been the amazing personal pride of service evident in everyone serving in the North Dakota National Guard. Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Jerald Engelman remarked at the 50th Anniversary of the Officer Candidate School Graduation in August 2007 that he recalled a day

when anyone in uniform; active, guard, or reserve, removed their uniforms whenever they were not on duty. Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Michael Haugen often referred to how Viet Nam veterans were received unfavorably when they arrived back in the United States and how he would not let that happen again. Members of the military were shamed into taking off their uniforms as soon as possible as if to hide the fact that they served in the military — a one time honored and noble profession. There has been an amazing change. The American people now have a high-degree of trust for those serving in our military and an appreciation of the dangerous and difficult job we all do to keep our nation safe and free. Continue to wear your uniform with a sense of pride and honor. You have worked hard for that respect.

Yogi Berra had it right: “The future ain’t what it used to be.” What the next three decades will bring is not certain, but there will be difficult and challenging, as well as rewarding times. With the superb leadership of Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk and his command team, and with the dedication of each and every Soldier and Airman in the North Dakota National Guard, I have no doubt that we will meet and conquer every challenge thrown our way. Good luck and God bless America.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Udland".

Brig. Gen. Robert Udland

“Continue to wear your uniform with a sense of pride and honor. You have worked hard for that respect.”

North Dakota Soldiers Graduate, Appointed Warrant Officers

For the first time in history, North Dakota Soldiers have completed a nine-month Reserve Component Warrant Officer Candidate School. Four Soldiers graduated from the third and final phase of training, which took place at Fort McClellan, Ala.

Dustin Masseth of Mandan, Ken Schaffer of Fargo, and Chandler Raab and Jeff Sayler of Bismarck became the first from North Dakota to go through the program. Previously, all warrant officer candidates have attended four-and-a-half or six-week active-duty schools, which remain an option. The nine-month program — which includes distance learning courses, five three-day training periods over five months, and a two-week active duty school — has only been available to Guardsmen for three years.

“These are the pavers, so to speak,” said Chief Warrant Officer Dave Jundt, state c o m m a n d chief warrant officer. “This is a first for North Dakota and the North Dakota Warrant Officer Corp. We have

never had anyone graduate the Reserve Component Warrant Officer Candidate

School program before, and four graduates at one time is also a first.”

Just a few weeks later, Drew A. Vinchattle and David R. Kilber, both of Bismarck, graduated from the more traditional six-week school in Fort Rucker, Ala., and were appointed as warrant officers.

For more information on Warrant Officer Candidate Schools, contact Chief Warrant Officer Jonathan Sigl at 701-333-3156 or jonathan.sigl@us.army.mil.

Soldiers Respond Following Hurricane Ike's Strike

Five Soldiers with the North Dakota National Guard's 81st Civil Support Team spent nearly three weeks conducting hazardous material response in Texas during the aftermath of Hurricane Ike. The National Guard Bureau requested the support Sept. 23, giving the team four hours or less to mobilize with South Dakota's 82nd CST.

“We worked with the Orphan Drum Program, locating propane containers and thousand-pound gas cylinders and then alerting local HAZMAT and environmental

teams so they could mitigate any hazard,” said 1st Lt. David Jablonsky, operations of-

ficer in charge of the activated team. “Our Soldiers used an airboat and helicopter but also walked many miles as we canvassed the streets through several counties looking for containers that were displaced by the hurricane.”

North Dakota's CST response team in Texas consisted of Jablonsky; 1st Lt. Kory Nordick, medical operations officer; Sgt. 1st Class Robert Scharnowske, survey reconnaissance sergeant; and Staff Sgt. Bob Ferderer and Sgt. Bill Miller, both survey team members.

In September, 180 North Dakota Soldiers and Airmen were poised to deploy in response to Hurricane Gustav, but were not needed. Only one Soldier mobilized in response. Lt. Col. Dave Skalicky traveled to Camp Beauregard in Alexandria, La., and to Baton Rouge, La., for 10 days to study how lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina had been incorporated and to gather best practices that could be used nationwide to improve the National Guard's response to hurricane disasters.

Fitness Program Provides Assistance With Fitness Test Goals

It has been a successful first year implementing the new Air National Guard fitness test guidelines with approximately 90 percent of Happy Hooligan personnel exceeding the minimal passing standard of 70-points.

Airmen who failed or had marginal scores will be given the opportunity to attend training designed to provide knowledge, skills and the ability to improve their fitness test scores.

Within a month after testing, Airmen with failing or marginal test scores will receive a ‘Notice of Entry to the Fitness Enhancement Program’ letter from their unit commander and Unit Fitness Program Manager. The letter will designate those with marginal scores (70-74.9 points) or failing scores (< 70 points) to enroll in the Healthy Living class presented by 119th Health Promotions Manager, 2nd Lt. Nicole Selnes and will be required to re-test in six months. In addition, those with failing scores will also be required to enroll in the ‘Fitness Enhancement Program’ and complete a monthly progress chart. For more information, please contact Lt. Col. Bob Schulte at robert.schulte@ndfarg.ang.af.mil.

—News Briefs Submitted by 119th Wing



Spc. Brett J. Miller

Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk (left) and Chief Warrant Officer Dave Jundt (right) traveled to Fort Rucker, Ala., for the graduation and appointment of two North Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers to the warrant officer corps. The new officers are Warrant Officer David R. Kilber (second from left) and Warrant Officer Drew A. Vinchattle (second from right).



Employment Opportunities: Visit the North Dakota National Guard Web site for information about job openings within the organization. Both technician positions and active-duty tours are available. Updated job vacancy announcements can be viewed at www.ndguard.com/employment/. For additional information about technician vacancy announcements, please contact 1st Sgt. Beth Handt at 701-333-3365 or Sgt. 1st Class Laurie Zacher at 701-333-3369 for active-duty vacancy announcements.

Absentee Voting: Information on how to vote early (absentee) in North Dakota is available at the North Dakota State Government Web site. Early voting locations and Absent Voter's Ballot Applications are also accessible at www.nd.gov/sos/electvote/voting/voting-absentee.html.

North Dakota Guardian Survey: Please help us improve this publication by completing an on-line survey at www.ndguard.com/jointforces/default.asp?ID=347. Your feedback is appreciated. Also, look for monthly issues of the North Dakota Guardian at www.ndguard.com/jointforces//default.asp?ID=381

Site Seeing

State Sponsored Life Insurance Plan Yields Savings

By Col. (Ret.) Eugene Orson
State Sponsored Life Insurance Manager

North Dakota National Guard members qualify for an additional insurance program with group life insurance coverage of up to \$510,000 through the State Sponsored Life Insurance (SSLI) program. The National Guard Association of North Dakota sponsors five different Group Life insurance policies through SSLI. The following is a brief description of each plan:

The Uniformed Services Benefit Association (USBA) Level to Age 50 Group Life Plan is designed for Guardsmen and spouses under age 50. The plan features coverage from \$100,000 to \$250,000 in units of \$50,000 (Premiums cost less than Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) for the same amount of coverage. For information on SGLI, please go to www.insurance.va.gov/sglisite/SGLI/SGLI.htm).

The Armed Forces Benefit Association (AFBA) Better Alternative group life policy provides Guardsmen coverage of up to \$250,000 for a very low cost. Spousal coverage of up to \$150,000 is also available. (Premiums cost less than Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance for the same amount of coverage. For information on SGLI, please go to www.insurance.va.gov/sglisite/SGLI/SGLI.htm).

The USBA Lean 15 Group Life Plan can provide an alternative to Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) when a member is separating. Coverage is available to members and spouses from \$100,000 to \$500,000 in \$25,000 units.

The USBA Generation 3 Group Life Plan is a blended group life insurance plan that is available to both Guardsmen and spouses. It combines Whole Life with Decreasing Term to provide a level coverage amount and affordable level rate.

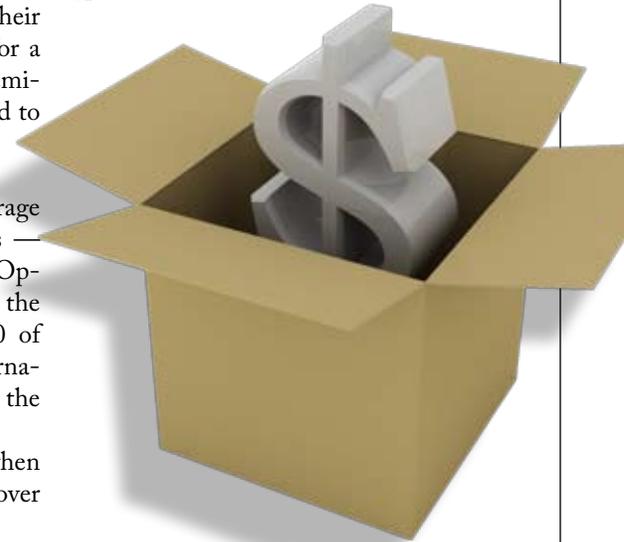
The Militia Insurance Trust (MIT) Group Life Plan has been available to North Dakota National Guard members for over 25 years. This is a "basic" family plan. A member under age 60 may obtain \$10,000 on themselves, \$5,000 on their spouse and \$5,000 on their children for a current monthly premium of \$7.16. Premiums, while not guaranteed, are designed to remain level to age 70.

Many Guardsmen apply for coverage under three of the above SSLI Plans — commonly referred to as the Jumbo Option; i.e.; \$250,000 of coverage under the USBA Level Age 50 Plan; \$250,000 of coverage under the AFBA Better Alternative Plan; and \$10,000 coverage under the MIT Plan.

There are several benefits to SSLI when compared to SGLI. All SSLI plans cover

Soldiers and Airmen while in the National Guard, to include deployments, and can be retained when separating from the National Guard. Spousal and dependent coverage can continue when separating as well. Another great benefit is the cost remains the same when separating from the National Guard. Remember SGLI, at separation, must be converted to VGLI with substantial cost increases.

Guardsmen can enroll in SSLI plans during insurance benefit briefings conducted in their units, during Soldier Readiness Processing and during new recruit briefings. For more information, please contact National Guard Association of North Dakota's SSLI Manager Eugene Orson at 701-282-5595 or gpors@ideaone.net.



YMCA Offers Families of Deployed Guardsmen Free Memberships

Information from Military OneSource Web Site

Families of deployed National Guard Soldiers and Airmen are now eligible to receive free memberships to YMCAs participating in the YMCA Military Outreach Initiative. This program is a result of the Department of Defense's partnership with Armed Services YMCA which funds memberships throughout the deployment cycle, including three months pre and post deployment for a total of 18 months.

Getting Started

1. Contact Military OneSource at www.militaryonesource.com or 1-800-342-9647 to confirm eligibility and receive an eligibility form.

2. Find a participating YMCA in your area at http://www.ymca.net/about_the_ymca/military_outreach_initiative.html by using the search tool at the bottom of the Web page.

3. Fill out and bring your eligibility form, Military ID and any other required documentation (generally your Deployment Orders or Military Service Headquarters approval letter) to a participating YMCA for verification (please do not leave copies of these documents at the YMCA).

Membership renewals in subsequent six-month intervals (up to 12 or 18 months depending on eligibility) will be funded based on a military family's or service member's ability to meet the participation requirement of eight visits to a YMCA each month.

Active Guard Reserve personnel do not qualify for this incentive. Only those on Title 10 orders qualify for free memberships.

Child care is offered as well. Deployed Guardsman with children up to age 12 will be authorized these services free for up to 32 hours per month, per child in YMCA facilities in states approved by the Department of Defense.

For more information, please call Military OneSource at 1-800-342-9647 or visit: www.militaryonesource.com.

Smokers Encouraged to Stamp Out Habits During Great American Smokeout Event

By 2nd Lt. Nicole Selnes
119th Wing Health Promotions Officer

The American Cancer Society holds the Great American Smokeout® every year on the third Thursday in November. This year, the Great American Smokeout® will take place on Nov. 20. The purpose of the event is to set aside a day to help smokers quit smoking and using other tobacco products for at least one day with the hope that they will quit completely. Not only does the event challenge people to stop using tobacco, it helps to raise awareness about the dangers of smoking and the many effective ways available to quit smoking permanently.

Research shows that smokers are most successful in kicking the habit when they have some means of support, such as nicotine replacement products, counseling, prescription medicine to lessen cravings, guide books, and the encouragement of friends and family members.

“Quitting can be a challenge because “smoking is an addictive process with a lot of daily rituals that are hard to break,” says Barry McMillen, a national expert on smoking cessation. “Think ‘One Day at a Time,’” McMillen said. “The idea of quitting forever can sound impossible or too difficult to even bother, but you can handle quitting smoking for a 24-hour period — and if that sounds too challenging, you can focus on ‘one hour at a time.’”

One of the ideas leading to the creation of the Great American Smokeout® was conceived in 1971 when Arthur Mullaney, a Massachusetts resident, asked people to give up smoking for a day and donate the money they would have spent on tobacco to a local high school. Lynn Smith, editor of the Monticello Times, also led the anti-tobacco charge to create Minnesota’s first D-Day (Don’t Smoke Day). The idea gained momentum and the California chapter of the American Cancer Society (ACS) encouraged nearly one million smokers to quit for the day on November 18, 1976. With the success in California, the ACS took the event nationwide in 1977.

Chaplain’s Corner: Give Thanks With a Grateful Heart

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) John Flowers
119th Wing

Decorations appeared at retail outlets in early October this year. It always makes me feel like somebody is jumping the gun by skipping Thanksgiving and going directly to the holiday season. Sometimes it seems like our whole culture is wired to overlook the giving of thanks.

Even in uncertain economic times, we remain the most blessed, prosperous and secure people in history. But we’re not often very grateful. We enjoy a standard of living beyond the wildest dreams of most people who ever lived on this planet, but we find reasons to complain.

One writer put it this way: “You’d think that merely not having bubonic plague would put us in a good mood. But no, we want a hot tub too.”

Mark Twain famously stated, “If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you. This is the principle difference between a dog and a man.”

I think he was talking about our tendency

toward ingratitude. We get so accustomed to our blessings that we begin to take them for granted. From there, it’s a short step toward ungrateful attitudes and complaints.

Emerson imagined what would happen if the stars in the night sky appeared only once a year.

Everyone would stay up all night just to gaze at them. We would be filled with anticipation and wonder at the spectacular beauty of the heavens. There would be celebration! But we are so accustomed to seeing the stars that we often don’t even notice them.

This year, why not pause on the way to December. Take a breath before you plunge into holiday stress and business. Or better yet, don’t get wrapped up in holiday stress at all. Be thankful. Make a list of God’s blessings in your life. There’s an old song that says, “Count your many blessings; name them one by one ... and it will surprise you what the Lord has done.”

Smoke Signals:

Things You May Not Know
About Tobacco Use

- According to researchers, those who smoke and dip tobacco double their risk of developing post-traumatic stress disorder after experiencing traumatic events.

— Steve Mraz, *Stars And Stripes*
Mideast Edition, Monday,
August 4, 2008

- Even after accounting for genetic pre-disposition, there’s almost a two-fold increase in risk of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder for those that have a pre-existing nicotine dependence compared to those who do not when faced with similar exposures.

— Reference to a late 2005 study published in the medical journal “Archives of General Psychiatry”

- Nearly 50 percent of returning veterans of Operation Iraqi and Enduring Freedom return home with new tobacco habits.

— Smoking Cessation Coordinator
Deb Dingmann, Minneapolis
Veterans Affairs Medical Center

- 70% of smokers want to quit.

— VA National Smoking and
Tobacco Use Program data

- According to a recent survey given to members of the N.D. Air National Guard on tobacco use (214 people took part in this survey), 26.7% people used tobacco. Of these, 51.8% smoked cigarettes, 37.5% used chewing tobacco and 8.9% smoked cigars/pipe.

If you would like help to start on the road to being tobacco-free, there is help.

Living Tobacco-Free

Free classes using a group support system. Please call 1-701-845-8595 for more information.

North Dakota Tobacco QUITLINE

Free, private phone counseling support. Please call 1-866-388-7848.

Area Recruiters Relocate to New Storefronts in Bismarck-Mandan

By Sommer Brown
 Recruiting and Retention Office

The North Dakota Army National Guard's Recruiting and Retention Command hosted open houses for their new storefront locations in Bismarck-Mandan Sept. 22-23. Area recruiters moved from their previous locations in an effort to increase visibility and accessibility.

The Mandan recruiting storefront was previously located in the Mandan Community Center. The new location is 503 E. Main St, Suite 4, Main Street, next to H&R Block. The Bismarck area recruiters have moved from their previous location in Century Plaza to 2930 N. 14th St, Suite 4, in the State Street Plaza (behind Space Aliens Grill & Bar). Ribbon cutting ceremonies were held at both locations and performed by the Bismarck-Mandan Chamber of Commerce.



Sommer Brown

Above, Sgt. 1st Class John Saylor, Mandan-area recruiter for the N.D. Army National Guard, cuts the ceremonial ribbon at the opening of the new Mandan recruiting storefront with Ambassadors for the Bismarck-Mandan Chamber of Commerce. Left, the new Mandan (left) and Bismarck recruiting storefronts opened Sept. 22 and 23.



Sommer Brown

Retirees Can Earn up to \$8,500 Through G-RAP

Did you know?

Traditional North Dakota Army National Guardsmen and Retirees of the Army National Guard with 20 or more years of service are currently able to participate in G-RAP.

What is G-RAP?

To maintain today's readiness and strength requirements while preparing for tomorrow's challenges, the Guard Recruiting Assistance Program promotes strength from within by recognizing and rewarding those who help the Army National Guard achieve its goals.

Guard Recruiting Assistants can earn additional income assisting ARNG recruiting efforts by identifying well-qualified men and women for service in the ARNG. RAs may earn up to \$8,500 for each select Officer Candidate who accepts a Commission and \$2,000 for each enlistment!

How do I sign up?

Please visit www.guardrecruiting-assistant.com or contact Docupak at (866)566-2472.

Family Members Let Loose at 119th Wing Family Day

By Capt. Penny Ripperger
 119th Wing

Happy Hooligan Family members participated in Family Day on Oct. 18 at the 119th Wing in Fargo. In addition to activities of the past, which include lunch, base tours, crafts, sporting events and "Games to Go", the Air Guard recruiting team took it one step further by providing briefings to friends and family members of unit personnel.

Tech. Sgt. Tina Sly, 119th Wing recruiter, provided information about educational benefits, cash bonuses, insurance options and an overview of the Air National Guard. An information booth was set up in the aerospace dining facility throughout the day so both unit members and visitors could ask questions and pick up information about the Air Guard.

The Recruiting Office and Family Program volunteers held a Guitar Hero tournament in the afternoon. With a turnout of over 35 participants and multiple spectators, it was an exciting afternoon filled with talented people showing off their musical skills. After a pre-qualification round, playoffs took place between the top 20, and then top 10 players. Participation prizes were given to everyone and the top three winners of the tournament won \$75, \$50 and \$25.



Kaia Schneider, daughter of Tech. Sgt. Bradley A. Schneider, of the 119th Wing Public Affairs, prepares to swing at a ball that has popped up in the air as Tech. Sgt. Benjamin B. Ehrichs, of the 119th Medical Group, keeps the game going during Family Day Oct. 18 at the North Dakota Air National Guard.

Guardsmen, Ghanaians Share Expertise Through State Partnership Program

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

The National Guard is one busy organization; not to mention well-traveled. It would be difficult to keep track of all the destinations stamped on the Guard's figurative passport. For some, it might be surprising to see where their Guardsmen have served. While deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan usually occupy headlines, Soldiers and Airmen have been working under the radar in lesser-known locations establishing relationships with fledgling democratic countries through the State Partnership Program (SPP).

The SPP is sponsored by the U.S. De-

partment of Defense, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of State. Facilitated by the National Guard Bureau, SPP aligns emerging nations of Africa, eastern and central Europe (to include former Warsaw Pact nations) and other selected nations around the world with state National Guard organizations. The state's task is to assist those nations in successfully achieving their rightful place in the community of nations.

The program encourages the development of economic, political and military ties between states and partner nations.

One of the purposes of the SPP is to

establish habitual, long-term relationships across all levels of society. The North Dakota National Guard has invested in this model by working with the Republic of Ghana; a small, coastal country in West Africa, since 2004.

Maj. Brent Naslund, who recently returned from Ghana after serving as the bilateral affairs officer for the SPP, said the program yields benefits to the U.S., especially by offering Ghanaians the mentorship to continue with peace-keeping missions throughout Africa. Ghana is one of the more stable nations on a continent that is known for its turbulent regions.

"It's much better if Africans deal with African problems," Naslund said. "They are better prepared by understanding local sensitivities and cultures, more than we would be able to, but

1st Lt. Hilda Asiedu (right) interviews fellow members of the Ghana Armed Forces during a hands-on exercise on the final day of a Public Affairs Workshop in Accra, Ghana. Conducted as part of the State Partnership Program, the workshop provided guidance on media relations, command information, crisis communications, photography, and writing news releases, features stories and cutlines.



we are there to support them through the SPP."

Ghana has a 30-year history of participating in peace-keeping missions. As peacekeepers, Ghana's Armed Forces move into volatile areas, such as Liberia and the Democratic Republic of Congo, to help reduce violence. Ghanaians have also pledged specialized troops to a stand-by force in support of the Economic Community of West African States, a group designed to promote economic integration in West Africa. These specialized forces include an aviation helicopter squadron, field hospital and an engineer company – all elements that the N.D. National Guard is well-versed in.

Naslund said that one of his duties as bilateral affairs officer was to coordinate an exchange of information and training between the N.D. National Guard and the Ghanaian Armed Forces. Through this coordination, N.D. Soldiers and Airmen have traveled to Ghana to participate in military events including a medical operations exercise; engineer instructor exchanges; and public affairs, aviation maintenance and flight safety workshops.

Approximately 28 State Partnership



Sgt. Jonathan Haugen

Maj. Brent Naslund (left) addresses the media at a State Partnership Program press conference at the state capitol building in Bismarck along with Gov. John Hoeven and Ambassador to Ghana Pamela E. Bridgewater October 2007. Bridgewater visited North Dakota to meet with the N.D. National Guard as well as leaders from North Dakota in education, agriculture and commerce.



Ghanaian Official Captivates High School Journalists

By Lt. Col. David Skalicky
Joint Force Headquarters

He wasn't a typical guest speaker for student journalists at Bismarck's Century High School. Kofi Osi Amponsah, of the African nation of Ghana, was in North Dakota for a week to observe a natural disaster exercise headed by the Department of Emergency Management as part of the North Dakota National Guard's State Partnership Program (SPP). He also was able to visit with the young journalists and share his experiences as a public official interacting with the media in Ghana.

Amponsah (who prefers to be called Kofi) is the Ashanti regional coordinator for the Ghana National Disaster Management Organization. He is appointed by the president of Ghana and performs a job similar to a Federal Emergency Management Agency director. In addition to participating in the natural disaster exercise, Kofi met with local first responders at the Bismarck Police and Fire departments and metro ambulance to share information about emergency response. He also toured power generation facilities at Great River Energy's Coal Creek station and the Garrison Dam. The trip was extremely beneficial as Ghana is growing as a regional provider of energy.

Kofi said his most memorable event, however, was speaking with Century High School journalism students about how he was slandered as a public official and about their responsibility as journalists to report the truth by validating their sources.

"You have the freedom of the press just like I have the freedom to swing my arm," he said. "But that freedom ends when my arm connects with your nose."

His comments were in reference to how the press has an obligation to check the facts before they release a story.

"Don't be in such a rush to be the first with the news," Kofi said.

He explained to the students that it was better to have the right story than to have the first story. Through colorful descriptions, Kofi spoke about several incidents where the press made inac-

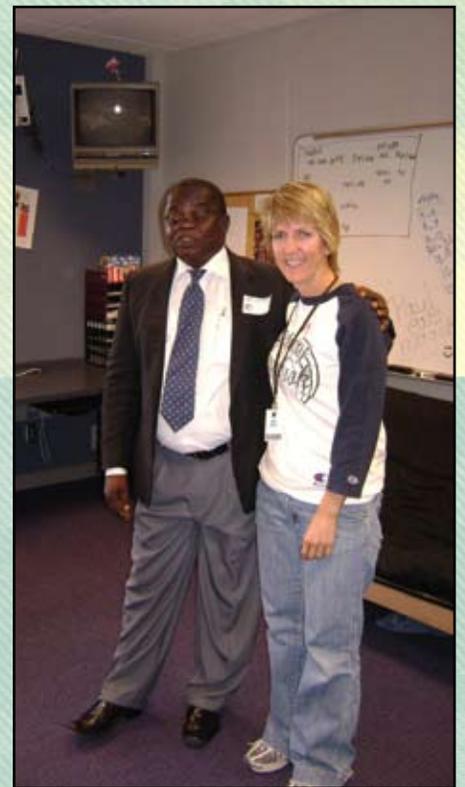
curacies when reporting about him in his public role. Although he respects the job a journalist does, he jokes about his association with them.

"None of my best friends are journalists ... except for Sue," he said. This was a reference to Sue Skalicky, journalism instructor at Century High School, who invited Kofi to address her classes.

Kofi's visit is part of the expanding Partnership Program in North Dakota, which began in 2004 and aims to build relationships that enhance security for both partners. The SPP is part of a larger innovative approach to building relationships with partners around the world. Some of the program's future plans include developing Ghanaian relationships in public health and higher education.

Kofi hopes his words of wisdom will resound in the writings of future journalists and can be a lesson to the public.

"Always tell the truth and make sure you know your facts," he said.



Courtesy Photo

Kofi Osi Amponsah, regional coordinator for the Ghana National Disaster Management Organization, stands with Sue Skalicky, journalism instructor at Century High School in Bismarck, after Amponsah visited with Skalicky's students about the obligation journalists have to report accurately.



1st Lt. Dan Murphy

Program events are being planned for 2009 with 76 N.D. Guardsmen participating in these partnership exchanges.

"Basically if it's an American Soldier or Airman working with a Ghanaian Soldier, whether that happens here (in North Dakota) on a short-term basis or Ghana, it's the bilateral affairs officer's job to coordinate that and make sure that everyone's priorities are being met," Naslund said.

Some of the N.D. National Guard's priorities, Naslund believes, include giving Guardsmen career experience and development in places outside the U.S. Ultimately, this kind of knowledge lends itself to N.D. National Guard Adjutant General David Sprynczynatyk's vision statement of building "a dynamic, relevant force where everyone is a trained, mentored and empowered leader."

"That doesn't just go for Soldiers and Airmen in the N.D. National Guard," Naslund said. "There's also something that these countries (like Ghana) have to offer. They don't have the technology, but they definitely have much to contribute."





Hunt of a Lifetime

From left to right, Tweed Roosevelt, the great-grandson of twenty-sixth President of the United States Theodore Roosevelt, hunting-dog handler Benjamin Sand, of Bismarck, and Spc. Nathan McGough, of the 231st Brigade Support Battalion, admire a rooster pheasant during the Hunting Dakota with Roosevelt hunt Oct. 18, south of Mandan, N.D. McGough beams with pride as the first successful marksman of the day.

Roosevelt Hunt Honors Military and Helps Fight Cancer

**Story and Photos by
Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp
119th Wing**

Ten North Dakota Army and Air National Guard members were treated to the upland game bird hunt and social event of a lifetime during the Hunting Dakota with Roosevelt event Oct. 18-19, as a token of thanks for the military members' service in the global war on terrorism.

Hunting Dakota with Roosevelt is the brainchild of former American Cancer Society staff executive and president of Great

Plains Benefit Group Roger Krueger and retired North Dakota Army National Guard Colonel and current North Dakota Game and Fish Department hunter education coordinator Jon Hanson, both of Bismarck.

The idea was to recognize North Dakota service members for their contribution and sacrifice in the global war on terror and raise awareness and money for the treatment of cancer at the same time, by hosting a special North Dakota wild-bird hunt in the name of Theodore Roosevelt. The hunt would take place on the land that Roosevelt held most cherished — the



German Wirehaired Pointer, Amber, sniffs the prairie grass for pheasant scent during the Hunting Dakota with Roosevelt event

North Dakota prairie and badlands.

"This is a way to combine several passions. The passion for defense of our country through the military, hunting, and raising money for the fight against cancer, and having fun doing it," said Hanson.

Financial donors and sponsors were recruited from North Dakota, Oklahoma and Virginia to make contributions in an effort to fund the hunt on private lands, pay for a banquet at the Bismarck Elks Club to raise awareness and to raise money for cancer treatment and research at the Bismarck Cancer Center.

Tweed Roosevelt, who is the great-grandson of Theodore Roosevelt, jumped on board to help the event and participate in the hunt. The direct descendant of our nation's twenty-sixth president is an avid outdoorsman who travels from Massachusetts to North Dakota nearly every fall to partake in the annual hunting season. He seemed to relish the chance to exchange hunting stories about his great-grandfather and help a worthy cause at the same time.

"When asked if he was a good marksman, Theodore Roosevelt would say 'I don't shoot well, but I shoot often,'" said Tweed Roosevelt as he stood at the end of a North Dakota Conservation Reserve Program field with pheasants flying overhead.

While Theodore Roosevelt loved to shoot, he was also a pioneer in wildlife conservation. Banquet speaker Jim Posewitz, a renowned author and Montana



Tech. Sgt. David Harmon, of the 119th Operations Group, prepares to take aim at a flushing rooster pheasant, as Benjamin Sand and his German Wirehaired Pointer, Amber, assist him in his pursuit of upland game birds on the grassy prairies of southwestern North Dakota.

Department of Wildlife expert, emphasized the importance of maintaining wildlife populations at optimal numbers for the benefit of the species and also for the hunting public. Roosevelt witnessed the near extermination of some wildlife resources due to the commercialization of harvested wildlife and was a key figure in restoring populations and making hunting opportunities available to all people in the United States rather than just the wealthy by creating and setting aside public lands.

Three cancer survivors and eight financial donors had the opportunity to hunt alongside the ten North Dakota military members, along with ten hunting-dog handlers who assisted the hunters in the field.

"Good health is a crown that a well man wears, and only the sick can see," said event organizer Roger Krueger.

Seventy-one year-old cancer survivor Delbert Woodley, of Haynes, N.D., paused in the grassy fields to talk with his fellow hunters about making his daily drive for cancer treatments in Bismarck, which

was nearly 300 miles round-trip, for nine weeks.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me," said Woodley, who was hunting for the first time since 1974 and is now cancer-free.

In addition to the banquet Friday night and two days of hunting, the group had a bonfire and barbecue Saturday night in Medora, N.D., which was only a few miles from the ranch that Theodore Roosevelt lived in during his time in North Dakota.

"This is a great event — raising awareness and money for cancer treatment and research, and honoring the military at the same time," said Sgt. Chris Clemens, of the 818th Engineer Company, in Williston, N.D., who served in Iraq with the 141st Engineer Combat Battalion.

"This surpassed anything we could have hoped for. We honored the military, raised money and awareness for cancer treatment and research. And we had fun doing it with all of the best things that happen around a hunting camp. The military people were outstanding. We were honoring them and they turned around and asked how they can help for next year," added Krueger.

Everyone involved with the first Hunting Dakota with Roosevelt event agreed that it was a great way to bring two worthy causes together for a weekend of fellowship and hunting in the spirit of United States President Theodore Roosevelt in the very place that he credited with shaping him into the man he was.



Sgt. 1st Class Scott Horst, of the 141st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, pats Tweed Roosevelt on the shoulder during a moment of fellowship while pheasant hunting.

DESTINATION: IRAQ

Maj. Gen. David A. Sprynczynatyk
Visits Deployed Guardsmen



Courtesy Photo

Greetings from Iraq: Members of the 191st Military Police Company take time for a portrait with North Dakota National Guard leadership who were visiting the Soldiers in Iraq. Centered in the front row behind the guidon bearer are 1st Sgt. Kevin Keefe, the senior enlisted Soldier for the 191st MPs; Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, North Dakota National Guard adjutant general; Command Chief Master Sgt. Paula Johnson, state command chief for the North Dakota Air National Guard; and Capt. Ben Cleghorn, 191st commander.



Courtesy Photo

Guard Family: Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, North Dakota National Guard adjutant general, poses for a picture with Sgt. Mark Heflin and Spc. Tiffany Heflin during a steak fry in Iraq to mark last week's visit from North Dakota leadership. The couple was married shortly before deploying to Iraq together with the 191st Military Police Company.



Group Photo: Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk and Command Chief Master Sgt. Paula Johnson visit with 119th Wing firefighters currently deployed to Camp Sather Air Force Base in Baghdad. (Left to right) Staff Sgt. Scott Kaufman, Tech. Sgt. Jesse Schmidt, Staff Sgt. Richard Duysen, Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, Staff Sgt. Kali Lettenmaier, Staff Sgt. John Renteria, Senior Airman Robert Ramberg, Senior Airman Cole Kyser, Chief Master Sgt. John Cinquemani, Senior Airman Ronnie Nordstrom, Chief Master Sgt. Paula Johnson and the Civil Engineer commander at Camp Sather AFB.



Courtesy Photo

Autograph: Spc. Daryn W. Hoover (left), of Minot, stands with Command Chief Master Sgt. Paula Johnson and Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk next to a "guestbook" below a North Dakota flag painted on a concrete barrier in Iraq. The signatures of four firefighters with the 119th Wing who returned from Iraq earlier this month are at the bottom right.

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Sgt. Amy Wieser Willson

Recognition: Sgt. 1st Class Rick Martin holds a copy of the September 2008 issue of the North Dakota Guardian. He was surprised to get the magazine in the mail with his father's photo on the cover. 1st Sgt. Vernon Martin (on the right side of the cover photo) was pictured as part of the 141st Engineer Battalion in the Vietnam War. Rick, too, served in the 141 and deployed to Iraq with the unit in October 2003. He currently serves in the 141st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade. Vernon passed away in 1984, but Rick stopped by the Fargo Armed Forces Reserve Center this past month to pick up extra copies of the magazine for his mother and siblings.



Terry Wiklund

Dedication: Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk joins Gov. John Hoeven, Senators Kent Conrad and Byron Dorgan, Congressman Earl Pomeroy, N.D. Director of the Department of Transportation Francis G. Ziegler and other officials in a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Oct. 9, 2008 dedicating U.S. Highway 2. The highway is named the 164th Engineering Infantry Regiment Memorial Highway in honor of the N.D. Army National Guard unit that saw action in World War II and the Korean War.



Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

Red Request: Chief Master Sgt. Brad Childs, the 119th Wing command chief, shakes hands with Marine veteran Robert Hoel, of Fargo, after Hoel returns from a helicopter ride at Minot International Airport air field Sep. 24. Hoel, who was recently diagnosed with cancer, requested the flight because he enjoyed helicopter rides when he served in the U.S. military during the Vietnam era. Personnel from the Veterans' Affairs Medical Center in Fargo, where Hoel was admitted recently, were able to fulfill the request along with a 10-biker escort to the airport as a courtesy of the U.S. Veterans' Motorcycle Club. Airmen from the 119th Wing turned out to show their support for a fellow veteran, saluting Hoel upon lift off.



Bill Troopayk

Final Flight: The last two Hueys (UH-1H) in the N.D. Army National Guard pass over the state capitol on their final flight en route to New Mexico on Oct. 8, 2008 where the aircraft were transferred to the New Mexico National Guard. North Dakota received its first Huey in 1971.



Guardian Snapshots



Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

The 219th Security Forces Squadron (SFS) Commander Lt. Col. Tad Schauer accepts the 219th SFS flag from 119th Wing Commander Col. Robert Becklund and prepares to hand off the flag to 119th Wing Command Chief Master Sgt. Brad Childs symbolizing the assumption of command during the squadron activation ceremony Oct. 18 at the Minot AFB. It is the first squadron in the Air National Guard whose mission is to support the protection of priority resources within missile fields.

Security Forces Squadron Activated to Support Missile Security

By Maj. Elizabeth Ortiz
Minot Air Force Base Public Affairs

The North Dakota Air National Guard detachment located at Minot Air Force Base was officially recognized as the 219th Security Forces Squadron (SFS) during an activation ceremony Oct. 18.

“We’re bringing together two outstanding organizations (N.D. Air National Guard and Minot Air Force Base) in an outstanding partnership,” said N.D. Gov. John Hoeven, who officiated the ceremony. “We look forward to continuing this great partnership and building the mission. This means good things for the military and for the defense of our nation.”

The 219th SFS activation marked the culmination of an effort spanning more than 10 years to enable missile-ready Airmen in the Air National Guard to provide missile security in support of an active-duty organization — the 91st Missile Wing.

A first of its kind in the United States, the 219th SFS is fully integrated within the 91st Security Forces Group at Minot Air Force Base. Guardsmen train and serve alongside active-duty personnel in all aspects of missile security operations.

“I am extremely proud of this monumental and historic accomplishment,” said Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. National Guard adjutant general. “The total-force concept of integrating active duty with the Guard is the future platform for conducting military operations and that’s exactly what we are doing.

“The opportunities and capabilities available to us are unlimited,” Sprynczynatyk added. “These are the people (the 219th SFS) who are going to lead the nation in this mission.”

Organizationally, the 219th SFS is attached to the 119th Wing, the Air Guard base located in Fargo. Once fully staffed, the squadron will be the largest Security Forces Squadron in the entire Air National Guard.

“We’re picking only the best of the best to serve at Minot providing a baseline of experience and incredible capability,” said Col. Robert Becklund, 119th Wing commander. “This mission is nothing but good for everyone involved. We’re glad to be here.”

To symbolize the 219th SFS’s activation, Gov. Hoeven unfurled the unit flag during the ceremony and passed it to Maj. Gen. Sprynczynatyk; who passed the flag to Col. Becklund; who, in turn, passed the flag to Lt. Col. Tad Schauer, 219th SFS commander.

“We look forward to a long-standing partnership with Team Minot,” said Schauer.

The 219th SFS began recruiting to fill the unit’s 140 new positions in July 2007, as a detachment of the 119th Wing. To date, half the positions have been filled.

“This is a historic moment as we integrate North Dakota Air National Guard security forces into the nuclear enterprise,” said Col. Chris Ayres, 91st Missile Wing commander. “To have the 219th Security Forces Squadron help secure our nation’s strategic arsenal shows how the Air National Guard is clearly committed to supporting the Air Force’s most immediate priority.

“I am truly excited to have the 219th serve as a critical part of the 91st Missile Wing’s mission to conduct perfect intercontinental ballistic missile operations, security and maintenance,” the wing commander added.

~~Mrs. Devils Lake~~

SPC. Soldier Finds Guard Service Ties Closely to Pageant Goals

By Sgt. Amy Wieser Willson
Joint Force Headquarters

An evening gown and combat boots? Well, the Mrs. North Dakota pageant and the North Dakota National Guard don't exactly go together *that* well, but it's not that far-fetched either.

Think about it. Service to others. Dedication. Training. Camaraderie. There are quite a few parallels — right up to that “evening gown competition” part, anyway.

Recently crowned “Mrs. Devils Lake,” Spc. Jill Johnson will compete for the Mrs. North Dakota America title in June.

Johnson, 25, says the pageants give her “a chance to be a little more elegant” than a typical day in uniform, but setting and reaching goals and the work ethic she has learned through the Guard have enhanced her abilities, which the pageant directors take into account.

“We approve all applicants according to their community involvement, enthusiasm about the program and interest,” said Natalie Sparrow, Mrs. North Dakota



Spc. Jill Johnson takes a break from work at her office at Camp Grafton Training Center. Johnson works as a human resource specialist for the Camp Grafton Training Center Administrative Detachment. She has served in the N.D. National Guard since February 2002.

Courtesy Photo

America Pageant director. “Jill is a very outgoing and energetic woman. She has an incredible personality and is a great joy to talk to on the phone.”

The Mrs. North Dakota America Pageant recognizes married women who are 18 and older and serves as a preliminary

“My goals are to serve my country and to better myself and raise a strong, happy and healthy family ...”

pageant to the nationally televised Mrs. America Pageant. Sparrow calls it a way to recognize “the beauty and achievement of married women.”

“It’s a chance to show how versatile a woman can be,” Johnson said, “having a full-time job, being a full-time parent and being in service to the country,”

Johnson and her husband of three years, Sgt. Justin Johnson, have two children, Jordan, 30 months, and Taylor, 18 months. They’re expecting a third child in April. Both Jill and Justin work full time for the Guard at Camp Grafton.

“My goals are to serve my country and to better myself and to raise a strong,

happy and healthy family,” Johnson said, “and it’s just exciting to extend myself to help others.”

Johnson stays involved with a number of nonprofit organizations in her community, including Relay for Life, an American Cancer Society fundraiser; Locks of Love, which provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children with long-term medical hair loss; Out of the Darkness Walk, which raises awareness of suicide and financial support for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention; and Olaf Lutheran Church.

As part of the Mrs. North Dakota pageant, Johnson is raising money for yet another cause: the Scottish Rites Speech & Learning Center. It’s the “official cause” of the Mrs. North Dakota America Pageant. Each dollar she raises will go to the Fargo center as well as count as a vote for the People’s Choice Award at the state pageant.

While an evening gown and combat boots won’t make the fashion runway this season, the greater cause at the heart of both — serving others — will always be in style.

“I have goals, personally and professionally, and it just takes a lot of hard work and dedication,” Johnson said. “I know I wouldn’t be where I am today without the Guard, and I know I definitely wouldn’t have been in a pageant.”



Spc. Jill Johnson

Courtesy Photo



Sgt. Chris Keller

TNT: A synchronized series of explosions dropped the western-most span and through-truss of the old Liberty Memorial Bridge in Bismarck Oct. 6. The bridge is being replaced by a new Liberty Memorial Bridge that is dedicated to Veterans of every service with five overlooks displaying the insignia of the five different branches of the Armed Forces. The original plaques dedicating the old Liberty Memorial Bridge to WWI Veterans will still be prominently displayed in the memorial plazas on both ends of the new bridge. The new bridge will be fully operational the first week of November, and a dedication ceremony will be held on Veterans Day, Nov. 11.