



NORTH DAKOTA GUARDIAN

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June 2011



The Saga Continues

2011 Marks Third Straight Year
for Guard Spring Flood Response

SPECIAL 24-PAGE ISSUE

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One Flood Fight**
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N.D. Guardsmen were just one part of a larger flood fighting force this spring. Working hand-in-hand with local, state and federal agencies, the N.D. National Guard was able to assist communities across the state, including the evacuation of a WWII veteran from his flooded home in rural Cass County.



12 High and Dry

Many of the Airmen and Soldiers called upon to support state flood operations this spring had spent 2009 and 2010 fighting floods, as well. This year, N.D. Guardsmen were able to draw from those past experiences and apply lessons learned to a variety of flood fighting missions.



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N.D. National Guard Marathon team coach Lt. Col. David Skalicky said that this year's team was the strongest ever for the N.D. National Guard. One Soldier even made the prestigious All-Guard team. See how they fared at this year's National Guard Marathon in Lincoln, Neb.

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On the Cover



Master Sgt. David Bush, of the 119th Civil Engineer Squadron, moves sandbags from a N.D. National Guard dump truck April 29 as he passes the sandbags down to a line of sandbaggers at a rural Cass County residence near West Fargo, N.D. (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp, 119th Wing)

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View From the Top

Your Continued Support is Admired and Valued

For the third consecutive year, North Dakota experienced record snowfall and record spring flooding, impacting large and small communities across the state. And, for the third consecutive year, the N.D. National Guard stepped up in big ways to assist our citizens in the flood fighting efforts. Across the state, Guard members did an outstanding job protecting lives, as well as homes, businesses and infrastructure.

Unfortunately, the flood fight continues in locations around the state, and the members of the N.D. National Guard are once again on the front lines, providing valuable assistance to those impacted by flooding. I am confident that our Guard members will continue their vigilant and professional service, and will be instrumental in the days and weeks ahead as North Dakota battles rising water levels.

I had the privilege of seeing North Dakota's Guard members in action this spring and experienced firsthand the

incredible work that was done in communities statewide. No task was too small. No mission too difficult. They were ready and prepared for whatever was asked of them. They stood shoulder to shoulder with their fellow North Dakotans to stem the rising waters and assist those impacted.

The list of accomplishments is truly impressive and everyone played an integral role in the flood fight. Whether placing sandbags, patrolling dikes, controlling traffic or conducting rescues, the men and women of our National Guard performed with proficiency and professionalism, demonstrating yet again why they are the best in the nation.

The eyes of the nation were again on North Dakota as we combated record spring flooding, and again, Guard mem-

bers served as a beacon for all Americans, showcasing the state's perseverance and "can-do" spirit.

As Commander-in-Chief, I am extremely proud of all of our Citizen-Soldiers and Citizen-Airmen. Throughout

“Throughout this mission, and all others, the Guard has proven that it is a great military organization, highly skilled and motivated.”



Gov. Jack Dalrymple

Commander in Chief
North Dakota Governor

this mission, and all others, the Guard has proven that it is a great military organization, highly skilled and motivated. When our state and community called on them, they were there, putting their own lives on hold to help others.

The Families and employers of our Guard members also played an instrumental role during the flood fight and deserve our gratitude. Their support and efforts were a valuable component of the Guard's success, and ultimately, the state's success in fighting the flood.

Thank you to the Soldiers and Airmen of the N.D. National Guard for a job well done and for being there when the people of North Dakota needed you most.

Sincerely,

Gov. Jack Dalrymple



Gov. Jack Dalrymple shakes hands with Spc. Sean Johnson during a break from flood duty at the N.D. Air National Guard's dining facility in Fargo. Dalrymple was briefed on the N.D. National Guard's spring flood response during an April 10 visit.

Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

NOT THEIR FIRST RODEO

Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

Master Sgt. David Wosick, of the 119th Civil Engineer Squadron, lifts sandbags onto a flatbed truck April 29 as he rushes to help with a flood emergency at a rural home west of West Fargo, N.D.



Sgt. Jerrold Wallace, left, and Sgt. Tyler Leingang guide a N.D. National Guard Humvee along the Stanke family's driveway to retrieve additional sandbags to reinforce the ring dike.

Guardsmen Respond to Consecutive Year of S

By Staff Sgt. Amy Wieser Willson
Joint Force Headquarters

A water-logged déjà vu struck N.D. National Guardsmen this spring with the third consecutive year of flood duty. The mission grew more intense than last year — when Guardsmen served only 18 days on state active duty — but paled to the massive 100-day-long effort in 2009. At the height of flood duty this year, more than 600 Soldiers and Airmen were serving somewhere in the state to protect citizens from rising floodwaters. All together, 1,486 Guardsmen spent at least a day on state active duty over the course of the initial 32-day mission. Nearly 10,000 individual work days were dedicated to flood response during that time, although about 600 additional Guardsmen were called for late-spring flood responses in Minot and Bismarck as this issue of the Guardian went to print.

“Our flood response capabilities have been tested a number of times throughout the years,” said Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, North Dakota adjutant general. “This spring showed that our force holds a wealth of experience in interagency emergency response operations. Our Airmen and Soldiers were



Staff Sgt. Amy Wieser Willson

Shannan Stanke prepares to catch a sandbag and toss it to another Soldier the evening of April 21 at her home in rural West Fargo, N.D. The Guard's quick reaction force team was called to the home a third time as water continued to encroach on the previously dry home.

nd for Third Spring Flood Duty

key components to the flood-fighting effort administered by our local, state and federal agencies.”

Guardsmen again performed a variety of missions, including levee patrols, traffic and resource control points, aerial support missions, search and rescue efforts and one-ton sandbag placement. One of the broadest missions overall was the quick reaction force teams, which were placed in about a half-dozen communities to respond quickly to flood threats with sandbags, high-wheeled vehicles and more. The teams worked in partnership with the counties, and paramedics and sheriff's deputies were often embedded in responses.

NO HORSING AROUND

Few places saw the need for those QRF teams more extensively than west of West

Fargo, where Miss Rodeo North Dakota Sam Stanke and her parents, Greg and Shannan, live. The horse-and-dog farm has never before been wet. The family sandbagged in 2009 only to not have a drop of water reach the dike. This year was completely different.

“This is amazing, making short work of some hard work,” Shannan said on April 13 as National Guardsmen pulled up to her home and started grabbing sandbags. “I didn't expect this; I think we have the best help in the United States right now.”

But the water kept coming. Eight days later, the QRF team was back for the third time.

“When you first came out, we had no idea this was coming,” Shannan said then. “So, we went with what the county was telling us, and every time they came out to tell us it was going up a little higher, we had more sandbags delivered.”

By round 3, the horses had been moved elsewhere and it was impossible to use a skid-steer to reach the sandbag dike to build it higher. Guardsmen off-loaded sandbags from a

dumptruck to the back of a Humvee, and then two Soldiers in hip waders guided the vehicle in along the submerged driveway.

“Wow, I got a lump in my throat when they were driving up,” Shannan said. “Thank you.”

Among those responders was Sgt. Christina Cook, with the 188th Engineer

Spc. Jess Raasch



Greg and Sam Stanke hand sandbags to Soldiers with the quick reaction force team while building a dike around their home southwest of West Fargo April 12. Sam is Miss Rodeo North Dakota.



Master Sgt. David Bush, of the 119th Civil Engineer Squadron, right, was one of several members of a N.D. National Guard quick reaction force, or QRF, team throwing sandbags into the bucket of a farm tractor April 12 near Enderlin, N.D. The QRF responded to a request from a farm resident through the Cass County Emergency Operations Center for sandbag assistance to create a flood levee barrier against rising water around his house. The tractor was one of the few vehicles light enough and high enough to cross a precarious section of flooded roadway leading to the farmstead without further damaging the road.

Company (Vertical).

“The water came up a lot quicker than they thought,” she said. “They’ve had a lot more than in previous years and so we were just trying to help them build (the dike) up and keep (the water) out of their house.”

READY TO RIDE AGAIN

Like Cook, this wasn’t the first rodeo for many QRF responders who have returned year after year to help their neighbors.

For some, however, it was their first ride and they were anxious to help.

“I have really enjoyed this experience a lot,” said Airman 1st Class Jake Dipple, 119th Wing, after his second QRF sandbagging mission. “It’s a great feeling to get out and help the community a little bit.”

The teams pride themselves on the “quick” portion of QRF, scrambling out the doors of

their bases — from community centers in Harwood, Hickson or Davenport to the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Wahpeton or a parking lot in Valley City — to help.

“The Guard is doing a really good job; in fact, they were here so fast that they surprised me,” Harlan Smeby said April 14 after a QRF team arrived at his Kindred farmstead.

Each mission was a collaborative effort with civilian volunteers, rural fire departments, sheriff departments and more.

“They didn’t realize this river would be doing what it’s doing right now, so they didn’t prepare and now it’s come up really fast,” said Deputy Jade Van Den Ende with the Cass County Sheriff’s Department during a QRF response near Enderlin. “The roads are washed out on both sides of their farm, so they can’t get supplies in very easily, like sandbags and stuff, so they called us for help, and we called the National Guard for help, to help them. We have a lot of communication between all of us, and we work closely together, which has helped a lot because we can’t do it alone.”

Brad Forness saw that firsthand after calling the Cass County Emergency Operations Center on behalf of a neighbor whose ring dike was being hit with whitecaps from 30-mph winds skimming across severe overland flooding April 11.

“The Guard is just a bunch of really great people,” he said. “Neighbors helping neighbors is what it’s all about, but to have the Guard there as well to help out is just a great thing to see.” ■



SEE MORE ONLINE!

View videos from this year’s flood operations at <http://bit.ly/2011FloodVid>

View and download photos from 2011 spring flooding at <http://bit.ly/2011FloodPhotos>

Members of a quick reaction team load sandbags from a flatbed truck onto a forklift April 29 so they can be transported over a flooded roadway to a rural farmstead home west of West Fargo, N.D.



Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

Active Flood Fight

Minot Airmen Assume Title 10 Status to Protect Missiles from Floodwaters

By Staff Sgt. Amy Wieser Willson
Joint Force Headquarters

Staff Sgt. Eric W. Jensen



Tech. Sgt. Erik Hoff, of the 119th Wing, and Airman 1st Class Kathleen Stenger, who is a member of the 219th Security Forces Squadron, patrol a flood dike along the Red River to monitor for potential breaches in Fargo, N.D., March 9. This was Stenger's first year supporting flood-fighting efforts.

While flood duty has become an annual occurrence for many North Dakota Guardsmen, this year was the first time some had served on active-duty orders in the state to combat the rising waters.

Thirteen Airmen with the 219th Security Forces Squadron were on Title 10 status — which orders a reservist to active duty — from April 14-28 as they worked to protect the missile fields at Minot Air Force Base. The Guardsmen supported the active-duty 91st

Missile Wing at the base by providing additional security teams as well as conducting sandbagging operations. Together, they prevented snowmelt from reaching part of the nation's nuclear arsenal, which are stored in underground silos across 8,500 square miles near Minot.

"The efforts of our Airmen helped ensure 35 Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles were protected

against the effects of overland flooding, saving the government and our taxpayers \$245 million," said Chief Master Sgt. Mike Schreiner, 219th Security Forces Squadron manager. "The dedication of these Airmen was outstanding! To have Airmen transfer from (state active duty) one day to Title 10 the next shows their commitment to ensuring both our state and federal needs are met."

Although the silos are equipped with sump pumps and designed to handle some water, the precautions taken by the Airmen helped prevent the missiles from becoming wet.

"This was the 219 SFS' first mobilization to support a contingency in the missile complex. Our Airmen performed exceptionally well, validating the surge capability that the 219 SFS brings to Air Force Global Strike Command," said Lt. Col. Tad Schauer, 219th commander.

Besides the Airmen on Title 10 orders in Minot, additional 219th members served on flood duty around the state. ■

Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

Staff Sgt. Steven Kennedy, of the 219th Security Forces Squadron, checks a Blue Force Tracker monitor for personnel positioning information during the evening hours of April 8 while performing flood levee support duties in Fargo, N.D.



All Hands On Deck

Combined Efforts Help Evacuate WWII Veteran from Flooded Home

Story by Staff Sgt. Amy Wieser Willson

Joint Force Headquarters

Photos by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

119th Wing

In a vivid demonstration of how agencies work together to help others during a flood, a handful of county, state and federal assets combined forces to evacuate a World War II veteran from his rural home between Argusville and Harwood, N.D., April 9.

Jeremy Johnson called the Cass County Sheriff's Department when he became concerned about his neighbor, 87-year-old Obert Tenold.

"They hadn't had a response (when they called) and the neighbors were concerned about his well-being," said Capt. Grant Larson, who served as a liaison officer in the Cass County tactical operations center, or TOC.

Larson and Lt. Col. Nathan Erstad, both members of the 119th Wing, worked in the TOC.

The Cass County Sheriff's Department took the call, and Larson and Erstad coordinated with the department regarding the Guard's response. A N.D. National Guard quick reaction force team from the 815th Engineer Company was scrambled from the Harwood Community Center, with the Soldiers bringing high-wheeled vehicles and other equipment that could be needed in an evacuation. A member of F-M Ambulance embedded with the Guard team came along in case of a medical emergency, as well.

"We brought the assets, such as the vehicles, ladders and waders," Larson said. "We

didn't know what we'd all need to get him out."

The crews traveled across several gravel roads where water was streaming across before reaching Tenold's home. The current was flowing quickly into his yard and the road near his mailbox was nearly washed away by late morning. The driveway was invisible under the fast-moving floodwaters.

"You can't find the driveway, but I have a pretty good idea where it is," said Chris Denis, with the Cass County Sheriff's Department.

Leaders had evaluated two routes to the rural home. Neighbors in the area contributed to the groups' response, telling the crews which road was in the best condition.



From left to right, Capt. Grant Larson, Jade Van Den Einde, a Cass County Sheriff's deputy, and Staff Sgt. Matthew Hebl, of the 815th Engineer Company, look over some electronic maps to help them coordinate access to Obert Tenold's home.



Capt. Grant Larson and Jade Van Den Einde assist 87-year-old Obert Tenold after he is back on dry land.



A Cass County Otter Team airboat responds to the evacuation request at the Orbert Tenold home April 9 in the rural Harwood, N.D., area.

Left, Capt. Grant Larson, of the 119th Maintenance Squadron, left, and Tom Hall, a Cass County Sheriff's deputy, right, assist 87-year-old Orbert Tenold in removing his life jacket as Tenold is helped out of the Cass County Otter Team airboat near Harwood, N.D.



They also warned them to avoid cutting through Tenold's yard, where the ground was very soft under the flowing water.

Denis, Staff Sgt. Luke Christians and Staff Sgt. Matthew Hebl donned hip waders and Denis carefully led the way down where he believed Tenold's driveway would be, prodding the earth in front of the group with a long stick.

Upon reaching the house, they found Tenold was fine, but his pump was failing. Together, Denis and the Guardsmen worked to fix the pump. They also switched it to a separate breaker than his furnace to further guarantee its continued operation.

"That takes a lot off my mind," Tenold said once he heard the pump running again.

"They got that old pump working," he later said, "and if it doesn't give up, I'll be kinda lucky. This is quite an occasion."

Tenold has needed to build dikes seven different times since moving into his house about 35 years ago. In 2009, he needed to be rescued by helicopter when the water came up. Johnson said this year looks as bad out there.

Rather than a helicopter, this year's evacuation came via Cass County's Otter Team, which responded in an airboat, as did the U.S. Coast Guard. Tenold carried his belongings out of his home in a couple of grocery sacks. Once they reached dry land, Larson and Kathy Carbno, with Valley Water Rescue, steadied him as they helped him out of the boat before handing him his cane, removing his life vest, and getting him into a deputy's vehicle.

"I'll be glad when this is all dried up," Tenold said. "I'm never going back there again, except maybe to sell the place."

He was glad to see the National Guard Soldiers and told one about his two-year tour in World War II as a military police officer.

Christians said at the time that the response was the first for the Harwood quick reaction force team, which was established just two days before the rescue. The team was on duty 24/7 at the community center to respond to overland flooding, evacuation requests, sandbag levee breaches or any other flood-related emergencies. They fell under

the Cass County Sheriff's office and took the calls straight from the county's operations center.

Larson called the response a "cooperative effort," thanks to which "we were able to get the gentleman out safely, and he appreciated it."

"I think we work really well together and draw on each other's strengths," Larson said. "I think there's mutual respect among all of the agencies. Everybody listens to each other's opinions and works together to ensure a successful response to any emergency." ■

"I think we work really well together and draw on each other's strengths."



See More Online!

Watch video from this flood evacuation at <http://bit.ly/NDNGEvac>

View and download photos from the mission at <http://bit.ly/NDNGEvacPhotos>

Spc. Eric Wiederholt sits among civilian flood-fighting volunteers and Soldiers April 10 as they ride through the rain in the back of a N.D. National Guard dump truck in rural Cass County, N.D. Wiederholt was one of the Soldiers from the Lisbon, N.D.-based 815th Engineer Company, Detachment 2, who were part of a quick reaction force team sent by the Cass County tactical operations center to a rural farmstead home that was surrounded by miles of floodwater.

Staff Sgt. Robert Benton, of the 119th Maintenance Squadron, left, and Staff Sgt. Steven Kennedy, of the 219th Security Forces Squadron, shine flashlights on an earthen flood levee as they monitor for possible problem areas of the flood protection barrier April 8, near 40th Ave. South in Fargo, N.D.

Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp



Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

Staff Sgt. Nickolas Kosen, of the 119th Civil Engineer Squadron, left, and Tech. Sgt. Gary Anderson, of the 119th Logistics Readiness Squadron, hold open a one-ton sandbag April 7 as sand is poured into the flood control bag at the N.D. Air National Guard in Fargo, N.D. The one-ton sandbags can be lowered into place using a N.D. National Guard UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter in the event of a flood emergency.



Staff Sgt. Donald Clarke, of the 119th Civil Engineer Squadron, and Senior Airman Gabriel Irvis, of the 119th Security Forces Squadron, man a traffic control point at an intersection being used for sandbag delivery in Fargo, N.D., April 7.

Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp



A N.D. National Guard Humvee drives across Highway 46 near Kindred, N.D., with floodwater running over the top on April 20.

Top, State Command Chief Paula Johnson, right, senior noncommissioned officer for the N.D. Air National Guard, brings candy to Airman 1st Class Michelle Schwanke, 119th Maintenance Squadron, and Airman 1st Class Alysha Davis, 219th Security Forces Squadron, as they patrol a clay dike in Fargo April 13.

Above, National Guardsmen in Valley City, N.D., attend a cookout at C.J. Kotta's residence April 23. Kotta invited the Guardsmen to attend and grilled hamburgers and hotdogs for Soldiers taking a break from fighting the flood in Valley City.

Middle, Capt. Shawn Flemmer, foreground, of Fargo, N.D., and Staff Sgt. Ryan Hartl, of Davenport, N.D., work in the 141st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade's tactical operations center in Fargo, N.D. April 13.



flood fight 2011

REPEAT PERFORMANCE

Guardsmen in Valley City, Lisbon Continue Record of Stellar Flood Response

Sgt. Jessica Geffre, 116th Public Affairs Detachment & Staff Sgt. Amy Wieser Willson, Joint Force Headquarters

Water levels on the Sheyenne River spilled into a familiar sight for Guardsmen who responded to the Valley City and Lisbon areas this year. In mid-April, many Soldiers and Airmen brought flood-fighting experiences from 2009 and 2010 to this year's response operations.

After an initial crest, releases from the Baldhill Dam prompted folks throughout Valley City to reinforce levees April 16 to face a second, bigger crest of the Sheyenne.

Working side-by-side with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, multiple units — including the Valley City-based 231st Brigade Support Battalion, Jamestown-based 817th Engineer Company

(Sapper), and the Bismarck-based 957th Engineer Company (Multi-Role Bridge) — brought in about 350 Guardsmen to conduct a variety of missions.

Using 11 Combat Bridge Trucks with trailers, the 957th worked with local contractors to haul 400,000 sandbags from Fargo to Valley City.

"These Soldiers are very experienced," said Capt. Daniel Claussen, 957th commander. "We have a solid NCO (noncommissioned officer) Corps that's been deployed twice and we have a lot of junior Soldiers that had to step up to the plate this past year and do two new bridge fieldings and run a company (while the bulk of the unit was mobilized to Kosovo from 2009-10)."

Right behind the 957th were reinforcements from the 817th. They came on duty, in-processed and by early afternoon on April 16, their first day on duty, had thrown down about 4,000 sandbags to reinforce a dike at one location and had moved on to another to continue with reinforcing levees.

A new flood fighter, Spc. Donovan Dobler, said battling rising floodwaters is in his blood.

"I joined to help the people, but mostly joined for family," Dobler said. "The rest of my family's been in the Guard. They've been flood-fighting, so I figured I better join, too."





Above, Soldiers from Company B of the 231st Brigade Support Battalion work to add sandbags to the dike built on Main Avenue in Valley City April 17. More than two feet were added to the Hesco dikes to prevent flooding and ensure stability of the Hescos. Pictured from right are Staff Sgt. Steve Sorenson, Sgt. Kenneth Loepp and Staff Sgt. Amos Bickel. Right, a quick reaction force team from the N.D. National Guard's 815th Engineer Company (Horizontal) uses a Hydraulic Excavator, or HYEX, to place a one-ton sandbag on the riverside of a dike that needed re-enforcement on the Sheyenne River in Lisbon, N.D., April 19. Left, Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, North Dakota adjutant general, left, and Capt. Lucas Klettke, of Perham, Minn., stand on an earthen dike created to hold back the flooding Sheyenne River in Lisbon, N.D., April 24. Sprynczynatyk and the N.D. Guard's senior enlisted leader, Command Sgt. Maj. Dan Job, toured the N.D. National Guard's flood response efforts in the Valley City and Lisbon areas.

For the most part, Guardsmen on duty in Valley City were veterans from the flood fights of '09 and '10.

Sgt. Joey B. Houle, of the 231st BSB, was part of the flood fight in 2009 and said that having that experience helped with this year's mission.

"We have a better idea of the layout of the town and what areas need more attention," Houle said.

Capt. Jarrod Simek, Company A 231st BSB commander, said Guardsmen in Valley City did a great job during the flood mission. The company was tasked with patrolling levees throughout the city as well as providing personnel and resources on quick reaction force teams to handle almost any flood emergency. Shifting weather patterns kept the Soldiers on their toes in 2011.

"Obviously with the snowfall we've had to adjust to the situation. They've done a great job adapting," he said during operations. "We've really applied the lessons learned in 2009. Working with the city officials and Corps of Engineers has been seamless."

Farther south along the Sheyenne in Lisbon, N.D. Guard



Sgt. Jessica Geffre

heavy equipment operators from the 815th Engineer Company (Horizontal), 2nd Detachment, put their skills to use by maneuvering the arm on a Hydraulic Excavator, or HYEX, to place one-ton sandbags on the waterfront to stop a dike from eroding into the Sheyenne River.

Staff Sgt. Matthew Hebl, noncommissioned officer in charge of the quick reaction force, sent a crew to respond to a request by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to stabilize a portion of the levee that was being affected by strong water currents from the Sheyenne April 20.

"We're glad to get out and put our skills to work to help support the community," he said.

About 40 Guardsmen, including some members from the 191st Military Police Company, aided the flood fight in Lisbon, and the Lisbon Fire Department pitched in by filling and transporting one-ton sandbags for the effort.

Simek said the community support the Guardsmen received during flood operations in the Valley City area also was generous.

"The community has also been wonderful, dropping off food or coffee. We've had a lot of people ask where the QRF (quick reaction force teams) are going to be sent so they can help throw sandbags with them," he said.

On Easter Sunday, N.D. National Guard members on duty — many for the third such holiday in a row — received a visit from Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, North Dakota adjutant general, and the N.D. National Guard's senior enlisted leader, Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Job.

After receiving assessment briefings, Sprynczynatyk and Job had breakfast with Guard members before joining them for an Easter service by Chaplain (Capt.) Brock Sailer.

"All North Dakotans appreciate your service for an unprecedented third year of Guard flood response, especially during holidays normally shared with Families and friends," Sprynczynatyk told Guardsmen during the visit. "Your professionalism and dedication is evident whether serving overseas or here at home in support of our communities."

Job was equally enthusiastic about the Guardsmen's performance this year.

"I am proud to see so many of our young noncommissioned officers exhibiting leadership during our flood response," Job said. "All across the state, my assessment remains the same — strong leadership by our Soldiers and Airmen will ensure that our next generation of N. D. National Guard leaders will be fully prepared to successfully lead our organization in the future." ■

Water, Water Everywhere

Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp



Pfc. Nathan Erickson, with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery of the 1st Battalion, 188th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, and Spc. William Case, of Battery C, 1st Battalion, 188th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, patrol a section of dike in Pembina, N.D., April 21.

Guard Presence Provides Calm for Northern Communities

While missions in Wahpeton and Fargo began coming to a close in the latter part of April, North Dakotans at the northern end of the Red River Valley braced for their river crests. Soldiers and Airmen stood ready to help in Wallhalla, Pembina, Drayton, Nêche and Grand Forks, N.D. Farther to the west, Guardsmen monitored the situation in Ward County. High water levels brought uneasy feelings throughout April, but the presence of North Dakota Guardsmen replaced some of that anxiousness with a degree of calm.

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 188th Air Defense Artillery Regiment spearheaded operations in towns on the eastern edge of the state by monitoring dikes in case of emergency situations, such as leaks and breaches. Their equipment was made available should anyone need to be evacuated.

*By Spc. Jess Raasch & Spc. Cassandra Simonton
116th Public Affairs Detachment &
Sgt. 1st Class David Dodds
141st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade*

Southwest of Nêche, Guardsmen monitored a road acting as a dam holding back a large amount of water. Two Soldiers stood watch at night to monitor any possible breaks in the road.

“We are here to help the people,” said Sgt. 1st Class Terry Stickel, of Lehr, N.D., during flood operations “If the road holding back all the water breaks, the people may be in trouble without us.”

Watchful Eyes

In Walhalla, 24 Soldiers alternated 12-hour shifts, ensuring a dozen Soldiers were available at any given time of the day as a quick reaction force, or QRF. The team stood ready to assist in Neche, Pembina and Walhalla.

In Drayton, another dozen Guardsmen patrolled levees and monitored pumps. The city had the longest running Guard presence in the northern Red River Valley, with Guard members beginning their mission there on April 11.

In Pembina, Guardsmen worked closely with community volunteers to patrol dikes. Four Guardsmen helped community members during the day, and seven were on duty at night.

Capt. Walyn Vannurden, of Cavalier, N.D., served as the liaison officer for Pembina County. He expressed confidence in what the Guard was able to offer those areas.

“We brought up a lot of Soldiers, a lot of support, a lot of assets and vehicles to support the communities,” he said during operations. “If there’s an emergency situation, we’re here to help. We’re ready to respond at a moment’s notice.”

Just Another Part of the Job

Staff Sgt. Eric J. Carlson, of the 1-188th ADA, was one of 12 Soldiers in Grand Forks providing a sense of security for residents in the Burke Addition in mid-April. The Soldiers there were split into two teams. One team took the day and the other got the night shift.

Carlson said the Soldiers patrolled levee lines between homes and the Red River, looking for cracks or leaks, checking pumps and warding off vandals.

The East Grand Forks native and newlywed (Carlson was married just weeks before the flood) said volunteering is part of his nature. His wife has known him for years and is accustomed to him being away on duty. He just returned from a yearlong deployment to Kosovo, his fifth mobilization.

“I pretty much always find my way onto the volunteer list,” said Carlson, who now lives in West Fargo, N.D.

Pvt. 1st Class Nathan E. Erickson, however, is new to the flood fighting effort.

“This is my first time being activated for duty of any kind,” said Erickson, who just completed basic and advanced individual training in September. “It’s not too bad; the neighbors have been really great. A lot of them have come up to us and said ‘thanks,’ or they bring us food and snacks and visit with us.”

Sgt. 1st Class Dave Dodds



Mission Capable

Farther west, 24 North Dakota Guardsmen stood at the ready with high-wheeled vehicles and large trucks at the Armed Force Reserve Center in Minot to respond to potential flooding in areas within Ward County.

While the Des Lacs and Souris rivers presented an ominous appearance, the Guardsmen saw minimal problems in their area of operations.

“We’re more than willing to do our part, but hopefully it doesn’t come to that,” said Sgt. Wade Picard, of the 164th Engineer Battalion and noncommissioned officer-in-charge of one of the two QRFs on stand-by in Minot after starting the mission.

Picard remembers the epic flood fight in 2009 when he and his fellow Guardsmen worked with emergency managers in Burlington to shore up homes and deliver sandbags. N.D. National Guard Soldiers worked from late March all the way through the Easter holiday into late April conducting flood-fighting operations. Picard said he spent most of his holiday that year out sandbagging. After his duty day, he returned home and was later called out again for a sandbag hauling mission.

“I was pretty much driving truck all night until the sun came up the next morning, and then I went home,” he said.

Capt. Steve Bohl, the officer-in-charge of the Minot QRFs, said that his Soldiers staged in early April and were prepared to conduct an interagency response. The Guardsmen would augment local police forces to conduct evacuations in the event water rose to higher-than-expected levels. Bohl said that he and other emergency services representatives had been meeting routinely since flood preparations began months ago.

“That’s been the key to preparing for this, is building those relationships,” he said. “There’s a calming effect that the Guard brings,” Bohl said. “The National Guard cares about the citizens we serve. We know that if there’s a need, we will be ready to assist.”

Volunteer Guardsmen from across the state representing multiple units comprised the Minot QRFs, including the 957th Engineer Company (Multi-Role Bridge), of Bismarck; the 816th Engineer Company (Horizontal), of Dickinson; the 818th Engineer Company (Sapper), of Williston; and the 164th Engineer Battalion, of Minot. ■

Left, Pvt. 1st Class Nathan E. Erickson, left, of Grand Forks, and Staff Sgt. Eric J. Carlson, of East Grand Forks, Minn., inspect a floodwater measuring stick along the shoreline in the Burke Addition neighborhood south of Grand Forks April 15. Both Soldiers are members of the 1st Battalion, 188th Air Defense Artillery Regiment. Above, Sgt. Jordan Osowski, left, and Spc. Jacob Weible, both with the 1st Battalion, 188th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, patrol a dike in Neche, N.D., April 21.

Sgt. Brett Miller

Right, Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 112th Aviation Regiment (Security and Support) ascend a staircase into a building at Camp Grafton Training Center's military operations in urban terrain village May 14. The unit, which is expected to mobilize in support of Kosovo Forces, or KFOR, 15 in September, conducted a two-week annual training at Camp Grafton.

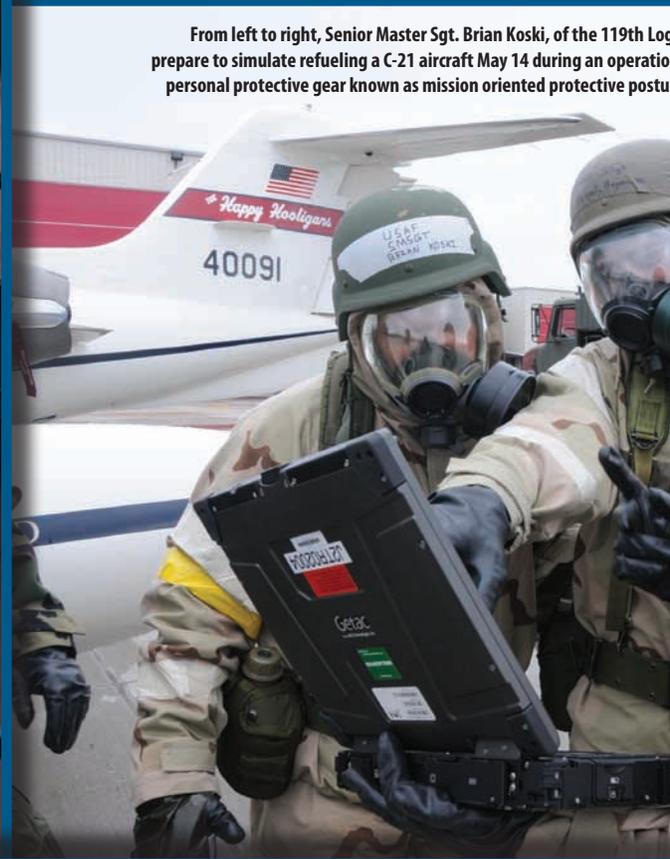


Below, Sgt. 1st Class Bob Scharnowski, right, hooks up Staff Sgt. Dale Dukart's rebreather. Both Soldiers are members of the 81st Civil Support Team. The unit conducted a practical exercise designed to test and refine its response skills during a simulated scenario at Buck Stop Junction, a historical preservation town in Bismarck, N.D., May 3.

Bill Prokopyk



From left to right, Senior Master Sgt. Brian Koski, of the 119th Logistics Support Squadron, and Staff Sgt. Dale Dukart, of the 81st Civil Support Team, prepare to simulate refueling a C-21 aircraft May 14 during an operational training exercise. Both are wearing personal protective gear known as mission oriented protective posture.



Col. Rick Gibney, 119th Wing Commander, and Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates, right, meet with Staff Sgt. Dale Dukart, 81st Civil Support Team, and Kent Olson, 119th Wing Operations Officer, at the N.D. Air National Guard's 119th Wing, May 14.



GUARDIAN

Snapshots

Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

Logistics Readiness Squadron, Staff Sgt. Bryan Hensel and Senior Airman Aaron Fagerwick conduct a chemical readiness exercise at the N.D. Air National Guard, Fargo, N.D. The Airmen wore their MOPP gear, or MOPP, 4 during the scenario. The MOPP gear is to protect personnel from possible nuclear, biological or chemical attack agents.



Bill Prokopyk

Roughrider Honor Flight participant James "Lyle" Hancock reads to Colton Hoiby during a quiet moment after the fanfare at the Bismarck Airport on May 7. Hancock was among the 125 Veterans that participated in the recent Rough Rider Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., and Hoiby was among the crowd of 200 people welcoming the veterans home after their trip. Hancock is a Pearl Harbor survivor.

Wing commander, shakes hands with United States Defense Secretary Dr. Robert Gates, right, May 14, as Gibney and Col. [Name] vice-commander, greet Dr. Gates upon his arrival at the Bismarck Airport, Fargo, N.D. Dr. Gates flew into Fargo to speak at the graduation ceremony at North Dakota State University.



Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp



Staff Sgt. Brady Lyson, of the 816th Engineer Company (Horizontal), deploys a signal smoke for a simulated medical evacuation after an ambush scenario during a field training exercise at the Garrison Weekend Training site on the Douglas Creek Military Reservation May 14. The 816th focuses on Army Warrior Task training and testing during the exercise.

Spc. Whitney Wild

Catch Me If You Can

North Dakota Presents Strong Showing at National Guard Marathon



Photos: Courtesy of Nebraska National Guard

The North Dakota National Guard Marathon Team is comprised of, from left to right, Capt. Jerod Tufte, Staff Sgt. Amy Wieser Willson, Capt. Andrew Wetzel, Sgt. Heather Barta, 1st Lt. Robert Meland, Capt. Jackie Pekarek, Staff Sgt. Adam Krueger, Staff Sgt. Brekka Carlson and Lt. Col. David Skalicky

Stories by the N.D. National Guard Public Affairs Office

About 10,000 runners left the starting line in Lincoln, Neb., May 1; 195 of them represented some of the best marathoners in the Army and Air National Guard from across the United States and its territories. They were competing in the 34th annual Lincoln National Guard Marathon.

The N.D. National Guard fielded two teams of runners, with four men and four women tackling the 26.2-mile course with rolling hills on a windy day.

"I am proud of the athleticism and dedication of the members of our Guard marathon teams," said Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, North Dakota adjutant general. "Successfully competing in grueling marathons is a great way for our Soldiers and Airmen to demonstrate physical fitness and mental stamina, which are critical components of successful military service."

It was the first time an all-female marathon team was sent from North Dakota to compete, and the women made a strong first appearance. Two brought home trophies after placing in their age division categories. One earned a coveted spot on the elite All-Guard Marathon



Staff Sgt. Brekka Carlson, of the 957th Engineer Company (Multi-Role Bridge), grabs a refreshment during the Lincoln National Guard Marathon. Carlson finished with a time of 4:13.14.

Team, which brings together the top marathoners from Army and Air Guard units across the nation to represent the Guard and compete in events throughout the year.

"Our teams performed extremely well with the strongest showings of any North Dakota Guard Marathon Team ever," said Lt. Col. David Skalicky, the team's coach and the competitive sports manager for the N.D. National Guard.

The women's team, who Skalicky dubbed the "Fabulous Four," turned in exceptionally competitive times. Staff Sgt. Amy Wieser Willson, who serves with the 231st Brigade Support Battalion's Company B, led the women's team with a time of 3:46.41 and earned

a position on the All-Guard Marathon Team. Wieser Willson, 33, placed second in her age division group. Sgt. Heather Barta, 23, who serves with the 957th Engineer Company (Multi-Role Bridge), won her age division with a time of 4:24.57.

Rounding out the women's team was Staff Sgt. Brekka Carlson, 28, who also serves with the 957th Engineer Company, and Capt. Jackie Pekarek, 42, who serves with the 119th Wing's Medical Support Group. Carlson finished in 4:13.14 and Pekarek, who had the team's best personal record heading into the marathon, had a difficult race but finished in a respectable 4:31.31.

The men's team, identified by their coach as the "Fantastic Four," proved strong, as well, with all four members finishing within minutes of one another. Staff Sgt. Adam Krueger, with the 119th Wing's Aerial Port, led the team, finishing in 3:23.38. Just behind him was Capt. Andrew Wetzel, who serves with the 141st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, who finished in 3:24.49. Coming in only 19 seconds later was Capt. Jerod Tuft, who serves with Joint Force Headquarters, and 1st Lt. Robert Meland, of the 817th Engineer Company (Sapper), finished in 3:29.38.

"We have a lot to be proud of," Skalicky said. "For example, Tuft bested his personal best time by almost 25 minutes. Also, our teams have now competed against some of the top National Guard marathoners and know what to work on for next year's competition."

Fresh from running in the Boston Marathon,

Skalicky, who serves in Joint Force Headquarters, finished the half-marathon in Lincoln in 1:54.52.

Skalicky anticipates even more stellar running performances next year and said that North Dakota plans on returning to the Lincoln National Guard Marathon with full teams and strong runners. ■

Just 20 days after the Lincoln National Guard Marathon, the entire N.D. National Guard women's marathon team, along with Skalicky and Tuft, ran the full marathon in Fargo. There, they represented the TAPS Run & Remember Team, which brought together about 160 runners — many of them North Dakota Guardsmen — to run in memory of fallen heroes while raising money for Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors.

Watch next month's issue of the North Dakota Guardian for a feature and numerous photos of the TAPS Run & Remember Team in Fargo.

Running With the Wind:

Soldiers Brave Elements in YMCA Marathon

A team of Soldiers representing Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 136th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion put their physical fitness skills to the test April 30 — and nearly tested their winter-survival skills, as well.

Five Soldiers with the unit — Capt. Mark McEvers, 1st Sgt. Jeff Barta, Sgt. 1st Class Jay Hartl, Staff Sgt. Jeff Manley and Spc. Matt Edinger — joined together on a relay team for the Minot Family YMCA Marathon. About 800 people left the starting line at 8 a.m. to light rain and 37-degree temperatures. Within an hour, the temperature dropped and 45- to 50-mph winds blew in sleet and snow. A little more than an hour later, as Barta, the team's captain, ran his 6.5-mile leg, the race was halted for safety reasons due to the extreme weather.

Barta said the team's registration was sponsored by CMP Inc., of Minot, a "long-time supporter of the National Guard." He, McEvers and Hartl didn't let the stopped race set back their physical fitness pursuits; all three completed the half-marathon in Fargo on May 21.



Left, Capt. Jerod Tuft, N.D. National Guard Joint Force Headquarters, pushes across the finish line at the 50-yard line of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Memorial Stadium, home of the Cornhuskers, May 1 as part of the Lincoln National Guard Marathon. Tuft bested his personal record by nearly 25 minutes in the race, finishing in 3:25.08. Above, Staff Sgt. Adam Krueger, 119th Wing Aerial Port, leaves the starting line of the Lincoln National Guard Marathon May 1 in Lincoln, Neb. Krueger led the N.D. National Guard Marathon Team, finishing the 26.2-mile race in 3:23.28.

Some Work, Some Play

Story by Staff Sgt.
Amy Wieser Willson &
Photos by Senior Master Sgt.
David H. Lipp
119th Wing

119th Wing Kids Spend a Day at the Office

“Oh my gosh; it’s green,” says Megan Lundstrom before turning to her friend, Victoria Branden. They point to each other, both wearing night vision goggles, and giggle at the sight.

They had just tried on gas masks and practiced using metal detection wands with members of the N.D. Air National Guard’s 119th Security Forces Squadron and were about to use the NVGs to search a blackened room for boxes of candy. It was just one stop during “Take Our Sons and Daughters to Work Day.” The national event draws more than 35 million children. In Fargo, the Happy Hooligans’ Family Programs Office sponsored the day again this year, bringing nearly 30 kids to the base to learn about the various jobs their parents do.

Left, a Happy Hooligan youth tries on night vision equipment, as he holds a box full of goodies that he discovered in the darkened obstacle course set up in the Security Forces area at the N.D. Air National Guard for Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day.

Opposite page, a Happy Hooligan youth smiles as he tries on firefighting gear in the fire hall at the N.D. Air National Guard April 28.



Children of Happy Hooligans make their way through the dark using night vision gear.

Happy Hooligan kids run to be a part of the fire truck water demonstration.



Middle photo, Senior Master Sgt. Mike Rix, of the 119th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, guides children of Happy Hooligans through a C-21 tour.

Bottom, Staff Sgt. Nathanael Beardson, of the 119th Wing public affairs office, instructs youngsters about video camera operation during a tour of the studio area used for commander's broadcasts and portrait photography.

It was a whirlwind day that included climbing into fire trucks and knocking down orange cones with a hose at the fire hall as well as checking out a C-21 Lear Jet at the 119th Wing's hangar. In the Multimedia/Public Affairs Office, Master Sgt. Eric Johnson greeted the kids, asking, "How many people do you think it takes to run a news show?"

The kids soon found out, serving as directors, producers and camera operators and taking turns introducing segments for May's Hooligan TV broadcast.

Then it was off to the dining facility, where they worked with members of the Services Flight to prepare and serve a meal for their parents before joining them for lunch. The day also included learning about the recruiters' jobs and touring the Wing commander's office.

"At the end of the day, we had several group activities and received a lot of positive feedback," said Tech. Sgt. Amber Rolph, who organized the event. ■



N.D. Soldier Awarded NATO Medal

A N.D. Army National Guard member now wears a medal that has adorned no other North Dakota Guardsmen's uniform ever: the NATO Meritorious Service Medal.

Sgt. Sam Hemphill, of Bismarck, N.D., received the award May 14 from Brig. Gen. Alan Dohrmann, who commanded international forces during KFOR 12, a Kosovo Force mission from 2009-10.

"I couldn't be more proud of Sam and the actions he took," Dohrmann said.

Fewer than 50 military and civilian personnel from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's 28 member countries are selected each year for the prestigious award.

A 14-year National Guard veteran, Hemphill served as a squad leader with Company A of the 231st Brigade Support Battalion while deployed to Kosovo. While conducting a foot patrol on a route the evening of Dec. 1, 2009, Hemphill's squad came across an accident where a pedestrian had been seriously injured when hit by a passing truck.

Hemphill quickly assessed the situation, determined the man would likely die without intervention and that no local first responders were yet available. He separated his squad into teams so that traffic and onlookers could be controlled while medical treatment was provided.

"Everyone in my squad did a different and exceptional job," Hemphill said. "Sgt. (Ashley) Timian and Spc. (Scott) Kraft provided valuable lifesaving aid. Sgt. (Terry) Rishling secured the area and handled crowd control and Spc. (Jennifer) Thome maintained communications."

Rishling died just two months later in Kosovo of natural causes.

"Because of Sgt. Hemphill's leadership, innovation and rapid decision making, the victim was receiving life-saving care in the Giljan hospital just 20 minutes after the squad arrived on the scene of the accident," wrote Lt. Col. Lee Nordin in the award recommendation.

Despite the level of trauma, the story has a happy ending.

"We checked in with the local Kosovo Police, and they were able to give us a full report," Hemphill said. "The man spent a few weeks in Pristina and made a full recovery."



Sgt. Erik Lindborg

Soldiers from 3rd squad, 3rd platoon of Company A, 231st Brigade Support Battalion, stop for a photo Dec. 1, 2009, during a dismantled patrol in their area of responsibility in Kosovo. From left to right are Sgt. Ashley N. Timian, Fargo, N.D.; Sgt. Sam L. Hemphill, Bismarck, N.D.; the late Sgt. Terry Rishling; Pfc. Jennifer L. Thome, Aberdeen, S.D.; and Spc. Scott N. Kraft, Strasburg, N.D. An unidentified Soldier from the 40th Infantry Division of the California National Guard stands in the foreground.

Hemphill is quick to defer credit to the Soldiers with whom he served for their response.

"Even though it is an individual award, I could not have done it without my squad," he said. "They are the real heroes of Kosovo."

R.O.S.S. Fundraiser Benefits Fargo-Area Family Groups

Fargo-area family readiness groups will benefit from the generosity of community members who participated in the annual Remember Our Serving Soldiers, or R.O.S.S., event. This was the eighth year West Fargo VFW Post 7564 sponsored the event.

Charlie Weible, event founder, presented a check to the groups for \$14,498.30 May 22. The amount trumps last year's total of \$13,126 and is an all-time high for the event. In total, about \$75,000 has been raised through the R.O.S.S., Weible said.

The money will be divided amongst nine groups that support family members of those serving in the N.D. National Guard and U.S. Navy Reserve.

Wahpeton Among 1st Cities With Guard Presence During Flood

As 2011 flood operations hit full-swing the first week in April, the N.D. National Guard was on standby for potential

emergencies in Richland County. Two eight-member quick reaction force teams were based out of the Wahpeton Armed Forces Reserve Center and on call 24 hours a day to respond.

Sgt. 1st Class Jon Benedict, of Wahpeton, was the noncommissioned officer-in-charge of one group. He said both teams were on from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. and on-call during the evening since it's rare to get calls then. Once people wake up and realize the water has encroached quickly overnight is when the calls come in, he said, speaking from the experience of three years of participating in flood operations in the area.

The Soldiers were all members of the 188th Engineer Battalion, N.D. Army National Guard, which is on an alert for potential deployment this year.

N.D. Journalist Touted as Best Across DoD for April

During flooding across the state, Master Sgt. Eric Johnson documented the N.D. National Guard's efforts with more than 40 videos uploaded to the Defense Video & Imagery Distribution System for the 119th Wing Public Affairs Office, N.D. Air National Guard. From there, DVIDS distributed his products, along with that of other military journalists in the N.D. Air and Army National Guard, to a combined potential audience of more than 14

Chaplain's Corner: Dare to Prioritize

By 1st Lt. (Chaplain Candidate) Scott Noyes
Joint Force Headquarters

Not long ago a Soldier shared that he felt like he was going to lose his job. The years of hard work and dedication slowly and subtly deteriorated his once healthy family.

"No more," he said. "I needed to change my priorities."

It took him nearly a month worth of effort to plan a five-day vacation for his family. He had to coordinate and schedule dates between his parents and his brother's family. They found just the right place to take in all kinds of fun activities and found a cabin that would house all 11 of them. The only thing left was to put in for this weeklong vacation at his office.

"I felt this would be the easy part," he said.

He could justify this time away because no other employee had used these dates for their vacation plus he had built up just enough time.

"Three minutes later, with a click of the 'send' button, my vacation slot was filled and my request was made."

The Soldier explained how it wasn't five minutes later a response from his employer came back saying he was only allowed two days off during that time.

Almost without hesitation he made his way to his employer's office and contested his reply.

"On my way there, all I could think of was how this could get me fired." He made a profound statement, "It's a shame how *priorities are the daring way to live* these days."

I had to agree with his statement and with his new found *daring*



Courtesy Photo

From left, 1st Lt. (Chaplain Candidate) Scott Noyes; daughter, Kaylee, 12; son, Dawson, 10; son, Andrew, 10, and wife, Donna.

way to live. **Putting your family first is daring.**

In the Christian faith, the Bible instructs the order of priorities: first is your personal relationship with God; second is your family (1. spouse, 2. children); third place is everything else. Setting priority to the relationships in your life help to define what is important and what falls into secondary levels of importance. Be sure to live by these priorities and not other's pressures.

I hope that these thoughts and principles will encourage you to make the best use of time for your relationship with God and your family. God bless you.

"Be very careful, then, how you live — not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity ..." Ephesians 5:15-16a ■

Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp



Master Sgt. Eric Johnson, of the 119th Wing, wades into floodwater April 9 to record a joint government agency evacuation from the flooded rural home of Obert Tenold near Harwood, N.D.

(N.D. Journalist continued ...) billion viewers.

Johnson's videos covered dike patrols, operations centers, visits by dignitaries and an evacuation of a World War II veteran. More than once he pulled on hip waders to move into water and be able to tell the N.D. National Guard story.

"Master Sgt. Eric Johnson is top amongst video journalists in the National Guard and the DoD. His ability to tell a story on video is unbelievable," said Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, North Dakota adjutant general. "He is artistic and creative as the theme and message of the story is captured and produced. He is relentless in his pursuit of a momentous story and a true professional in everything he does for the N.D. National Guard. This distinction is well-deserved and is a result of hard work throughout years

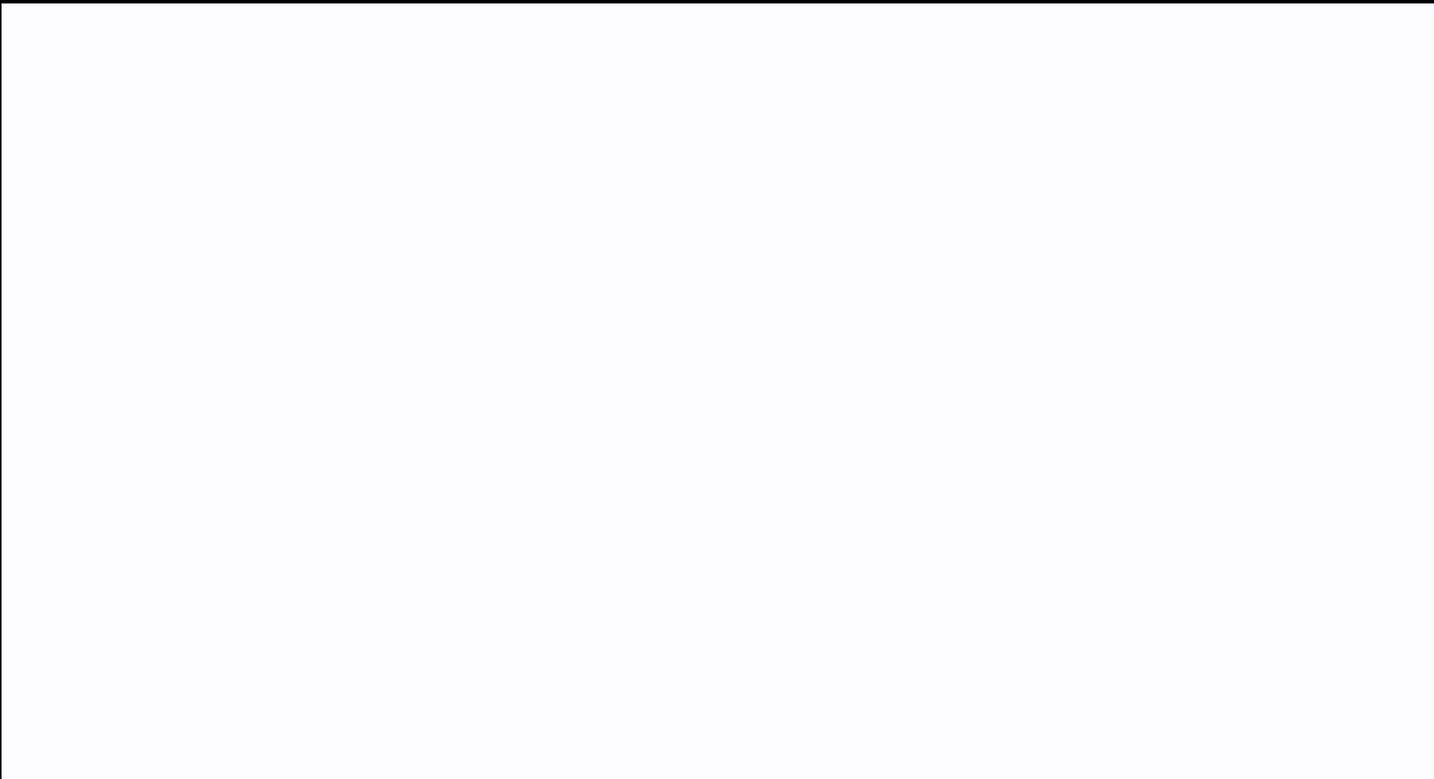
of service."

DVIDS said Johnson's coverage of the flood response "documents an example of the work the National Guard does at home in the states. His selection of Journalist of the Month also shows that stateside military journalists are just as vital as those deployed overseas, especially during stateside emergencies like the floods in North Dakota." ■

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Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

Sgt. 1st Class Carrie Rossow, right, points to a location for sandbag placement May 26, near the Missouri River in south Bismarck, N.D., as Spc. Joey Jochim walks toward the sandbag placement location. Both Soldiers are members of the 816th Engineer Company. As this issue of the North Dakota Guardian goes to print, more than 800 Guardsmen have been mobilized onto state active duty in response to flooding from the Missouri River in Burleigh and Morton counties. In addition, about 40 Guardsmen were on duty in Ward County in the Minot and Burlington areas.