

JET LETTER

North Dakota Air National Guard
Online Version

April 2007



**Security and secrecy are
important with new missions**

JET LETTER

April 2007

Volume 53, Number 4

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

119th Wing members of the Security Forces Squadron stand watch as the sun sets at the North Dakota Air National Guard, Fargo, N.D.

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Bulletin briefs

State Tuition Assistance

Members planning to attend Summer Semester at any public college in North Dakota are encouraged to submit their applications now for State Tuition Assistance. Applications are due PRIOR to the start of the semester. Late applications cannot be accepted. Apply on-line at: <http://www.ndguard.com/benefits/default.asp?ID=289>

Kudos to our deployed airmen!

Senior Master Sgt. Scott D. Terry was a part of the Tuskegee Team of the Month, Master Sgt. Steven J. Schwartz got SNCO of the Month and Senior Airman Donald F. Clarke received Airman of the Month. Master Sgt. Jeffrey L. Curfman also received SNCO of the month while deployed for the month of February.

Basic Leadership Development and Leadership Development Courses: Remaining 2007 BLT dates

April 14-15 (Fargo)

July 14-15 (Bismarck)

Aug. 21-22 (Fargo) Mon-Tues

Remaining 2007 LDC dates

April 29 thru May 11

September 9-21

Contact Technical Sgt. Shane J. Amundson 451-2377 or

Master Sgt. Teresa A. Rezac 451-2336

Emergency Relief Fund (ERF)

ERF is a non-profit charitable organization whose purpose is to provide financial support in sudden and unforeseen emergency situations. Contact Jody Harms for more information about this organization.

Hooligans running in the Fargo Marathon

We are organizing a group picture of Hooligans running in the Fargo Marathon. Kids are welcome for the picture as well. Please contact Capt. Penny A. Ripperger at Penny.Ripperger@ndfarg.ang.af.mil for information.

Hooligan Zoo Day

Please join the family program on May 12 from 4-7 pm for the 2nd annual Hooligan Zoo Day at the Red River Zoo. All of our Hooligan families will have a free pass to the zoo, unlimited carousel rides and a potluck dinner in the pavilion. Please bring your favorite dish to share.

Fargo Air Museum

See the Happy Hooligan Heritage "Impact on the World" exhibit at the Fargo Air Museum (FAM). The exhibit runs until Dec. 31, 2007. Also, another exhibit that will be on display is "Vietnam Week" running from April 29-May 6. Please visit the FAM's website: www.fargoairmuseum.org for more information.

Hooligan Toastmasters

Do you get nervous speaking in front of people? Would you like to improve your public speaking skills in a comfortable environment?

Toastmasters can definitely help your military or civilian career.

If you are interested in being a member of the NDANG Toastmasters Club, please contact Capt. Penny A. Ripperger, at ext. 195.

Commander's comments

Hooligan attitude

By 1st Lt. Joseph D. Anderson

119th Services Flight commander

In my fifteen years as a member of this Wing, I, like many of you, have been faced with stressful challenges. Some of these challenges were easy to overcome, some were not so easy, and in some, I failed. Fortunately, I was surrounded by friends, family, and mentors with unequaled Hooligan attitudes, who helped me either succeed or learn from my mistakes.

Just what is "Hooligan" attitude? I have heard it described as many things, "can do," "positive," and "morale bolstering" are just a few which come to mind. However, it is never negative or self-doubting. I wouldn't consider myself as the eternal optimist; however, I am a firm believer your attitude can influence your ability to succeed and be happy.

Many of you are now faced with your own challenges in the face of impending mission changes and position uncertainties. As a result of the changes and uncertainties, it may be easy to lose some of that Hooligan attitude. I would challenge you not to let that happen!

You can rest assured your senior leadership is doing everything within their power to provide you the answers you seek. No one ever said change was easy or even wanted. However, it is necessary if we are going to move forward to stay relevant and respected. I have no doubt we will remain the number one unit in the Guard with our exceptional work ethic and Hooligan attitude.

I leave you with this quote: "Neither a wise nor a brave man lies down on the tracks of history to wait for the train of the future to run over him." - General Dwight D. Eisenhower

Building the new Iraqi air force

By 119th Wing Member

I know that many of you are watching closely the events that are taking place in Iraq these days. With the surge of thousands of additional Army soldiers, and so many of the members of the NDANG performing duty in many places here, it is natural to have a little higher level of interest. So, to satisfy a little bit of that curiosity, let me give you a view of what has been going on where I am currently deployed.

I am located at a U.S. Army post, with most of the soldiers part of the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade. It is also an Iraqi army post and Iraqi air base, which is manned by Iraqi soldiers and Iraqi Air Force (IqAF) airmen. Historically, the Army post is the National Weapons Depot for the Iraqi Military. In fact, if you took a quick tour of this post, you would see dozens of warehouses that still contain useable weapons from the Saddam Hussein era.

I am here as part of the new Air Force Training School (AFTS). The AFTS is the result of several months of planning by the Coalition Air Force Transition Team (CAFTT) located in the International Zone of Baghdad (formerly known as the Green Zone). The responsibility of my team is to establish a set of schools at the post and at the Iraqi Military Academy at Ar Rutamiyah (IMAR) for the purpose creating the way for the IqAF to assess new personnel as officer and enlisted airmen into service. From there we will provide them with the AFSC training to give the IqAF the opportunity to start building this force from the ground up.

We started our first officer course at IMAR in early March, with a Blue Line ceremony that is an inaugural event that is patterned after the same ceremony that occurs on the first day of officer training in the USAF. Around the middle of April, we will be starting our first Basic Enlisted Training course, our First Basic Officer Training course as part of the new Iraqi air force Academy, along with our first Technical Training Course in Aircraft Maintenance Supervision which will be a Maintenance

Officer Course. Just as in the USAF, as we graduate new lieutenants and jundis (a jundi is an enlisted airman) from their basic courses, they will move on to their respective follow-on course and one aspect of air force training that has just been rolled under the AFTS umbrella is English Language Training (ELT). There is a significant push to increase the English language skills of these airmen to allow them to more effectively integrate into the rest of the aviation world.

Within a year, the desire in Iraq will be to have added new personnel into the IrAF with nearly all of them coming from the youth of this country. Currently, there aren't many personnel in the IqAF and most of them are in their mid-40's or older. In fact, I met a warrant officer recently, who has been in the IqAF since 1968! He has worked on helicopters his whole career. Without an interpreter, I could not determine how much longer he would continue to do this, but from the look in his eyes, it won't be anytime soon. He was truly excited about what is going on here with the American assistance. Up until now, the only personnel that have been allowed to come into the IqAF are those that were previously in the air force, have passed levels of security screening and possess certain skills, i.e. pilots and aircraft maintainers.

My role will be to take the lead of this oftentimes daunting task, and simultaneously assume an advisory role to the leadership of the IqAF, as we tackle the myriad of obstacles that inevitably arise in a project like this. This would be an impossible role if it were not for the professionalism, dedication and expertise of every member of this team. Everyone has kept a tremendously positive attitude. They have come from USAF bases all over the world, because they recognized the historic significance of this mission. Without their drive to succeed, this project would definitely fail, but because of it, they are laying a foundation that will ensure its success.

I could take up the whole Jet Letter with the activities here in Iraq. There is so much more to tell, but that is for another time. I thank the leadership of the NDNG for this opportunity, and for that I am truly grateful. SHUKRAN

Iraqi cadets step over the "Blue Line" signifying their commitment to becoming the first officers in the new Iraqi Air Force. The Iraqi Military Academy anticipates that in a few years, the IrAF will have full control, with USAF advisors in place.

Photo by Capt. Mark Hubbar, IMAR

Updated Lodging Information

By, Tech. Sgt Samantha J. Clarke

Services Unit Training Manager NCOIC

A few changes have been made for the lodging procedures in Services. The Services Flight has a new authorized hotel list and an updated Lodging Brochure. Please read the following information carefully. The same rules apply IAW FWI 34-601.

If you are a commuter and live outside of the local area commuting distance, please ensure that you have filled out 119FW Form 0-61 form, and it must be signed by a supervisor, and members that live inside the commuting distance but still need lodging need to fill out the 119FW Form 0-62 and the form must be signed by the your commander or designee.

(Individuals on inactive duty/UTA status inside of the commuting distance must send the approved 119FW Form 0-62 to Services prior to making their reservation with the authorized hotel.) By getting these forms to Services, it ensures that you are eligible for lodging. If the Services Flight does not receive the form (for outside/inside commuting distance) an individual would not be eligible for lodging or lodging reimbursement (IAW FWI 34-601).

Once the form has been filled out, please scan and E-mail the form to billeting@ndfarg.ang.af.mil or fax a copy of the form to ext. 685. Please ensure that all forms are signed before faxing or E-mailing them. Also, by filling out these forms, you would help Services Lodging update the eligibility database.

Also as a reminder, if you need to update your address and have not done so recently, please update vMPF/vRED so that the base locator can be updated as well. You can access vMPF through the AF Portal <https://my.af.mil>. The AF Portal can be accessed from home.

All of the above information and forms can be found at the Services Share Point site:

<https://sharepoint.ndfarg.ang.af.mil/services/Lodging1/Forms/AllItems.aspx> This site cannot be accessed from home.

If there are any questions or concerns, please contact us at billeting@ndfarg.ang.af.mil or contact Tech. Sgt. Tracy L. Zidon at ext. 684. Thank you in advance for your assistance so that Services can provide a better lodging system.

Emergency Relief Fund

What is the Emergency Relief Fund (ERF)?

It is the non-profit charitable organization whose purpose is to provide financial support in sudden and unforeseen emergency situations, such as natural disasters, accident, illness, fires, or theft. The ERF also provides Commanders with an important asset to accomplish their basic command responsibility for morale and welfare of their unit members.

Who is eligible for assistance?

North Dakota Air National Guard soldiers and airmen, and their dependents.

Do I have to repay the money?

Based on fund availability, the ERF provides one grant annually per Guard family. No repayment is necessary, but donations are welcome. No loans are available.

What do I need to qualify for a grant?

To qualify for a grant, several documents must accompany the application. They include, but are not limited to: information from all income sources, itemized statement of monthly and other expenses, other assistance received, and records of public assistance. Documentation that all other avenues have been exhausted is also required (i.e. Red Cross, Army Emergency Relief Fund or Air Force Aid Society).

How and where do I apply?

Contact your Family Assistance Advisor at any of the NDNG Family Assistance Centers (FACs) or contact the Retention NCO at the North Dakota Air National Guard in Fargo. You will receive help filling out the application at any of these locations.

How confidential is the process?

All applicants for emergency financial assistance will be safeguarded in a manner consistent with Army Regulation 340-21 or Air Force Instruction 12-35. Information will only be disclosed if required under state or federal law. Since the Foundation is a private organization, the Privacy Act, Freedom of Information Act, and state public disclosure laws do not apply.

How do I make a donation?

All donations qualify for 501(c)(3) status for tax exemption. 100% of donations go directly to the emergency Relief Fund.

Donations may be made to: NDNG Foundation ERF

Mail to: North Dakota National Guard Foundation

ATTN: Emergency Relief Fund

PO Box 5511

Bismarck, ND 58506-5511



Happy Hooligan media award winners

Master Sgt. Eric A. Johnson, 119th Communications Flight, is the 2006 Air National Guard Media contest feature broadcast of the year award winner. The North Dakota Air National Guard was selected as the third best Air National Guard news magazine and Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp, 119th Communications Flight, took second place in the photojournalism category and third place in the stand alone photo category of the Air National Guard print media contest.

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

Parkas to palm trees

By Maj. Tami K. Gerntholz,
119th Medical Group

On one of the coldest days in North Dakota at -25 degrees, the 119th Medical Group piled on layers of clothing for a chilly KC-135 flight to a tropical bliss of 70 degrees in Hawaii. Despite a tail pipe fire that caused an emergency evacuation prior to take-off, this annual training deployment to Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC) on Oahu was a success.

Tripler Army Medical Center is the largest federal medical treatment facility in the Pacific. The 358-bed hospital has more than 858,000 people eligible for care, including active duty beneficiaries of all military services, family members, retirees, veterans, and citizens of certain Pacific island nations.

The goal of this deployment was to provide the 119th Medical Group and other Wing personnel, such as JAG and finance, with valuable training to assist them in validating their readiness skills. The nursing service section worked in several departments throughout the medical center to include the intensive care unit, emergency room, medical and surgical wards, and the wound, cast and cardiology clinics. Some had an opportunity to care for military members injured in Iraq. Lt.Col. Thomas Meyer, nurse anesthetist and commander of the Medical Group, found time to administer anesthesia.

The pharmacy services at Tripler are comprehensive and



119th Wing members are greeted Hawaiian-style, as the 119th Medical Group arrive at their duty location in Hawaii.

All Hawaii deployment photos by Tech. Sgt. Lester D. Sjoblom, 119th Communications Flight



Left, 119th Wing member works in the pharmacy department at the Tripler Army Medical Center, Hawaii.

Below, 119th Wing medical group member boards a KC-135 enroute to Hawaii leaving the frigid conditions of Fargo, N.D., behind for his 15-day deployment.

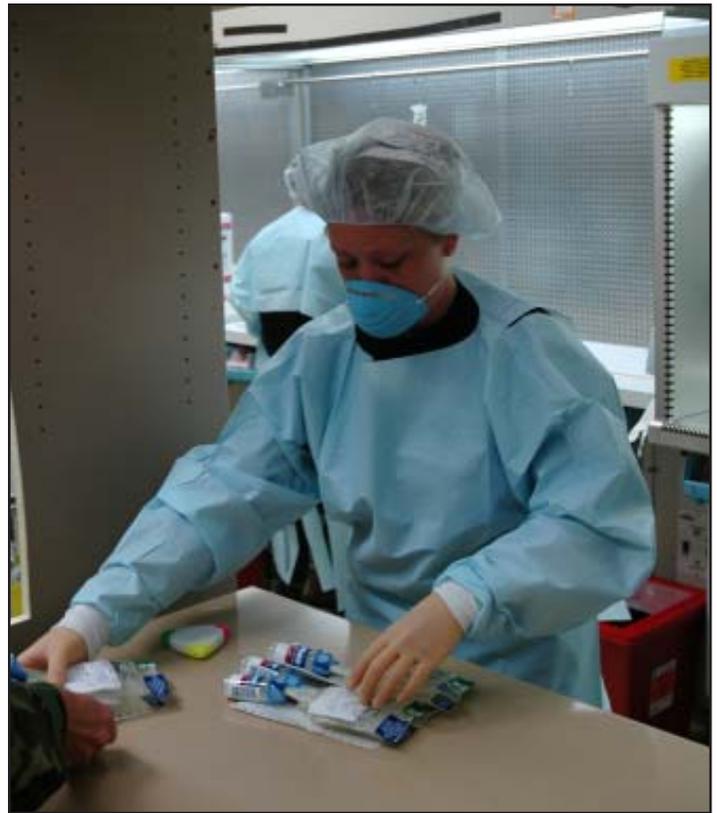


state-of-the-art. The outpatient pharmacy uses advanced technology, including automated counting and dispensing systems, to dispense over 500,000 medications per month to their ambulatory care customers. The inpatient pharmacy is very diverse, providing clinical and drug information services to providers and hospital patients alike.

Public health and bioenvironmental spent time working within preventive medicine. Their time was spent primarily in the water lab, collecting and analyzing water samples from surrounding military sites. They also spent time working in entomology, setting mosquito traps around the different military installations. They worked in food sanitation, inspecting the food facility on TAMC and surrounding posts. They also spent time working in industrial hygiene, health physics, and environmental quality. The biomedical equipment engineer repaired and calibrated medical equipment such as x-ray machines, anesthesia machines, and ventilators.

The dental section worked the majority of their time at the Schoffield Barracks dental clinic, where they treated patients in the operative department placing fillings. The highlights of the dental clinic training involved a visit to the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) and mentoring from Col. Theresa Gonzalez, an orofacial pain specialist. JPAC has a very special mission which involves investigating leads and recovering and identifying Americans who were killed in action but were never brought home. They usually work on approximately 40 remains at any one time.

In addition to the training obtained while deployed in Hawaii, many members had the humbling experience of showing their deep respect to those who have given their life in service to our county while visiting places like the U.S.S. Arizona Memorial and Battleship Missouri at Pearl Harbor as well as Punch Bowl Cemetery. This opportunity added to the overall positive experience of the deployment.



119th Medical Group member distributes medication while on duty Tripler Army Medical Center, Hawaii.

119th Medical Group member treats a patient at the Tripler Army Medical Center.



119th firefighters staying busy Kuwait

Story by Capt. Penny A. Ripperger
119th Wing/PAO

“When I stepped off the plane, my first reaction was what the heck am I doing here again,” recalled the 119th firefighter. He is one of three Hooligan firemen currently serving in Kuwait. This is the second AEF for this Hooligan, who deployed to Iraq in 2005. “The memories of the not-so-fun things about being on an AEF in the desert had slipped my mind when I signed up for Kuwait. But after meeting all of the guys in the department and getting on a schedule my outlook improved,” he said. The three 119th Firefighters are assigned to the 386th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron located at the Ali Al Salem Air Base in Kuwait.

The Hooligan trio is part of a 39-person fire department consisting of 33 Guard members and six active duty members. Ali Al Salem Air Base has two fire stations. One station is responsible to provide fire protection for base housing and other buildings. The other fire station has the primary responsibility to protect the aircraft and buildings along the flight line.

“We work 48 hours on duty and then get 24 hours off. This schedule is different from the traditional active duty fire department schedule of 24 hours on 24 hours off,” said the Hooligan firefighter.

The firemen are required to inspect all buildings, billeting tents, and dormitories once a month, for fire safety issues. “This process takes most of the month so when the first of the month comes around it’s time to start over,” explained the Hooligan firefighter.

The squadron is also responsible to hold training on the different types of U.S. aircraft located at the air base. “We

practice extinguishment of potential fires and rescue techniques,” he said.

Another Hooligan works in the dispatch center. The base receives an average of two to four calls a day. Calls range from service calls on fire alarm system malfunctions mostly due to dust and sand, medical calls, in-flight emergencies, ground aircraft emergencies, fuel spills and after hour civil engineering calls.

“CE is quite busy here since it is a 10-year-old base and things are just starting to wear out,” he said.

The firemen spend their free time using the various services located on base. An outdoor pool, movie theater and a base gym with a weight room are some of the perks for the military members.

Sports activities also help pass the time for the firemen. “We won the pool volleyball tournament and relay race and we’re the tug-of-war champions. We’ve come in second twice in softball tournaments. And we placed second in the sand volleyball league,” said the Hooligan firefighter.

The brave Hooligans keep an optimistic attitude and a sense of humor about their day-to-day experiences in the desert. “We have an overabundance of sand for all those beach lovers back home,” remarked the firefighter. “And the food is pretty decent, with chicken on the menu every day in some shape or form.”

“For how large the military is, sometimes it seems like a small family. One of the active duty guys here was stationed in Iraq with me in 2005 and our replacements are some of the guys who were in Iraq with me too. It’s nice to see familiar faces so far from home even if its people you only see on deployments,” he said.

Happy Hooligan trio stand in front of one of the fire stations located at Ali al Salem Air Base, Kuwait. The fire station is known as the "Rock."



Photo by Master Sgt. Christine Fisk, Iowa Air National Guard



Left, a Hooligan firefighter and other N.D. Guardsmen participate in an annual physical agility test required for Air National Guard firefighters while stationed in Kuwait. Firemen must train and stay in top physical condition to pass the test in order to stay in the career field. Typically, the test is administered at home station in Fargo, N.D.

Photo by base photographer, Ali Al Salem, AFB

Below, Hooligan firefighter of the 119th Civil Engineer Squadron, takes a break, next to a Kuwaiti BAE Hawk T.1 trainer aircraft.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Kyle Brown, Iowa Air National Guard

COMM POST

Sometimes it's what you don't say

By retired Master Sgt. John W. Noone
119th Communications Flight

With the new mission spinning up things are very exciting in certain aspects of the communications/computer arena on the base, especially in the Predator Operations Center (POC) which is housed in building xxx. Building xxx is being set up to house a Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility or "SCIF." The reason for this is that

in the building and access and communication will be controlled in order to maintain Operations Security (OPSEC). A plethora of have been procured in order to accomplish the . The computer workstations and rack mounted servers with processors available. Most of these machines will have access to the . A few will have access to . There will be approximately 28 additional SIPRNet devices. Also, in conjunction with the stand up of the mission, scheduled for , the service on base will be expanding from a bandwidth of circuit. This will result in a , although as much as the activities within the POC. This isn't even taking into account all the fly the MQ-1 There will be a lot of interesting activity in the POC and with respect to OPSEC we all need to keep a lid on not only what goes on in the POC but also the capabilities, services and systems that are contained within it and for it.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth

This is a photo of what it looks like to fly an MQ-1 Predator, here U.S. Air Force Capt. Mike Edmonston, left, predator pilot, and Airman 1st Class Shawn Weigman, the predator sensor operator, both from 46th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron, perform the descent and arrival checklist at Balad Air Base, Iraq, Jan. 31, 2007. The 46th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron's mission is to provide real-time aerial reconnaissance to deployed theatre commanders.

Retirements, Promotions, New Members

2007 UTA Schedule

April 14-15
May 5-6
June 2-3
July 14-15
August 11-12
September 8-9
October 6-7
November 17-18
December 1-2

2007 Auger Inn Events

April 27 - Fish Feed
September 14 - Pork-alo Feed
December 8 - Children's Christmas

April UTA meals

Saturday, Apr. 14

Main Line

Chicken Alfredo
Baked Cod
Baked Potatoes
Corn
Soup, Salad Bar

Speed Line

Grilled Ham
& Cheese
Onion Rings
Corn
Assorted Desserts

Sunday, Apr. 15

Main line

Cook's Choice to Include:

Burgers, shrimp, pizza
Turkey & Prime Rib
Assorted Desserts
Soup, Salad Bar

Family program



Military One Source can now be found on the internet at

www.militaryonesource.com.

Military One Source is free for all and has been created for a variety of Department of Defense and family issues. It is available twenty-four hours a day, seven days per week by telephone at 800-342-9647.

Retirees' corner

By retired Chief Master Sgt. Jack Tietgens,
119th Wing

By the time you read this issue of the Jet Letter, the breakfast held at the Valley Kitchen in Fargo April 4 has passed. Brig. Gen. Al Palmer, Director of Flight Operations at University of North Dakota (UND) and assigned to the position as Chief of Staff in the NDANG, was the guest speaker. I'd go out on a limb and say that a full house was in attendance.

Also, the semi-annual Weapons Systems Officer (WSO) Reunion, on the calendar for Wednesday, April 11, has quite likely gone by. This event is somewhat misnamed. Attendance is not limited to whom its name implies. We're all welcome at these reunions. The next WSO Reunion is October 10.

The Detroit Lakes area Hooligans Breakfast is coming up, scheduled for Saturday, April 21 at the Detroit Lakes Holiday Inn. Following a bit of socializing, breakfast is served shortly after 8 a. m.

The February issue of The Retirees' Dog Tag has been mailed and should be in your mail box by now. The "Dog Tag," now published twice each year, provides information to retirees on topics from retirement benefits to what's happening in the National Guard. It's geared specifically to NDNG retirees. If you have not received this recent issue, contact Verena Schauer at (701) 333-2012 or E-mail at verena.schauer@us.army.mil.

Afterburner



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

Hooligan kids enjoy the carousel at the Red River Zoo April 8, 2006. Please join the family program this year on May 12 from 4-7 p.m. for the 2nd annual Hooligan zoo day at the Red River Valley Zoo. All of our Hooligan families will have a free pass to the zoo, unlimited carousel rides and a potluck dinner in the pavilion. Please bring your favorite dish to share along with your walking shoes and get ready for a great time! We will meet in the Pavilion, drop off your dish to share and then explore the zoo. Please call Jody Harms, Family Program Coordinator at (701) 451-2112 if you have any questions about the Hooligan zoo day.

JET LETTER

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