

JET LETTER

North Dakota Air National Guard

March 2007

A firefighter in a silver protective suit is shown in profile, bent over and using a red-handled shovel to clear a spill in the snow. The scene is outdoors, with a chain-link fence and a brick building in the background. Other personnel in similar suits are visible in the distance. The ground is covered in snow, and the overall atmosphere is cold and industrial.

**Fire fighters respond
to frozen pipe spill**

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March 2007

Volume 53, Number 3

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

A Senior Airman of the 119th Civil Engineer Squadron fire fighter, shovels sand around a manhole to create a dike in an effort to prevent liquids initially thought to be fuel from reaching storm drains that lead away from the North Dakota Air National Guard base and eventually to the Red River Jan. 13. The liquid, which spilled from the fuels area when a frozen pipe burst, turned out to be water and of little concern for the safety and welfare of the local community and environment.

JET LETTER STAFF

119th WG Commander
Col. Robert J. Becklund

Editorial Staff
Capt. Penny A. Ripperger

Layout and Design
Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

Photographic Support
Multimedia Center

Printer
Quality Printing Services
Bismarck, N.D.

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Commander's comments

Proud to be Happy Hooligans

By Brig. Gen. Jerald L. Engelman

North Dakota assistant adjutant general for air

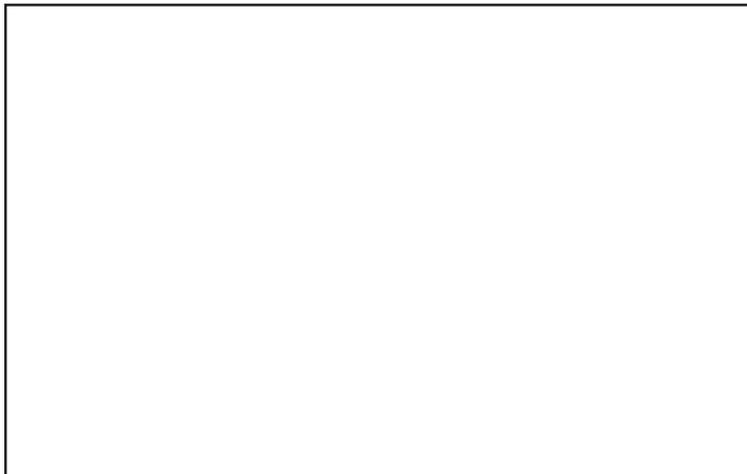
The events of current history continue to stress and stretch this organization. Change heralds hope and also brings with it loss and grief. You will have pilots flying unmanned aerial vehicles dropping bombs on enemy targets and then going home for supper with their families. You will continue to have mobilizations in dangerous locations. You will have a new arm of the Security Forces geographically separated in Minot. And you will have folks flying and working on new planes in Fargo, eventually transitioning into Joint Cargo Aircraft. As a result, many of you have been called to new duty stations, and asked to take on new responsibilities. To ride the tide of change, you must take the integrity, esprit de corps, character and can-do Hooligan attitude you currently have, and apply it to your new roles.

As you deal with change and transition, the stresses of war on airmen and families, and the future, you need to pull together as an organization and bolster each other. Strengthen your relationships with each other. Champion your successes and remember your heritage. Use the many and varied resources put in place as a result of lessons learned from past wars and conflicts, like the Chaplaincy, including the full-time state Chaplain, the National Guard social workers, and the Family Program. Take the Critical Incident Stress Management TCR course and use the Emergency Relief Fund if necessary. Trust that all North Dakota leadership at every level - national, state and National Guard - is doing everything in their power to insure your continued success.

As we leave, we want you to know that we have never been more proud to be a part of any organization. We look forward to cheering you on, now, from the sidelines. The spirit of Pappy Larson, the original Happy Hooligan, lives on in you today. Because your identity is deeply imbedded in the organization and is so strong, we have every confidence that you will not falter or fail. After all, you are the best of the best. You are the Happy Hooligans!

All the best,

Brigadier General Jerry and Linda Engelman



Brig. Gen. Jerald L. Engelman and Mrs. Linda Engelman

Bulletins

Brig. Gen. Engelman retirement party!

Brig. Gen. Jerald L. Engelman is retiring (and soon to turn 60) and would like to invite past and present National Guard members to his retirement party Mar. 10 at the Auger Inn beginning at 4:00 p.m. Food and beverages will be served. Please pass the word as he would like to convey his thanks to everyone.

Basic VA disability benefits:

What is VA disability compensation?

Disability compensation is a benefit paid to a veteran because of injuries or diseases that happened while on active duty, or were made worse by active military service. It is also paid to certain veterans disabled from VA health care. The benefits are tax free.

Who is eligible?

You may be eligible for disability compensation if you have a service-related disability and you were discharged under other than *dishonorable* conditions.

How much does VA pay?

The amount of basic benefit paid ranges from \$115 to \$2,471 per month, depending on how disabled you are.

Note: You may be paid additional amounts, in certain instances, if:

- you have very severe disabilities or loss of limb(s)
- you have a spouse, child(ren), or dependent parent(s)
- you have a seriously disabled spouse

How can you apply?

You can apply by filling out VA Form 21-526, *Veterans Application for Compensation and/or Pension*.

You should utilize a National Service Officer, to help with the paperwork and be your buffer with the Dept. of Veteran Affairs. It can make the process go smoother in the long run.

For information you can contact retired Master Sgt. Daniel M. Dewey, at AMVETS VAM/ROC Room 209, 2101 North Elm St., Fargo, N.D., 58102, or call (701) 451-4642

E-mail: dan.dewey@va.gov

Images from Al Asad, Iraq

Story by NDANG Soldier

Two days ago I had the privilege to participate in a promotion ceremony for several of our young airmen here at Al Asad, Iraq. The setting was a bit out of the ordinary; the ceremony itself took place in a Yugoslavian-constructed Hardened Aircraft Shelter (HAS) built for Saddam Hussein's air force. The makeshift platform was draped with camouflage netting; a Navy Chaplain spoke the invocation, and in the crowd of onlookers were sailors and marines as well as our own airmen. The atmosphere was full of dirt and dust – the high winds had created a minor dust storm and put a definite chill in the air. Neither the ceremony itself nor the surroundings had anything ceremonial about them but every one of those airmen, as they received their congratulations from the commander, was grinning from ear to ear. They knew they were receiving their promotion orders in a unique environment; an environment many of their friends and coworkers will never experience.



Taking a break during his current deployment in AlAsad, Iraq.

Photo by Maj. Brad Archer, 438th Air Expeditionary Group

The deployment experience is unique in many ways. Just getting here is an experience in itself. I told my wife, after reaching Al Asad, if you had to go through this when you went on vacation – you would never go on vacation! Upon arrival, everything is new and different; you're in a new place with different sights and sounds, working with people you don't know, doing a job you're unsure of, and trying to solve problems with no idea where to start or who to see to start the process. My first day at Al Asad, I ran into Senior Master Sgt. Tim Laney who is deployed here with a Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineer (RED HORSE) Squadron. It was a chance encounter, and we just had enough time to say "hello" to one another, but it was a great feeling just to see someone from home. I've been here six weeks now and know my way around the base and all the functional areas quite well. I find it interesting how I now sleep through fighter aircraft taking off several hundred yards from my "can," but am awakened by the infrequent rainstorms here.

The environment is very joint; the base itself is run by the U.S. Marine Corps with a large U.S. Army presence as well. Air Force personnel are definitely the minority and a good portion of the USAF personnel on the base are here "in lieu of" Army troops. They are filling an Army requirement the Army can't fill due to lack of personnel. Getting around in the joint Al Asad environment is challenging; it takes some time to figure out who runs what, who is in charge of what, who provides certain services, etc. As a brand new Air Force Group stood up on a Marine base, the challenges are numerous. I find myself working here with a great group of people from all across the country and all components of the Air Force. We are meeting those challenges to ensure we have mission success and to make things better for the personnel following us into this location.

Our aircraft (A-10 Thunderbolts or Warthogs) have been here about two weeks now, and in those two weeks we have seen success against the enemy. It's interesting being a part of this; this is the thing we have all spent a lot of time training for, the thing you are in the unit to do, one of the reasons our unit even exists, and what our nation needs of us at this juncture in time. While deployment brings its anxieties and hardships it can also bring great challenges and great rewards. Deployment is just like everything else in life – you can make of it what you decide to make of it. When called, I would certainly encourage all of you to accept the deployment challenge as just that, a challenge you can make as good or poor an experience as you care to make it. Deployment, after all, is why we're here.

Father and son team up on fini flight

Story and photos by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp
119th Communications Flight

On a frigid winter day Jan. 13 at the North Dakota Air National Guard, with clouds of vapor evident upon each breath, Senior Airman Bryan M. Hensel, crew chief in the 119th Maintenance Squadron, launches his father Col. Cecil J. 'Bud' Hensel Jr., pilot and N.D. headquarters director of operations, on his final flight in an F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft (preferably called the 'Viper' by most NDANG pilots). Col. Hensel is not ending his long and distinguished career in the United States military but merely piloting his last flight, or 'fini flight,' in the F-16 due to a mission conversion from the F-16 into the C-21 Lear Jet and MQ-1 Predator at the North Dakota Air National Guard.

Col. Hensel began flying fighter aircraft 25 years earlier in the F-111 and completed nearly 1,500 flight hours in the F-16, while the junior Hensel working the launch just began his military career with the North Dakota Air National Guard in September of 2004. Col. Hensel said 'it was a great honor to fly that many years in fighter aircraft in the U.S. military' and 'I am very proud to have my son act as the crew chief on my final flight in the Viper.'

Senior Airman Hensel indicated that he was glad to be able to work on his father's final flight, but modestly said he was 'just doing his job' the day of the launch. Mrs. Sharon Hensel was present in shelter six to watch her husband and son work together on the fini flight and said it was a 'bittersweet occasion' knowing how much her husband enjoyed his time flying the F-16. She said the day 'was filled with such a wide range of emotions from pride in both Bryan and Bud, to a feeling of sadness that Bud's 25 year career of flying fighters for the active Air Force and the National Guard is over since it has been such a huge part of our lives for so long.'

While it was the flight chiefs in the 119th Maintenance Squadron who meticulously planned and coordinated the seemingly chance encounter between father and son in shelter number six for the memorable flight, it was a wife and mother who shed a tear upon shut down of the aircraft engine of the F-16 flown by Col. Bud Hensel for the last time.

(picture removed)

(picture removed)

Col. Cecil J. 'Bud' Hensel, prepares for launch in an F-16 prior to his fini flight at the North Dakota Air National Guard Jan. 13.

(picture removed)

Above, Col. Cecil J. 'Bud' Hensel, North Dakota Air National Guard pilot, shakes hands with his son Senior Airman Bryan M. Hensel, 119th Maintenance Squadron crew chief, after successful completion of Col. Hensel's last flight in an F-16.

Left, Senior Airman Bryan M. Hensel, 119th Maintenance Squadron crew chief, gives a thumbs-up during pre-flight checks as he assists in the launch of his father's F-16 aircraft.

Meet the chiefs

By Chief Master Sgt. Mark J. Solem

119th Civil Engineering Squadron

I joined the Army as an infantryman with the 82nd Airborne Division in the summer of 1974. Shortly after arriving at my duty section I retrained in air defense artillery as a vulcan gunner. After separating from the Army three years later, I started working for the VA hospital and at the same time went to Moorhead State University. I also joined the reserve unit across the road for a year and then another year and a half with the 142nd in Detroit Lakes, Minn.

I had a 6 month break before I joined the North Dakota Air National Guard as a fire fighter in 1980 and went full-time two years later. In 1994 I became the fire chief. I also deployed to Kuwait as the fire chief at Al Jaber Airbase just before Operation Iraqi Freedom. That lasted for 6 months and was full of long hours and hard, rewarding work that took full advantage of all the training I have received in the Guard.

My wife, Carla is self-employed as a grant writer and we have 3 sons. My oldest, Mike is 24 and lives in Indiana. Matt, 10 and Nick, 7 both go to Centennial Elementary School. Carla is also president of Centennial PTA.

Always have goals and be ready for opportunity to strike. I believe the people who seem to be the "luckiest" are usually the ones who have prepared themselves and are ready to move to the next step in their career progression. Career planning and education, along with a good attitude can help you, your career and your family all at the same time.

(picture removed)

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

Chief Master Sgt. Mark J. Solem, 119th Civil Engineering Squadron fire chief, discusses response measures during a recent mass accident response exercise.

Comm Post

What's next?

By Master Sgt. John W. Noone (ret.)

119th Communications Flight

There's always something new going on in the Information Technology world. Some new thing coming along that everyone is wondering about. But right now there seems to be a lull. Here are a few things that people are talking about: Halo 3. The next version of Microsoft's shoot 'em up game, Halo, will come out initially in a Vista only version. Halo is hugely popular and will definitely generate sales of new PCs because most people who want to run Vista are just buying a new PC in order to do it.

Reports from retailers are that brand new PCs were flying out the doors the day Vista was released. Halo addicts that want to play the latest version of the game on the much ballyhooed DirectX 10/Vista gaming environment will cause the same phenomena when Halo 3 is released. So we have a new OS and a blockbuster game boosting sales of new PCs. In other news: The Apple iPhone and Apple TV are coming. Lots of conjecture about what this will mean. Each Apple TV will have a 40 gigabyte hard drive in it. Apple managed pre-placement and peer-to-peer serving of "iMovies" anyone? There's also talk of Google setting up mini data centers in thousands of containers here and there about the country. Terabytes upon terabytes of data in a box, basically a copy of the World Wide Web, just down the street from you, so you won't have to go far to get it. Sirius and XM satellite radio are merging, but that's not really computer news, just tech news. Nope, now that Vista is finally out, there's kind of a lull. But something will come up. It always does.

Retirements, Promotions, New Members

2007 UTA Schedule

March 10-11
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

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.

2007 Auger Inn Events

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

March UTA meals

Saturday, 10 Mar

Main Line

Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce
 Pork Chops
 Potato Wedges
 Broccoli w/Cheese Sauce

Short line

Hamburgers
 French Fries
 Soup of the Day:
 Chicken Noodle

Sunday, 11 Mar

Main line

Roast Beef
 Lemon Chicken
 Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy
 Corn

Short Line

Chicken Enchiladas
 Tator Tots
 Soup of the Day:
 Vegetable Beef

Retirees' corner

By retired Chief Master Sgt. Jack Tietgens,

119th Fighter Wing

Brig. Gen. Engelman retirement party!

Brig. Gen. Jerald L. Engelman is soon to retire (and soon to turn 60) and would like to invite past and present National Guard members to his retirement party Mar. 10 at the Auger Inn beginning at 4:00 p.m. Food and beverages will be served. Please pass the word as he would like to convey his thanks to everyone.

The Blue Angels will demonstrate their flying skills at the air show in Fargo on June 16th & 17th. Plans are being made for another Hooligan reunion at the Auger Inn on Saturday, June 16th. Stay tuned for more information as the date draws near.

The Fargo Air Museum presently has a display of 119FW and Happy Hooligan photos, awards and other historical material, including a video of Hooligan activities at deployed locations.

The monthly Fargo-Moorhead area breakfasts are scheduled on the first Wednesday of each month at the Valley Kitchen in Fargo (I-29 & Main Ave), 7:00 a.m.

The monthly breakfasts in Mesa, AZ, are held on the **FIRST** Thursday of each month, 9:00 a.m., at Sossaman's On the Green Restaurant, Sunland Village East.

Bimonthly breakfasts in the Detroit Lakes area are held the third Saturday of even numbered months at the Detroit Lakes Holiday Inn at 8:00 a.m.



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

A flame can be seen coming out of the end of the muzzle as a Staff Sgt. of the 119th Security Forces Squadron, fires a bullet round at a protective vest to compare the effects of different bullets to different makes of soft body armor at the firing range of the law enforcement center in Fargo, N.D. Dec. 19. The Staff Sgt. is conducting an informal testing procedure to determine the effectiveness of recently acquired, concealable, soft body armor, in stopping various commonly used U.S. Air Force ammunition.

JET LETTER

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