

JET LETTER

North Dakota Air National Guard

May-June 2007



**Happy Hooligans
return from Iraq**

JET LETTER

May-June 2007

Volume 53, Number 5

CONTENTS

Feature



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

119th Wing Hooligan member gently holds his son's head in his hand as he searches through a pile of luggage at the North Dakota Air National Guard upon his return from Iraq April 21.

4

Hooligan teaches life savers for 20 years

North Dakota Air National Guard state employee David E. Belcher works with the Minn-Kota Chapter of the Red Cross teaching CPR.

5

119th Maintenance in Iraq

17 members of the 119th Maintenance Squadron deployed to Balad Air Base, Iraq.

6-7

Hooligans returning to cheers of joy

Picture story of recent Happy Hooligan troop returns.

8-9

A celebration of courage and heart

20 years ago then-1st Lt. Robert J. Becklund made a life saving flight in an F-4. A reunion was held at the Fargo Air Museum for all those involved.

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.

Jet Letter is a funded U.S. Air Force newsletter published regularly for personnel of the 119th Wing, North Dakota Air National Guard. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily represent those of the Air National Guard or the Air Force. Public Affairs office: Direct line (701) 451-2195, fax (701) 451-2197, DSN 362-8195, or e-mail: PA@ndfarg.ang.af.mil

We're on the Internet

<http://www.ndfarg.ang.af.mil>

Departments

3

Commander's comments

Lessons learned in anti-terrorism

3

Bulletins

Fargo AirSho 2007, Fargo Air Museum, Free, anonymous mental health self-assessment available

11

Hooligan News

Retirements, Promotions, New Members, 2007 UTA Schedule

12

Afterburner

Take your child to work day at the North Dakota Air National Guard

Commander's comments

Lessons learned in anti-terrorism

119th Security Forces Squadron Commander

Contrary to popular belief, terrorists are very specific about their targets. Terrorists have always done surveillance prior to attack. Timothy McVeigh scouted out the Alfred P. Murrah Building in Oklahoma City several times before his attack. Meticulous planning, to include preoperational surveillance, is a hallmark of Al-Qaeda terrorist attacks. They assess two elements: Ease of Surveillance and Ease of Access. Our Random Anti-Terrorism Measures (RAMs) and base-wide alertness will deter the terrorists. This help in deterrence does not lie completely in the Security Forces arena. With all of us alert to suspicious behavior, we become a force-multiplier for Security Forces. Although there is no way to stop all terrorism, we want to appear as a hard target. Knowing that surveillance is a large percentage of why a terrorist picks a target can help us. We also know that terrorists will chose "softer" targets over difficult ones. The North Dakota Attorney General, Wayne Stenjhem, stated that if North Dakota appears too difficult to attack, the enemy may pass us by, and move on to the next "softer" target.



I attended a vulnerability assessment course at the Grand Forks Air Force Base. One instructor told the story about how he was assigned to teach anti-terrorism at the Pentagon immediately after Sep. 11, 2001. It was three weeks after the attacks and a government employee at the Pentagon approached the instructor after class. The employee stated that on Sep. 9, a cab driver asked him where the Pentagon employees congregate in case of evacuation and asked if he should report that to anyone. At that point, three weeks *after* Sep. 11, it was a little late to report the suspicious question.

The arrest of individuals planning to attack Fort Dix, New Jersey is an excellent example of someone reporting suspicious activity. This group had video taped themselves shooting weapons and chanting. They took the video to a store to have it put on CD and the store employee reported them to the authorities.

If you see something that "just doesn't feel right", report it to Security Forces at extension 911. It may be the tip that convinces the terrorists we are not worth targeting. We know that there will always be terrorism, but remember, "Every Airman is a Sensor". Together we can make a difference in deterring Terrorism.

"We will not be intimidated or pushed off the world stage by people who do not like what we stand for, and that is, freedom, democracy and the fight against...terrorism." Madeline Albright

Bulletin briefs

Fargo AirSho 2007

The U.S. Navy's Blue Angels are returning to the Fargo AirSho. The Blue Angels team, which serves as the Navy's flight demonstration squadron, also performed in Fargo in 2005, 2002 and 1997. The dates for the show are **June 16 and 17** at Hector International Airport in Fargo. For more information and ticket info, go to the Fargo AirSho website: www.fargoairsho.com.

Fargo Air Museum

See the Happy Hooligan Heritage 'Impact on the World' exhibit at the Fargo Air Museum (FAM). The exhibit runs until December 31, 2007. Please visit the FAM's website: www.fargoairmuseum.org for more information

Free, anonymous mental health self-assessment available

Have you been feeling consistently moody or sad? Can't relax or concentrate? Been alternating between highs and lows? Have you been troubled by unexplained aches and pains? Are you unable to eat or sleep? If so, you may be suffering from a mental health disorder.

The military is offering free online mental health and alcohol self-assessments for a range of common emotional situations that often go undiagnosed and misunderstood. If you've been feeling disconnected and unlike your usual self lately, this program can help you put the pieces back together. The self-assessment program offers self-tests for depression, bipolar disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, and post-traumatic stress disorder. It is available at www.MilitaryMentalHealth.org.

Once the self-assessment is completed, you will be given information on where to turn for a full evaluation. The Mental Health Self-Assessment Program is a voluntary, anonymous mental health and alcohol self-assessment and referral program offered to military families and service members affected by deployment. It is offered online 24/7, as well as through local in-person events. This program is offered without charge through the Department of Defense Office of Health Affairs. More information contact Maj. Tamie Gerntholz, RN, 119th Wing health promotion manager at Ext 628.

Hooligan teaches life savers for 20 years

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

One and two and three and four, wait now, is that 5 compressions for one breath, or is it 15 compressions for two breaths? I think it is now 30 compressions with two breaths. If you're not sure how many chest compressions per rescue breath it takes to perform Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) in an emergency it might be time for you to pay a visit to David E. Belcher because Belcher is a North Dakota Air National Guard state employee firefighter and volunteer CPR trainer for the American Red Cross.

Belcher first began teaching CPR for the Red Cross in 1983 because "I was looking for something to do during my off-time on swing shifts with the North Dakota Air National Guard fire department and I already had the training, so I thought I might as well get certified to train others" and more than 20 years later he is still training people to save lives. He estimates that he has taught at least one class per month over that time span and is entering his busy time of the year for CPR training. It is in the spring that he might teach as many as four or five CPR classes per month as camp counselors and life guards need to renew their training for their summer jobs, and thanks to David Belcher the kids can enter the water knowing full well that the life guards have the proper training to handle emergencies.

The Minn-Kota chapter of the American Red Cross executive director Sheri Thomsen estimates that Belcher has trained over 3,000 individuals to perform CPR through the Red Cross over more than 20 years and the Minn-Kota chapter trained 25,000 people last year alone.

119th Wing member, far right, demonstrates the proper technique for administering infant CPR to 119th Civil Engineer Squadron fire fighters. The CPR training is required annually for fire fighters in the Air National Guard.



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

At the North Dakota Air National Guard he teaches the emergency responder version of the class to his fellow fire fighters to meet their requirements and go over the newest techniques. He also teaches adult CPR to other members of the organization who are likely to need the training.

David Belcher first performed CPR on a person in an emergency when he was only 19 years old while working as a volunteer for the East Grand Forks, Minn. fire department and estimates that he has had the opportunity to take the life saving measures eight to ten times since then, mostly while working as an emergency medical technician for Casselton Ambulance Service, Casselton, N.D.

Everyone knows that CPR training is important training for emergency responders but Belcher stresses that beginning CPR measures quickly are critical in an emergency, as "the sooner you can begin CPR compressions the better the chances are for the victim to recover, which is why it is so important for people in the community to receive the training." The American Heart Association says "about 75 to 80 percent of all out-of-hospital cardiac arrests happen at home, so being trained to perform CPR can mean the difference between life and death for a loved one," and goes on to stress "effective bystander CPR, provided immediately after cardiac arrest, can double a victim's chance of survival."

If you are interested in stacking the life saving deck in your favor contact your local Red Cross office to register for classes. In Fargo, N.D. the Red Cross director of education and training is Cindy Christensen. She can be reached at (701)364-1800 and the web address is www.fargoredcross.org.

119th Maintenance in Iraq

Story by TSgt Samantha J. Clarke

119th Services Flight

Seventeen members of the 119th Aircraft Maintenance Group returned to Fargo, N.D. from Balad Air Base, Iraq April 21.

The Hooligan group that deployed to Iraq from mid-February to late April was made up of crew chiefs, avionics technicians, troops from the AIS pod shop and aviation resource management.

The experience was like no other; however, the work wasn't much different from what they had been training for back home. A 119th Wing Hooligan worked as the specialists expediter, the Red Ball crew superintendent, assisted his avionics specialists and also as the avionics flightline element superintendent. He said "FOCUS training and Self-aid and Buddy Care training played a big role when you throw in events like incoming mortars and other situations that you cannot be complaisant about." He went on to say "The work was like an ORI 24/7 with real incoming mortars."

For the crew chiefs the mission was to keep the aircraft in flying condition. The other Hooligans were maintaining the aircraft, radars and compiling training data for pilots. All of them worked 12-hour shifts.

There was a bit of a learning curve going from A-model F-16s to C-models, especially working with targeting pods and camera pods that are rarely used back in the U.S. Seeing the change in roles of fighter jets was a great experience for many. An avionics journeyman, said, "You really see the larger picture over there. One huge thing I noticed was the interaction with the Army and the Air Force. They were our fighters on the ground, going outside the wire. When they needed us, we were there to protect them from the skies."

Hooligans Volunteer while deployed

Story by Tech. Sgt. Thomas R. Lawrence

119th Maintenance Squadron

Many of the deployed 119th Maintenance personnel at Balad Air Force Base, Iraq volunteered at the hospital during their spare time.

My first day as a volunteer at the hospital in Balad was almost short-lived. I hadn't made it over to the pad to do the training required to transport patients, and I don't really have a medical background so finding a place to fit in was kind of hard. After wandering around for about an hour looking for someplace to work I came across a Lt. Col. who was also volunteering in ICU 3. ICU 3 is a ward used for Iraqi military, police, and civilians. It is actually one of the busiest places in the hospital. The wards for American and coalition personnel were fairly vacant in comparison, which is a good thing.

I hung around there for a while and helped with things like folding laundry and restocking supplies. I also helped with the hourly vital checks, running to and from the lab, and getting prescriptions.

My next time back at the hospital went a little smoother than the first day; I went straight to ICU 3. Most of the same people that were there the first day were on shift again, so I started to shadow one of the 'med techs' I met the first time. I helped with tasks that required an extra set of hands when there weren't enough med techs available to help, which is where I felt the most useful. From then on I went straight to ICU 3 when I would get over to the hospital.

I saw some gruesome stuff while I was there; things like gunshot wounds to the head and IED blast wounds that had taken off limbs. One thing that really got to me was the children that came through the hospital. Another thing that sticks out in my mind was an Iraqi civilian that had a leg blown off by an IED. Here was a guy that had the right to be mad about what happened to him, instead he was very appreciative for everything we were doing for him. A couple of the things that I will take away from this experience are the friendships that I made and a new appreciation for the awesome things that medical personnel can do.

A Wing member of the 119th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron changes a nose tire on an F-16 during his deployment to Balad, Iraq Mar. 28.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Joshua A. Vonbank,
119th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron



Right, a mother proudly watches her son drink a cold glass of milk upon his return from Iraq to Hector International Airport May 15. He told his family that cold milk was something he missed from home while he was deployed, so they had a cold glass waiting for him when he returned.



Hooligans returning

Photos and story by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

119th Communications Flight

Happy Hooligans returning to the joyous applause of family and friends has been a common sight lately in various locations around Fargo, N.D. Recent deployments to the middle east have culminated in happy homecomings.

North Dakota Air National Guard members have been coming and going regularly on deployments around the world in support of the global war on terror in numbers



Above, a wing member from the 119th Maintenance Group, shakes hands with unit members from the N.D. Air National Guard H.Q., as he arrives at the NDANG by bus upon his return from deployment to Iraq April 21.



A 119th Wing airman follows his fellow 119th Civil Engineer Squadron members into a sea of well-wishers at Hector International Airport May 15. He was one of six North Dakota Air National Guard members returning from a four month deployment to Iraq.



Airwomen from the North Dakota Air National Guard headquarters, proudly display their Happy Hooligan welcome home sign at Hector International Airport May 15.

ng to cheers of joy

ranging from one to 60 or more since 911. Often times the deploying unit members come and go unnoticed by the public as they slip in and out of town at all hours of the night and day, many times because unit members want it that way for various reasons.

NDANG family program coordinator Jody Harms says, "We haven't always been able to notify the public about returning NDANG members because of the sensitive nature of some of the missions, but we try to show all of them as much appreciation as possible. We always try to provide moral support and education for deployed troops and their family members."

She wants co-workers and family members to know that they can contact the family program to let the organization know how they think returning unit members would like to be welcomed home, as circumstances allow.

Troop homecoming welcomes are always heartwarming, whether it is a few special loved-ones or a mob at the airport. The hope for the person stepping off the plane is that it is just the way that they want it.



An airman from the 119th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, hugs his daughter upon return to the North Dakota Air National Guard after his deployment to Iraq.



A 119th Wing member leads a group of North Dakota Air National Guard Civil Engineer Squadron members into the Hector International Airport terminal upon return from Iraq to salutes from members of the Patriot Guard Riders and cheers from friends and family.

A celebration of courage and heart

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

A special group of people gathered at the Fargo Air Museum in Fargo, N.D. on May 15 to celebrate the 20-year anniversary of a gift of life.

In the morning hours of Dec. 22, 1986 a four-month old boy named Michael McCann lost his life and his parents Steve and Karen made a courageous decision in the midst of their grieving to give the gift of life to another infant by donating their son's heart.

Due to an unlikely chain of events and heroic decisions and acts by many people over the next several hours, it was a North Dakota Air National Guard F-4 Phantom that raced through dark early morning skies to deliver the heart from North Dakota to California, where 5-month old Andrew De La Pena waited desperately for that heart.

In 1986 heart transplants were not common and infant heart transplants were rare. Doctors at the Stanford University Medical Center, Stanford, Cal. told Stephen and Deborah De La Pena 'very emphatically' that the window of time that a heart would be viable for transplant into their young son was four hours. The clock started ticking when a tiny heart was recovered from little Michael McCann at 11:45 p.m. at St. Luke's Hospital (now Merit Care Hospital) in Fargo, N.D.

Dramatic events began to unfold in the frigid winter darkness as one of the engines on a Lear Jet designated to transport the tiny heart failed to start in the early morning hours in Fargo.



Above, retired Maj. Gen. Alexander P. Macdonald, the former North Dakota adjutant general, shakes hands with Col. Robert J. Becklund, 119th Wing commander, as they discuss their actions during the events that happened 20 years earlier.

Below, from left to right, heart recipient Andrew De La Pena, his father and mother Stephen De La Pena and Deborah McCarthy, visit for the first time with heart donor parents Steve and Karen McCann.





From left to right Col. Robert J. Becklund flew the F-4 that delivered the transplant heart, Andrew De La Pena is the heart recipient, and Marguerite E. Brown, RN, MSN, is a member of the team that recovered the heart. Marguerite Brown was the Stanford University Medical Center nurse who handed the little red and white cooler with the tiny heart in it to Col. Becklund as he prepared to speed off into the night in his F-4 to California

Thankfully, one of the transplant team doctors decided to call North Dakota Governor George Sinner for a solution. Then-Governor Sinner now calls it ‘divine intervention’ that he thought of tasking the North Dakota Air National Guard F-4s on 24-hour alert status. He called Maj. Gen. Alexander P. Macdonald, who was the N.D. Adjutant General at the time, and asked for use of the alert aircraft. Retired Maj. Gen. Macdonald says ‘it took him all of 30 seconds to agree to the special flight’ and began the process of having an F-4 released from its NORAD alert commitment.

A few minutes later a phone rang at the alert facility and the pilot on duty, 1st Lt. Robert J. Becklund, answered the call to one of the most unusual missions in his now long and distinguished career which he continues today as a colonel and the 119th Wing commander.

Then-1st Lt. Becklund raced to the waiting F-4 and prepared for the cross-country flight in the two-seat F-4, which he would have to fly solo in order to make room for a little red and white cooler containing the precious cargo of a human heart. He landed at Moffett Naval Air Station, Sunnyvale, Cal., at 6:20 a.m. Pacific time, and now says “I was just the guy on duty that night” and the beauty about the Air National Guard is that “we are available to be called upon by our governors for state and local emergencies and the President for federal disasters or to support the global war on terrorism, and to be called upon by the governor is not an unusual thing. We are called upon quite frequently, we have our assets at their disposal and we are ready for them (the governors) to use them for whatever they need.”

Andrew’s mother, Deborah, recalls being very uneasy about the time it had taken to get the heart to Stanford. It had been more than seven hours since the heart had been recovered by the time it arrived in surgery with the transplant team and she nervously asked the doctors if they had missed their window for success. Dr. Vaughn Starnes, a member of the transplant team, ‘looked her in the eye and said it’s going to work,’ and it did.

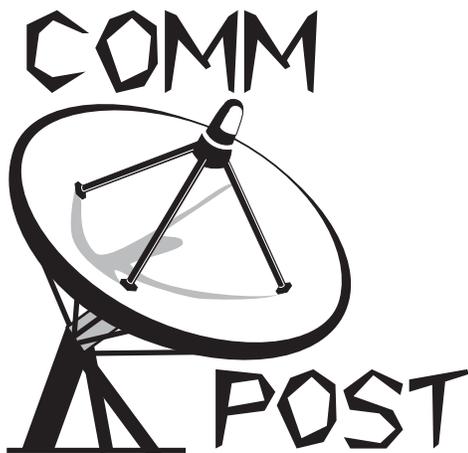
If anyone had done anything less during any step in the process that morning Andrew De La Pena may not be here

today. Andrew is 20 years old and the heart is beating stronger than ever. He was a varsity swimmer at his high school and senior class president as well as countless community service activities and currently attends Loyola University, New Orleans, La, appropriately majoring in drama.

By any standards, he has made good use of the second chance given to him. He says he is grateful to all of the people involved and “there is not a pulse that goes through my veins without appreciating the gift they gave me.”



Former North Dakota governor George Sinner greets Andrew De La Pena at Hector International Airport May 13. Governor Sinner was instrumental in the decision to use a North Dakota Air National Guard F-4 to transport Andrew's new heart after a civilian jet which was originally designated to transport the heart had an engine failure.



Hasta la Vista

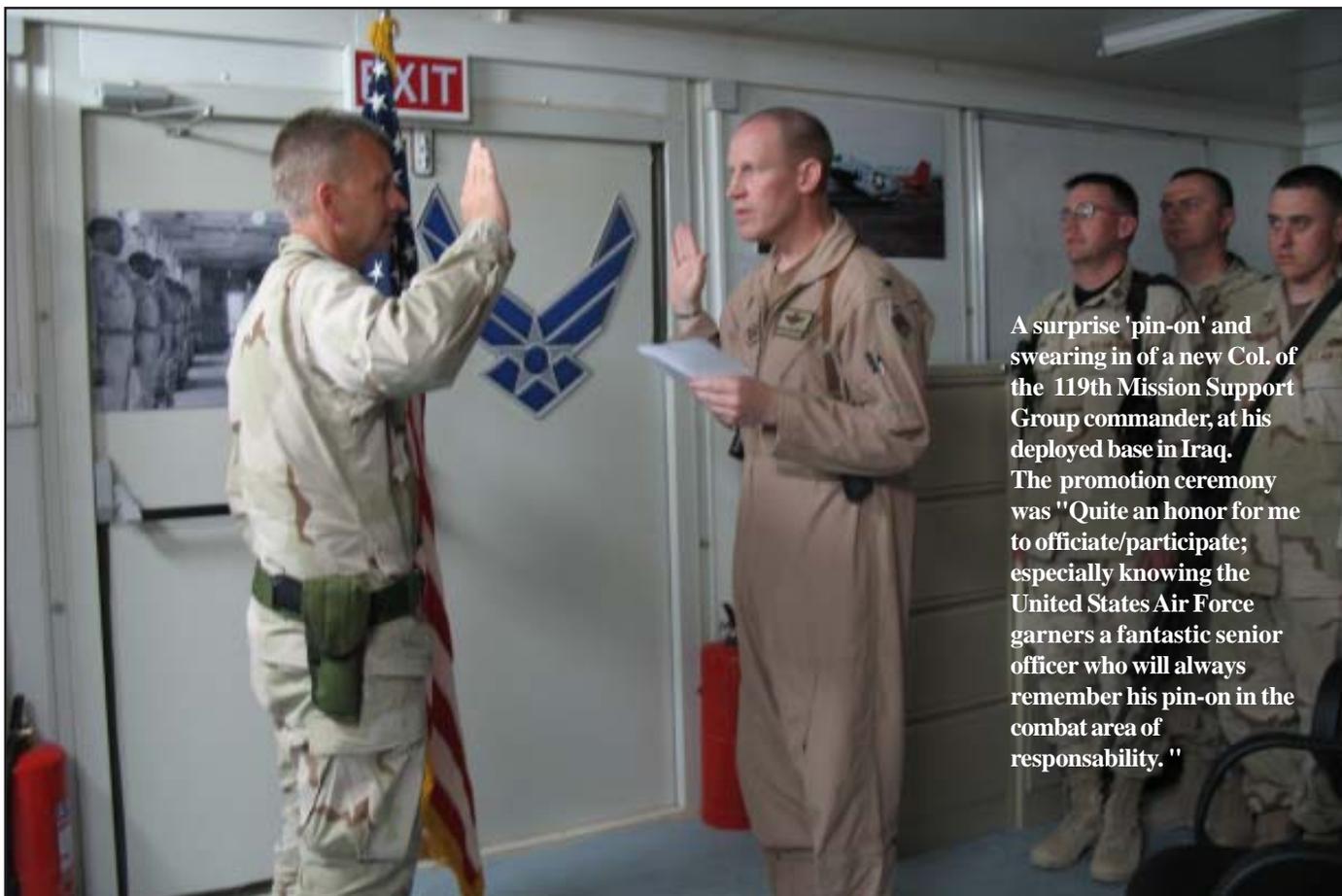
By Master Sgt. John W. Noone (ret.)
119th Communications Flight

“Hasta la Vista” means “See you later”. If I was naming the new flagship operating system my multi-billion dollar company was producing, I wouldn’t have settled on “Vista”. Oh I get the jist of the name. “Vista” is a word meaning “view”, “outlook”, or “prospect”, a first definition being a “view seen through a long narrow passage”. So Microsoft is making a twee connection between “Windows” and “Vista”.

One of the problems with the name is that a lot of people aren’t quite sure how to say it. Is it “veesta” as in “See you later”, or “vista” as in “Hey mista! I like your sistah!”? I hear it both ways. On the “Hi I’m a Mac. And I’m a PC” commercials, I think they say “Vissta” like “sistah” but I enjoy the commercials so much, I always forget to note how they say it.

I really enjoy the “Hi I’m a Mac” commercials. They are spot on. So spot on, that I notice there has been no retaliatory response from Microsoft yet. I mean, what are they gong to do? Say that Vista hasn’t been a disappointment? Say that you won’t need a new video card, more RAM, and that all of your programs and peripherals will work just fine? Personally, I have never used Vista and have only seen it running on the shiny new floor models at Best Buy, which is what Vista is really about in my opinion; selling new PCs. There’s a track record. I have a coupon to get a free upgrade license to put it on the new laptop I bought, but honestly, I am afraid to do it. There are a lot of horror stories out there. Best to wait for the Service Pack, even though Vista wasn’t supposed to have Service Packs.

Vista is coming to your workplace, but there is really no telling when. There is a Vista version of the Standard Desktop Configuration in testing right now. But I wouldn’t be surprised if there were restrictions on the class of machine that SDC will be able to be loaded on, and eventually we will have to upgrade a few machines to get everyone on Vista. But that’s speculation on my part and it is inevitable. Just like the Arnold in “The Terminator”. It’s an irresistible force.



A surprise 'pin-on' and swearing in of a new Col. of the 119th Mission Support Group commander, at his deployed base in Iraq. The promotion ceremony was "Quite an honor for me to officiate/participate; especially knowing the United States Air Force garners a fantastic senior officer who will always remember his pin-on in the combat area of responsibility."

Retirements, Promotions, New Members

119 SVF

Promotions

TSgt Rolph, Amber M.

Retirements

TSgt. Kelly, Joseph M.

119 CES

Promotions

TSgt Rippy, Matthew H.

SSgt Tornell, Adam L. C.

Retirements

MSgt Heise, Christopher A.

119 SFS

Promotions

TSgt Augdahl, Jason E.

TSgt Seguin, Todd P.

SSgt Farder, Audrey L.

SSgt Schroeder, Jonathan H.

New Members

SrA Gaukler, Nathanael D.

SrA Llewellyn, Matt C.

SrA Strehlow, Gemenie J.

119 MDG

Promotions

SMSgt Anders, Michael J.

119 MXG

Promotions

CMSgt Johnson, Bradley V.

Retirements

MSgt Sjoblom, Dorothy J.

119 MXS

Promotions

SMSgt Crabtree, Ronald R.

SMSgt Idso, Joseph P.

MSgt Weis, Gary W.

SSgt Czapiewski, Dustin J.

SSgt Larson, Cody L.

SSgt Loughheed, Michael L.

119 MOF

Retirements

SMSgt Gietzen, Theodore H.

119 CF

Promotions

SSgt Brummer, Amie K.

SSgt Jennen, James R.

SrA Schiele, Kristofer L.

119 LRS

Promotions

MSgt Bakke, Arthur M.

TSgt Anderson, Nathan T.

TSgt Kent, Nathan L.

SSgt Shackelford, Kent D.

Retirements

SMSgt Clarke, Robert J.

MSgt Bollinger, Todd M.

178 FS

Promotions

SMSgt Kensmoe, Tracey R.

119 MSF

Promotions

SSgt Collins, Michael E.

Retirements

MSgt Heise, Monica J.

119 AMS

Promotions

SrA Keck, Robert S.

119 WG

Retirements

MSgt Breidenbach, Scott A.

119 STF

New Members

A1C Logan, Jamal E.

AB Foss, Erik R.

2007 UTA Schedule

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

September 14 - Pork-alo Feed

December 8 - Children's Christmas

June UTA meals

Saturday, June 2

Main Line

Sweet & Sour Chicken

Roast Beef

Egg Rolls

Rice

Stir Fry Vegetables

Chicken Noodle soup

Speed Line

Hamburgers

French fries

Corn on the cob

Assorted Desserts

Sunday, June 3

Main line

BBQ Pork Spare Ribs

Caribbean Jerk Chicken

Baked Potato

Corn

Assorted Desserts

Tomato Soup, Salad Bar

Speed Line

Pizza

French Fries

Green Beans

Retirees' corner

By Chief Master Sgt. Jack Tietgens (ret.),

119th Fighter Wing

There will be a Hooligan reunion/reception at the Auger Inn following the Fargo AirSho 2007. Colonel Becklund and the Auger Inn management are extending quite an effort to make this an enjoyable afternoon and evening. Refreshments and food will be available, including finger food and Harvey Scholl's pork for BBQ sandwiches. This event is open to all retired and active Hooligans and their guests.

An informational e-mail is periodically sent to retirees if an e-mail address is available. Send your e-mail address, or change, to jtietgens@cableone.net to be included in the e-mailing.

Afterburner

JET LETTER

119th WING
North Dakota Air National Guard
1400 28th Ave N
Fargo ND 58102-1051

**Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 103
Bismarck, ND 58501**

TO THE FAMILY OF: