

JET LETTER

North Dakota Air National Guard

October 2007



Phenomenal cleanup effort in Northwood!

JET LETTER

October 2007

Volume 53, Number 8

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

A 119th Wing member removes fallen tree branches and debris from yards in order to clear a path for power line workers in Northwood, N.D., Aug. 28. The fallen trees are a result of an F4 category tornado on the Fujita scale for rating tornado intensity that hit Northwood, N.D., in the early evening hours of Sunday, Aug. 26. See story on pages 6-7.

JET LETTER STAFF

119th WG Commander
Col. Robert J. Becklund

Editorial Staff
Capt. Penny A. Ripperger
Tech. Sgt. Samantha J. Clarke

Layout and Design
Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

Photographic Support
Multimedia Center

Printer
Quality Printing Services
Bismarck, N.D.

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One Guard, one publication

119th Wing/PA Officer

This has been a year of change for the Happy Hooligans of the N.D. Air National Guard. As many unit members adjust to new roles within this organization, the Jet Letter, a publication that has represented the NDANG for decades, will also be changing.

In approximately January of 2008, the Jet Letter and the Straight Arrow (N.D. Army National Guard publication) will be combining to distribute a joint publication. The joint publication will serve as a communication tool for our airman and soldiers who live in this great state.

As airman and soldiers unite on the battlefield, the lines between these two services continue to become more interconnected. A joint publication is a step toward that "joint" goal that our leadership is striving for.

Ideas for the joint publication are still discussed and researched. The tentative plans that we have in place thus far is that it will be a monthly publication, in a glossy, full-color magazine format, and it will be approximately 20-24 pages.

Even though the Army has a larger presence in our state, the contributions and accomplishments of the Happy Hooligans will be fully represented in the joint publication. Our Adjutant General, Maj.Gen. David A. Sprynczynatyk has made it very clear that the Happy Hooligans will not lose their identity in this new publication.

Focus groups consisting of airman, soldiers and retirees are meeting to help design this new publication. Earlier this month, a contest to name the publication was released with a deadline of Oct 1st. The new name of the joint publication will be announced soon!

As with any drastic change, there may be bumps in the road. This new publication will be a moving and breathing magazine and we may need to adjust it a few times until we get it right. In the end, I am confident that the joint publication will become something that we will all be proud of.

The mission statement of the new joint publication: The "joint publication" is published to provide command information for N.D. Army and Air National Guard Soldiers, Airmen, families and retirees, to educate Guardsmen about benefits and services offered within their organizations, to inform the State about unit missions and deployments and to promote a cohesive Guard community.



Bulletin briefs

Basic Leadership Training and Leadership Development Course available for airmen.

BLT and LDC is an excellent training opportunity open to all airmen in the NDANG. BLT course dates:

Oct. 13-14 in Bismarck at the Comfort Inn & Conference Center

Nov. 17-18 in Fargo at the Armed Forces Reserve Center (UTA Weekend)

LDC dates:

Nov. 26 – Dec. 7 at Camp Grafton, Devils Lake, N.D.

Department of Veterans Affairs suicide prevention hot-line established

To ensure veterans with emotional crises have around-the-clock access to trained mental health professionals, the VA has begun operation of a national suicide prevention hot line.

The toll-free hot line number is 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

2008 Outstanding Airman of the Year Banquet

Mark your calendars and get your uniforms ready because the OAY Banquet will be here before you know it. OAY 2008 is scheduled for Jan. 12 at the Moorhead Marriott. Contact your first sergeant for ticket information.

Food Service Survey

We want your opinion! The goal of the Services Flight is to provide customers with quality food, prompt courteous service, and a pleasant dining environment. You can help us accomplish this goal by answering questions to our survey on the SharePoint site. Just go to the following link:

<https://sharepoint.ndfarg.af.mil/services/>

The location of the survey on the left-hand side and at the bottom of the main page. We appreciate any comments that you can give us!

Annual Officer's Holiday Celebration

The officer party will take place Nov. 16, 2007 at 7p.m. at the Auger Inn. All officers past and present and their guests are invited.

Hooligans host town hall meeting with Lt. Gen. McKinley and staff

By Capt. Penny A. Ripperger

119th Wing / PA officer

Twenty-five members from the National Guard Bureau had the opportunity to not only meet the Happy Hooligans, but to also observe first-hand what makes the 119th Wing a successful organization.

Lt. Gen. Craig R. McKinley, Director of the Air National Guard and members from each NGB A-Staff visited the 119th Wing Sept. 8-9. The purpose of the visit was to give unit members the opportunity to meet with NGB A-staff members to discuss issues affecting the unit.

“You can’t ask for much more than being able to sit down with those who wield the most influence and talk about the things you deal with everyday, both good and bad,” said Lt.Col. Nathan W. Erstad, 119th Wing comptroller. “I thought it was great that our members had the opportunity to discuss pressing issues with the Director of Finance. Hopefully he’ll have a better understanding of what we experience at a unit level and the effect that their policies, directives and systems have on those who work in the field.”



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

Lt. Gen. Craig R. McKinley Director of the Air National Guard, stage right, speaks with North Dakota Air National Guard unit members in a town hall style forum Sep. 9.

Unit members also had the opportunity to address questions at a base-wide town hall meeting held in the 119th hangar Sunday afternoon.

Today is a special day because it’s an honor to have these guests spend some time with us and to learn a little more about what is going on in the field. The 119th Wing has had a chance to show who they are, what they do and most importantly, why they succeed in each and every mission they undertake, said Maj.Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. Adjutant General in his opening remarks at the town hall meeting.

The 119th Wing is the sixth unit that McKinley and his staff have visited in their efforts to better understand the needs and answer questions of units going through conversions.

“The whole nation is going through transition, going through change, but all of them are doing it very well and you know why? Because of units like the 119th who have already led the way,” said McKinley. “Col Becklund never said no, he never said slow down. He led this unit through the transition, and from what I’ve seen today, we couldn’t be more proud with the results.”

The town hall meeting opened up into an interactive question and answer period for unit members. Questions ranging from C-21 equipment issues, to concerns over required auxiliary training were addressed by McKinley or a subject matter expert within the NGB A-Staff.

“What’s next for the 119th? You’ve had a great history, a great legacy. I look around this 119th hangar that I’ve visited many times. I look at the accident free flying hours, the William Tell and Hughes trophies. I am so very proud to be back here in Fargo to see that nothing has changed; it’s only getting better,” said McKinley.

To watch the taped version of the town hall meeting, go to the multimedia Sharepoint site/videos/all new/town hall.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Bradley A. Schneider, 119th Wing

A-staff member Col. James Wilson steps up to the microphone to address Hooligan concerns.

Health insurance is now available for traditional guard members

By Master Sgt. Barbara J. Anderson

119th Mission Support Flight

Perhaps the biggest benefit to date is being offered to the Reserve Component. Effective October 1, 2007, every RC service member in drilling status who is not eligible for the Federal Employee Health Benefit Program is eligible to purchase TRICARE Reserve Select for a low monthly premium!

TRS is a full, comprehensive health care plan available to the military. The premium for a service member to purchase TRICARE Reserve Select will be only \$81 a month. If a service member wished to include his or her family, it will only be \$253 a month.

TRICARE Reserve Select is an excellent health care plan which offers comprehensive medical care and does not cease when you travel. Visit www.triwest.com "Guard and Reserve" for more benefit information. TRICARE Reserve Select follows all the same rules as TRICARE Standard/Extra.

Beginning October 1, 2007, there will be a continuous open season. Members can elect coverage on the first of the

following month or on the day of a qualifying life event (marriage, birth of a child, basically any change in family composition). If a member is on active duty for more than 30 days, you are covered by a different TRICARE plan at no cost, and TRICARE Reserve Select will be terminated, you can then re-enroll in TRS at the end of your tour.

To enroll in TRICARE Reserve Select send in a DD Form 2896-1 by entering the Guard and Reserve Portal (<https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/esgr/index.jsp>). Enter the TRICARE Reserve Select logo on the left, and access the applicable link in the top box. You will need your to enter your DFAS PIN (MyPay PIN), certify that you are not eligible for FEHBP, (MPF suggests choosing continuously open enrollment), and fill out the information and elect persons in your family you wish to have covered. Print and send in the form with your elected form of payment.

If there are any questions about this program or how to access it please contact Master Sgt. Barbara J. Anderson. Also, if you are in need of health care prior to October 1, 2007, contact Sgt. Anderson regarding your eligibility.

Augmentees train with Security Forces at Camp Grafton

A 119th Wing Security Forces augmentee experiences the thrill of firing the M240 Bravo on full auto during her recent deployment with the 119th Security Forces Squadron at Camp Grafton, N.D. Aug. 15. Senior Airman Johnson is one of several augmentees to travel to Camp Grafton to participate in the security forces exercise activities.

"All wing personnel who deployed with us to Camp Grafton were outstanding. These individuals jumped in right from the start, accepted the tasks given to them and never missed a beat during the entire process. " says Chief Master Sgt. James E. Gibson, 119th Security Forces manager.



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

North Dakota National Guard responds to

Story and photos by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

119th Wing

The school mascot in Northwood, N.D. is the ‘Thunder’, and in the early evening hours around 8:45 p.m. on Aug. 26 a tornado brought a thunder like no other, ripping through the N.D. town of about 900 people.

The tornado that wreaked havoc with the trees, buildings and homes in the close-knit rural community was no ordinary summer twister; it was an F4 category tornado on the Fujita scale for rating tornado intensity. The killer tornado, measuring eight-tenths of a mile wide and 5 miles long, is responsible for taking the life of one man and sending 19 more to local hospitals.

“I still can’t find my garage and it’s been four days. Where does a snow blower go?” said Tech. Sgt. Chad C. Peterson, 119th Civil Engineer Squadron, who was one of the residents who weathered the storm better than his home, which is considered a total loss by his insurance adjuster.

Peterson is the human relations director and works with information technology and emergency management for the Northwood Deaconess Health Center in his civilian job, which is the largest employer in Northwood. The health center is also the place where he and his family rode out the tornado, assisting patients along the way.

His military training in emergency management kicked in when the tornado hit as he directed people into hallways and had them get down and cover their heads. Exterior doors blew open and the ceiling tiles lifted up and came crashing down around them along with glass from the windows.

The damage in the town is among the worst seen throughout state history and is estimated by the Red Cross to be somewhere



A member of the 119th Wing stands among the debris in his yard in Northwood, N.D., Aug. 28

between \$38 to 59 million. 431 of Northwood’s 460 homes were destroyed, damaged or affected by the tornado.

“I’ve never seen destruction like this before,” said Capt. Penny A. Ripperger, 119th Wing public affairs officer. “You see pictures, but to walk through a town where literally every house seems to be touched by this disastrous storm is unbelievable.”

Within the first 15 hours after the tornado hit, 40 N.D. Army National Guard members were driving heavy equipment into town to begin clearing streets of debris and helping the residents begin the process of getting back into their homes.

“This is what we do,” said Army Lt. Col. Lee Nordin, operations officer for the 141st Combat Support Battalion, who was one of the first to respond as the on-scene commander, “We’re here to support the Governor and the emergency management people in their efforts in the event of emergencies and natural disasters.”

More N.D. Army and Air National Guard personnel continued to trickle in over the course of the next few days and seamlessly fit into the recovery efforts.

“Military personnel were working around the clock in every aspect of the recovery effort. Soldiers and airmen were busy operating chainsaws and heavy equipment to remove debris and clear trees and branches. They were providing security in and out of the city and they were working closely with city officials and volunteer agencies,” said Ripperger.

By 2 p.m. Tuesday, only 24 hours after they began arriving, the National Guard members had helped remove and haul approximately 700 dump truck loads of debris to the landfill five miles west of Northwood.

The removal of the debris made it possible for



A 119th Wing Senior Airman of the 119th Logistics Readiness Squadron, directs dump truck traffic at the landfill five miles west of Northwood which is being used to deposit debris from the tornado that hit Aug. 26.

Northwood tornado

electrical technicians to work on getting power restored, which had been down since the tornado hit Sunday night.

“The soldiers and airmen of the North Dakota National Guard are doing an outstanding job assisting the residents of Northwood in their recovery efforts,” said Governor John Hoeven. “The mission in Northwood highlights the dual role of our citizen soldiers in defending our nation and assisting our state in a disaster.”

“The soldiers and airmen of the N.D. National Guard continue to serve their country from around the globe and here at home. Nearly 100 Guardsmen volunteered to help their neighbors with the recovery effort in the Northwood community,” said Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, Adjutant General, N.D. National Guard. “This is just one of the many contributions our Guardsmen continue to make.”

Sprynczynatyk was quick to add that he was pleased with the support provided by the employers of N.D. National Guard service members.

“I would like to thank the employers for their commitment and sacrifice in giving our soldiers and airmen time to serve. It is critical that our Guardsmen are able to deploy in an effective and timely manner to aid our communities in times of need as demonstrated here in Northwood.”

“The National Guard has done a phenomenal job assisting the locals with manpower, equipment and security. I can’t say enough good things about them,” said Tom Bush, a FEMA region 8 team member working in the disaster command post. “The volunteerism here is off the chart. When you guys come together it is something to behold.”



119th Wing personnel work in the mobile command post on the outskirts of Northwood, N.D. Aug. 28



119th Wing members remove fallen tree branches and debris from yards in order to clear a path for power line workers in Northwood, N.D. Aug. 28.

Below, a 119th Wing videographer in the 119th Wing, is dwarfed by the huge trees knocked down by the Northwood tornado as he documents storm damage on videotape Aug. 28.



Hooligans play on, despite the rain

North Dakota Air National Guard members take a day to build esprit de corp through competitive activities during Hooligan Day, which was held on Saturday of unit training assembly Sep. 8.

Right, A member of the 119th Security Forces Squadron, catches a football during the Flickerball contest.

Below, the 119th Security Forces commander accepts the Hooligan Day Commander's Cup from Col. Robert J. Becklund, the 119th Wing commander.



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



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

Hooligan life savers recognized at EANGUS conference

Two 119th Wing Hooligans are awarded The EANGUS Heroism Medal for their lifesaving actions of pulling a man from the water while ice fishing this past winter. The pair of life savers have also recently been awarded the Valley Forge Cross by the National Guard Association of the United States.



Photo by 1st Lt. Tiffany Beasley, Army National Guard

Meet the chiefs

119th Communications Flight

You can help prevent suicide

By Maj. Tamie Gerntholz, RN,

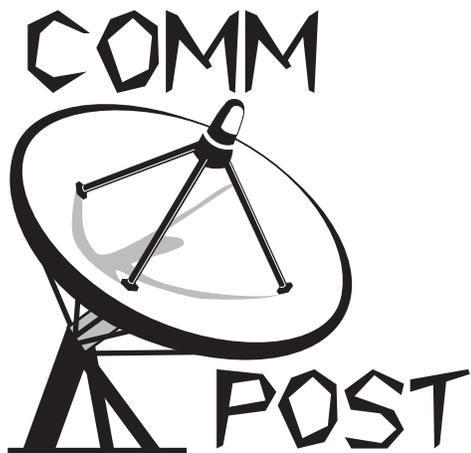
119th Medical Group

In any given year in the United States, approximately 30,000 individuals die by their own hands and thousands more attempt suicide. Suicide is the 11th leading cause of death among adults and is the third leading cause of death among the country's young people. In North Dakota, suicide is the second leading cause of death (behind unintentional injury) among adolescents and young adults ages 15 – 24.

Each of us can help prevent suicide through educating ourselves and others about the warning signs of suicide.

- * Visible changes in behavior, physical condition, thoughts, or feelings such as withdrawal, isolation, or loss of interest in social interaction
- * Decreased interest in usual activities or hobbies
- * Increased risk-taking behaviors, recklessness, or aggressiveness
- * Increased use of alcohol or drugs
- * Crying easily
- * Abrupt changes in appearance
- * Recent weight or appetite change
- * Change in sleep patterns
- * Exhaustion, extreme drowsiness
- * Inability to concentrate or think rationally
- * Exaggerated fears, extreme anxiety, or depression
- * Low self-esteem
- * Hopelessness or helplessness
- * Increased irritability or anger, mood swings or withdrawal from communication
- * Stress from difficult situations including the inability to cope with loss (such as divorce, breaking up with a boy/girlfriend, loss of a job, death of a loved one)
- * Feelings of worthlessness
- * A victim mentality caused by physical, sexual or emotional abuse
- * Prior history of attempted suicide
- * Writings about suicide (poems, stories, etc.)
- * Indirect threats ("I wish I was dead.") or direct threats ("I'm going to kill myself.")
- * Preoccupation with death including:
 1. Talking about death or compulsively thinking about and longing for a dead person
 2. Making final arrangements (writing a will, talking about their funeral, etc.)
 3. Giving away prized possessions
 4. Creating artwork or writing or listening to music about death/dying

If you are concerned about someone who is demonstrating any of these behaviors, ask questions to determine if they are in immediate danger and get help if needed. A suicidal person should see a doctor or mental health professional immediately. Calling 911 or going to a hospital emergency room are also valid options. Always take thoughts of or plans for suicide seriously. For more information on depression and suicide contact the 119th Wing Chaplains office or Maj. Tamie Gerntholz, RN, health promotion manager at (701) 451-2628.



A real 'killer app'

By Master Sgt. John W. Noone (ret.)
North Dakota Air National Guard

Lately, I have been lamenting that we don't know what the Next Big Thing is, or that there hasn't been a Big Thing lately. My last comment was that sometimes we don't know what it is until we are doing it. Since then, it has occurred to me that, in fact, there is a Big Thing upon us, only I didn't know it, partially because I'm not doing it. In my opinion the current Big Thing is: text messaging via cell phone. The reality is that this is done almost exclusively by teenagers and young adults. I live with a teenager, and he'll probably get mad at me for saying so, but because of the demographic we are looking at, and the typical content of text messaging, I believe texting is done mostly by people who believe they have nothing better to do, as it most typically serves no real

practical purpose. It is basically a form of frivolous self-indulgent socializing (or anti-social) entertainment. To top it off, it is terribly addicting. Some reports say to a brain chemistry altering degree, even causing withdrawal symptoms in some cases where it is taken away.

There are some professional adults who are addicted to their "Crackberry" for e-mails, but at least that's e-mail. Texting is mostly a sequence of abbreviated slang conveying gossip, quips and put downs.

You want to talk about a "killer app?" A killer application is some software or utility whose functionality makes it essential to own the appliance that one would need in order to run the software. In text messaging we have a literal killer app in that teens and young adults are doing it while they drive, with deadly results. There has been a recent scourge of motor vehicle accidents involving teens driving and texting resulting in death. As I write this on September 14, 2007, Arnold "The Governor" out in Collie-four-knee-yuh" is signing a bill into state law banning 16 and 17 year olds from using any non-integral electronic device while driving. This law will go into effect July 1, along with a law prohibiting anyone from using a hand-held cell phone while they drive.

The Governor's message to teens: "I told my daughters, 'I'll get you the car. I'll get you the cell phone. But if I see you one time using both at the same time – both of them are gone. The car will be gone for a long time, and the phone will be gone for a long time, and you go to school with the bus. ' Start that right now. You could lose your life, or you could go out there and cause a lot of damage to other people's vehicles and lives. So take that really seriously."

Words to live by.

I think, and hope, text messaging will probably fade away as a fad soon, then again, I felt the same thing about rap music back in 1989.

Annual Retirees Breakfast set for Nov. 7

A 119th Wing Chief Master Sgt. serves breakfast at the annual North Dakota Air National Guard retirees breakfast held in the Aerospace Dining Facility Nov. 1, 2006.

This year the annual NDANG retirees' breakfast will be held Wednesday, November 7, 2007, at the Aerospace Dining Facility.

A retired Senior Master Sgt. is seated to the Chief Master Sgt.'s left. The NDANG Chiefs' Council is sponsoring this annual event, which will begin at 7 a.m.

The menu will include: ham and egg bake, fruit, English muffins, coffee, orange juice, milk and water.

All North Dakota Air National Guard retirees are invited to attend free of charge.



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

Retirements, Promotions, New Members

119 AMS

Promotions

SSgt Lesmeister, Jesse E.
SrA Johnson, Taylor S.
SrA Svenkerud, Nathan E.

119 CES

Promotions

SrA Anderson, Brett S.
SrA Dewar, Jason L.
SrA Dodds, Chad A.

New Member

A1C Parra, Lance G.

119 FM

Retirements

MSgt, Vancleave, David M.

119 LRS

Retirement

MSgt Abernathy, Bryan D.

119 MDG

Promotions

TSgt Guertin, Shannon D.
TSgt Tischer, Lindsey L.

119 MOF

Promotions

TSgt Greenwood, Crystal R.

119 OSF

Promotions

TSgt Mahlum, Julie A.
New Member
SrA Gehrtz, Monte J.

119 SFS

New Member

A1C Gylland, Jens K.
A1C Nygaard, Lamar T.
AB Gylland, Anders N.

119 SFS- Det 2

New Member

A1C Beckner, Shane D.

178 FS

Promotions

SSgt Decoteau, Kristal L.

119 HQ

Promotions

TSgt France, Marcelino S.

JFHQ

Retirements

CMSgt Eckholm, Dallas W.

2007 UTA Schedule

October 6-7
November 17-18
December 1-2

Family program



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 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week by telephone at 800-342-9647.

2007 Auger Inn Events

November 16 - Officer Christmas Party
December 8 - Children's Christmas Party

Retirees' corner

By Chief Master Sgt. Jack Tietgens (ret.)

North Dakota Air National Guard

The 2007 NDNG Annual Retirees' Weekend at Camp Grafton was an absolute success. Attendance increased dramatically over the 2006 event. Many activities were scheduled for the enjoyment of everyone, yet a casual atmosphere prevailed. Highlight the dates on your calendar for the 2008 festivities!

The Fargo-Moorhead area Happy Hooligans host the monthly breakfast at 7 a.m. at the Valley Kitchen in Fargo (I-29 & Main Ave) on Wednesday, October 3.

On Wednesday, October 10, the semiannual WSO Reunion will be at the Auger Inn, located in the 119th Aerospace Dining Facility, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 20 is the date of the bimonthly breakfast at the Detroit Lakes Holiday Inn, sponsored by the Detroit Lakes area Happy Hooligans. Social time begins at 8 a.m. followed by breakfast served off the menu.

Wednesday, November 7 is the highlight of the year, the NDANG Annual Retirees' Breakfast at the 119th Wing Dining Facility. Doors open at 7 a.m.

Do you have any questions or comments about the **JET LETTER?**

Do you have a story idea or are you interested in writing an article? Contact us!

Visit the updated Hooligan public website at <http://ndfarg.ang.af.mil> and e-mail penny.ripperger@ndfarg.ang.af.mil with comments or suggestions.

You can reach the 119th Public Affairs officer Capt. Penny A. Ripperger by e-mail at penny.ripperger@ndfarg.ang.af.mil or call (701) 451-2195.

Afterburner



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

A retired Chief Master Sgt. of the 119th Wing, center in Air Force cap, one of the original Happy Hooligans, returns on the Honor Flight as he deplanes at Hector International Airport Sep. 8.

The Honor Flight is a non-profit organization that flies America's veterans to Washington D.C. to visit memorials created in honor of their sacrifices.

Maj. Allen Albright, 119th Wing, escorted his father, a WWII veteran, in the latest honor flight that departed from Fargo, N.D. "I talked to dozens of the veterans over the two days. I was most surprised, not by stories from events of years gone by, but by how deeply troubled they were that the lessons they learned at such a high cost seem to be forgotten by younger generations now. One 80-something female veteran who had been a nurse during the war said it best, 'All this stone and marble; I finally feel like there is something here that will remind people forever of what really happened.'"

JET LETTER

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