



Above: Spc. Noah Vanvoorhis embraces a loved one upon his return to North Dakota. Left: Scharlotta Hermanson, Michael Hermanson's mother welcomes home Spc. Steven Clark. Hermanson was killed in action while the unit was deployed. Below: Staff Sgt. Travice Tesky and his daughter celebrate his return home.



Welcome home

*Photos by CW3 Kiel Skager,
Joint Force Headquarters and
Story by Master Sgt. Rob Keller,
Joint Force Headquarters*

The day marked the long-awaited reunion that families, loved ones and North Dakotans have been looking forward to for more than a year. On Friday, Nov. 10, approximately 122 Soldiers from Company A, 164th Engineer Battalion, North Dakota Army National Guard returned home to Minot. The Soldiers arrived at the Minot International Airport on a chartered commercial carrier, and were bused to the Minot Armed Forces Reserve Center (MAFRC) to be reunited with their families.



Left: Soldiers were greeted with a 'thank you' sign for their hard work while deployed. Above: Family and friends hold a sign to greet returning Soldiers. Right: Spc. Erik Lindborg is greeted by friends gathered to welcome home the unit.



Guard celebrates 370 years – or 18 generations of lifers

When viewed as a series of 20-year enlistments, the Guard today is mid-way through it's 19th "re-up." Throughout it all, the Guard has proven that it's "Always Ready, Always There."

(Editor's note: The North Dakota Army National Guard was formed when North Dakota became a state on Nov. 2, 1889. The North Dakota Army National Guard is 117 years old.)

By Tech. Sgt. Mike R. Smith,
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. – What is a few years younger than the Mayflower Compact (1620); a lot older than the Declaration of Independence (1776) and U.S. Constitution (1787); predates the U.S. Army, Navy and Marine Corps by 139 years; and is 311 years older than the Air Force?

Answer: The National Guard.

Known originally as the militia, the National Guard turned 370 years young Dec. 13.

It all started in 1636 when the General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, which functioned as the colony's legislature, ordered existing militia companies from the

towns surrounding Boston to form into three regiments: North, South and East.

While other English colonies like Virginia and Spanish colonies like Florida and Puerto Rico had individual towns with militia companies before 1636, Massachusetts was the first place in the New World where the population was large enough to

justify organizing companies into regiments for command and control. These regiments became a kind of military "family" for members. Although their names have been changed and individual companies have come and gone, the three regiments still exist in the Massachusetts National Guard. In retrospect, a string of 20-year career enlistments divides the Guard's life span into more than 18 "generations." The differences between generation one and 18 are countless. Yet, even as the National Guard has transformed many times, it remains in line with its first role as the citizens' Army; and, for the last three generations, the citizens' Air Force.

The American colonies adopted the English

militia system, which obligated all males to possess arms and participate in the defense of the community. This early militia enforced local laws and battled Britain's enemies in America. Now, a force of more than 450,000 men and women serve voluntarily and can be deployed anywhere in the world.

The continued existence of the colonial militia was ratified by the Founding Fathers in the Constitution. Since then, Congress has enacted several militia and defense acts to strengthen the National Guard. The first of these laws, passed in 1792, governed the militia for the first 111 years of the country's existence.

The Militia Act of 1903 created the modern National Guard and affirmed the National Guard as the nation's primary organized reserve force. The National Defense Act of 1947 established the Air National Guard under the National Guard Bureau.

In 370 years and more than eighteen 20-year enlistments, the weapons and technology have changed drastically, but the Guard's contribution to the nation's defense has

remained paramount.

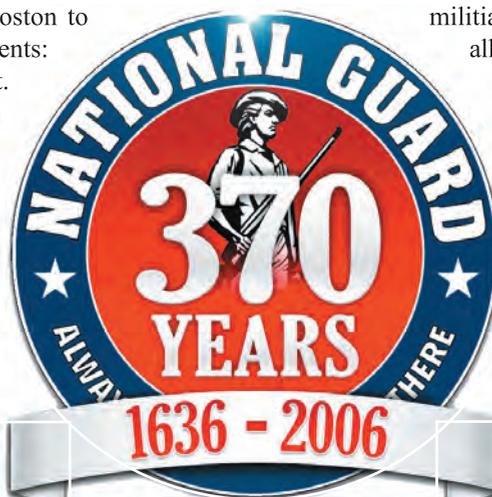
Generation seven rallied to battle the British at Lexington and Concord. Generation 11 faced off, brother against brother, in the Civil War. Generation 13 "Remembered the Maine" during the Spanish-American War. Generation 15 was already on duty when Pearl Harbor was attacked. Generation 18 will never forget and is still responding to 9/11.

In 1636, the militia's primary firearm was the crude matchlock musket which could take 56 steps to load and fire. Nearly one-third of militia Soldiers carried only a long pole, or pike, into combat. Today, the Guard's small-arms arsenal includes M-16 and M-4 rifles, and the Squad Automatic Weapon which fires 750 rounds per minute.

Our colonial ancestors could not have imagined much of what their descendants can use in combat today – jet fighters, tanks, satellite radios, laser-guided munitions, global positioning systems, rocket artillery, and countless other high-tech devices.

Now, after 370 years, what does the future hold for this always ready and reliable force?

Future National Guard generations will continue to employ all of the modern technology at its disposal at home and abroad. At the core, however, today's National Guard members and yesterday's Minutemen remain the same person: citizens with the conviction that their military service is required to make their communities a safer and better place.



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■ Printed by United Printing, a private firm in no way connected to the U.S. Government under exclusive written contract with the JFND. Reproduction is by the offset method with a circulation of 5,000.

■ The *Straight Arrow* is published by the JFND Public Affairs Office, Box 5511, Bismarck, N.D., 58506-5511, (701) 333-2129.

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Video messaging creates link home

AKO video messaging (vidi-talk) allows all deployed soldiers to create video messages on a computer with a webcam. The message is then stored on a server and sent to the recipient or recipients via a link.

Upon opening an e-mail, the user clicks on the link to get streaming video and sound.

The video-streaming software allows a soldier to hear and view video e-mail even in limited bandwidth environments, but the link can be accessed any time from anywhere.

Instructions are on a link on their AKO home page.

In the past, a soldier's family had to travel to a designated computer at a Family Assistance Center (FAC) in order to send a video to their loved one.

Just recently, DA (Department of the Army) purchased an enterprise license to allow families and soldiers to communicate more effectively.

Now, families with an AKO account can send video e-mails from home using a personal computer and a webcam. This will help geographically separated families, not having coordinate times and travel to a specific armory to stay close with their loved ones.

For those families that do not have the required technology, they still can use the established webcams at the Family Assistance Centers located throughout the major North Dakota armories.

AKO ARMY KNOWLEDGE ONLINE

Video Messaging Allows You and Your Family to Stay Visually Connected

The new VIDEO MESSAGING service called **VIDITalk** is now available for deployed soldiers and their families.

VIDITalk

- Recorded on PCs and sent back and forth through your AKO email
- Better than email, it's VIDEO email
- Messages stay in your email inbox until they are opened and viewed
- Once the recipient opens the email and clicks on the link, the video streams in full motion & sound
- The time difference doesn't matter -- watch the VIDI anytime!
- Families can send VIDITalk messages directly from their home PCs or Internet cafes
- When sending video messages, you will need to enter your AKO email address as the "From" address

VIEW DEMO **SEND A VIDEO MESSAGE** **LEARN MORE**

HOW TO FIND A WEBCAM

VIDIs are GREAT for ...

- Sending birthday and holiday greetings
- Sending messages from the children
- Sharing the details of everyday life
- Keeping in touch with family and friends

1-188th Air Defense Artillery (RAID) trains in Texas

Photo and story by Spc. Hope L. Boschee, 188th Air Defense Artillery (ADA) Rapid Aerostat Initial Deployment (RAID)

Ft. Hood, Texas – On Monday, Nov. 27, thirty-nine Soldiers of the Grand Forks based 1st Battalion, 188th Air Defense Artillery (ADA) Rapid Aerostat Initial Deployment (RAID) arrived at Ft. Hood, Texas (Killeen). The unit will train here until their eventual deployment to Afghanistan where they are scheduled to replace another N.D. Army National Guard unit, the 1-188th Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Defense Elevated Netted Sensor (JLENS).

Upon arriving on post, the Soldiers were kept busy gathering luggage and getting settled into their quarters. For the first couple of days, the Soldiers attended mandatory briefings, medical screenings, and also some intense training.

On Dec. 1, the 1-188th RAID started their Warrior Task Training (WTT), which consisted of eight different training stations that each team had to go through. Most Soldiers said that station five was the hardest and the most intense. At this station, Soldiers navigated over and under wire, around buildings, and also threw grenades. This station took each team approximately 25 minutes to complete.

When the WTT was completed on Saturday morning, the Soldiers had a little free time and were able to do laundry, finish getting settled in, venture down to the Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) facility where Soldiers are able to use the Internet, watch TV and even shoot some pool.

As a new week of training began, Soldiers from the 1-188th RAID have gone through pre-marksanship inspections on different weapon systems, combative, qualifying and conducting night firing with the M-16 and M-9 weapons, as well as training in “close quarters” combat.



All 39 members of the 1st Battalion, 188th Air Defense Artillery take time to pose at North Fort Hood, Texas.



Photo by SSG Mike Hagburg

Above: The 188th Army Band jazz band plays at Lichterfest in Schwetzingen, Germany. Below: CW4 William Franke conducts the 188th Army Band during a change-of-command ceremony at Kaiserslautern, Germany.

Band gains active duty experience on deployment

By Staff Sgt. Mike Hagburg, 188th Army Band

When they first stepped off the bus at Tompkins Barracks in Schwetzingen, Germany, the Soldiers of the 188th Army Band didn't know what to expect: most had never been to Europe and the band had not deployed overseas since 1990.

What the band found in Germany was two weeks of non-stop, real-world training that raised the band's standards of performance and gave it new unity as a musical and military unit. The band was sent to Germany to fill-in for the active duty U.S. Army Europe Band, whose members were taking summer leave.

Staff Sgt. Brad Reed said the deployment gave the band the opportunity “to show that we are a great band and that we can become better by being sent to replace an active duty band.”

The band arrived in Germany July 10 and its first assignment was to march in a change-of-command ceremony July 11 at the Army's Grafenwohr training center near the Czech border. The ceremony, held outdoors in 90-degree heat, was a challenge for the band.

“The jet lag and heat combination along with the nerves of doing our first change-of-command did not make for optimum playing conditions,” said Sgt. Kate Naujokas.

The Grafenwohr ceremony was the first of seven change-of-command ceremony assignments that took the band over the roads central Germany to Army posts in Kaiserslautern, Pirmasens, Heidelberg, Schweinfurt and Mannheim. “All the change-of-command ceremonies were hard because we're just not used to doing them,” said Sgt. Teri Ruff. “But we worked hard and they got better so it was rather rewarding.”

Because of the time spent performing and training for change-of-command ceremonies, the marching band became “one of our most improved groups,” said Sgt. 1st Class Don Nagle, one of the band's music directors.

“We gained a marching band that learned to work as a unit,” said Staff Sgt. Jeff Pfingsten, the band's chief drum major. “We learned a lot about ourselves and what we are capable of achieving. I hope we maintain the skills that we developed from this experience and improve them even further.”

Away from ceremonies, the band had a chance to show off its other musical skills in front of German crowds at local music festivals in Spessart and Waghäusel. At the Lichter Fest in Schwetzingen, the band played for a crowd of more than 20,000 people.

“I enjoyed playing the festival gigs,” said Nagle. “They had an air of small-town celebration to them. The people attending wanted to enjoy and be entertained.”

At one festival, Sgt. Hugh Grindberg saw an 88-year-old woman in a wheelchair clapping along with the crowd as the band's Blues in Green ensemble belted out a loud rock tune.

“From the 12-year-olds dancing up by the stage to that 88-year-old woman, the crowd was very appreciative,” said Grindberg. “The image of that woman clapping along with the music will stay with me for a long time.”



Photo by Pvt. 1st Class Matt Black

G-RAP

G-RAP eNews

Total Recruiting Assistants	1454 (\$72,700)
Inactivated/Mobilized RAs	-152
Active Recruiting Assistants	1302
% of Eligible Soldiers	56.1%
Retirees Enrolled	4
Current Leads (Active)	388
NPS Enlistments (\$1000)	290
PS Enlistments (\$1000)	58
Total Enlistments	348 (\$348,000)
NPS Shipped to BCT (\$1000)	156
PS Complete 4 mo. (\$1000)	35
	191 (\$191,000)
Total Paid Out to NDARNG Soldiers:	\$611,700

As of December 4, 2006, North Dakota Army National Guard soldiers have earned \$611,700 through G-RAP. This has all been earned since December 2005 when the program was kicked off in North Dakota. North Dakota was chosen by the National Guard Bureau as one of five pilot states to test the program.

North Dakota currently has 1,302 active Guard Recruiting Assistants. The top Guard Recruiting Assistant (RA) in the state is still PFC Tyler Jevne with six enlistments totaling \$12,000 that will be paid out to him upon his enlistments shipping. PFC Jevne is currently part of the Devils Lake Recruit Training Company (RTC). The top unit in the North Dakota Army National Guard is the RTC with 118 enlistments (as of November 1, 2006).

Every Soldier a Recruiter (ESAR) Bonus has Doubled

The ESAR bonus has been upped from \$1,000 per enlistment to \$2,000 per enlistment.

ESAR is the pilot referral bonus program of the Active, Reserve and National Guard components of the Army. It provides select Soldiers and retired members of the U.S. Military the opportunity to assist with recruiting efforts, and rewards those efforts with referral bonuses.

AGR and Technicians are now able to make as much as someone under the Guard Recruiting Assistant Program (G-RAP) for their referrals who enlist!

www.800goguard.com/esar

NDARNG Retirees are now eligible for G-RAP

Retirees of the Army National Guard are now eligible to take part in the Guard Recruiting Assistance Program (G-RAP). Retirees must have been retired for six months prior to becoming an RA in order to receive G-RAP money or benefits. Retirees must also be able to provide proof of retirement.

Payment for retirees will be the same, \$2,000 for each enlistment who ships. Upon enlistment, the RA will receive an initial payment of \$1,000, with a second \$1,000 payment upon successful shipment of a non-prior service (NPS) to Basic Training. As for a prior service (PS) recruit*, the RA will receive the initial payment of \$1,000 upon enlisting in the Army National Guard with SIDPRS and ARISS having been updated, and the second \$1,000 payment upon successful drilling of 120 days in their unit.

For more information on G-RAP, visit www.guardrecruitingassistant.com or call SFC Rashad Schaffner at 701-391-2808.

*Exact payment timelines vary depending upon prior service/non-prior status and availability of training seats.

Information to help you Recruit

Here is a list of the key benefits to help you with your prospecting (note that the Montgomery GI Bill amount has increased for FY07):

Non-prior Service

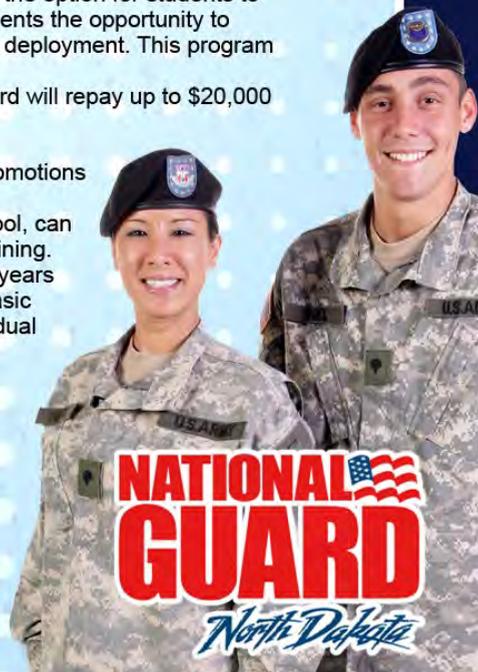
- Up to a \$20,000 Enlistment Bonus.
- Tuition Free College: The North Dakota Army National Guard's tuition reimbursement program will reimburse up to 100% of a student's tuition costs.
- GI Bill: Students make up to \$309/mo. while attending college with this program.
- GI Bill Kicker: The North Dakota Army National Guard offers students a kicker in the amount of up to \$200/mo. while attending college.
- College First Enlistment Option: The Army National Guard offers the option for students to enlist under the College First program. This program allows students the opportunity to complete up to two years of full-time schooling, uninterrupted by deployment. This program also gives members a \$350 GI Bill Kicker.
- Student Loan Repayment: The North Dakota Army National Guard will repay up to \$20,000 in student loans.
- Drill pay starting between \$9.52 and \$13.44 per hour.
- Stripes for Buddies Program: ND Soldiers are able to receive promotions by referring a buddy who enlists.
- 360 Day Delayed Entry Program: Young people, still in high school, can enlist and get paid for attending drills before attending Basic Training.
- Split-Training Program: High School Juniors who are at least 17 years of age may enlist. These Juniors have the option of attending Basic Training the summer after their Junior year and Advanced Individual Training after they graduate.

Prior Service

- Up to \$15,000 for Six-year Enlistment: Don't have to be MOS Qualified, but must become qualified within two years.
- Up to \$7,500 for Three-year Enlistment: Don't have to be MOS Qualified, but must become qualified within two years.

If you have any questions, or need more specific information on benefits, please contact your local recruiter.

Information current as of 08 DEC 06.



The Straight Arrow First Happy Hooligan C-21 aircraft arrives in Fargo

By 1st Lt. Penny Ripperger, 119th Fighter Wing

Fargo - Governor John Hoeven and the N.D. National Guard Adjutant General Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk announced that the first official 119th Fighter Wing (Happy Hooligans) C-21 (Lear Jet) aircraft arrived in Fargo on Jan. 9.

This aircraft marks the beginning of an exciting mission for the Happy Hooligans. The unit is transitioning from the historic F-16 Fighting Falcon mission to the C-21 and MQ-1 Predator Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Missions.

"The Happy Hooligans have proven themselves as the best of the best in every mission they have been assigned," Hoeven said. "The C-21 mission along with the new Predator mission will ensure that the N.D. Air National Guard continues to play a vital role in the security of our state and nation."

"The 119th Fighter Wing will receive a total of eight C-21 aircraft and will be experiencing the largest transformation in their 60 year history" said Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk. "Personnel have been training diligently for the past year to ensure that they are prepared for these new missions that will ensure that our Air National Guard remains relevant and vital to the defense of the nation."

"The Happy Hooligans have prepared for the C-21 by having trained pilots and maintenance personnel ready to work on these aircraft," said Col. Robert Becklund, 119th Fighter Wing Commander. "I am confident that we will continue to perform with the high standards and impressive work ethic that the Hooligans are already well-known for in the fighter community."

The C-21 aircraft is considered a "bridge mission" until approximately 2010 when it is expected to be replaced by the new "Joint Cargo Aircraft" (JCA).

UAV operations are expected to begin at the Fargo base in the March 2007 timeframe. North Dakota will be one of only five states where Air Guard units will operate the unmanned aerial vehicles; other states include Texas, Calif., Ariz. and N.Y.

On Jan. 16 a ceremony will be held at the N.D. Air National Guard base to honor the last F-16 Flight. The ceremony will honor of the rich and successful history of the various fighter aircraft that the unit has flown since 1954. The ceremony will also celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the N.D. Air National Guard, the 60th Anniversary of the US Air Force and the official rollout of the C-21 aircraft.



The C-21 is a twin turboprop engine aircraft used for cargo and passenger airlift. (Submitted photo.)

A gracious act of kindness

By Maj. Jon Erickson, 1-188th ADA (RAID)

On behalf of my soldiers, I just wanted to gratefully acknowledge the first class passengers on the 5 a.m. Nov. 27 flight to Minneapolis who, one by one, each quietly gave up their seat as my soldiers boarded the aircraft until all eight of us were sitting in first class. It was an incredibly gracious act of kindness.

We couldn't have been more grateful, nor could we have felt more proud to wear the uniform.

(Editor's note: Erickson is a major in the North Dakota National Guard, commanding the RAID Detachment, 1-188th ADA. The flight was the unit's departure flight from Bismarck for deployment to Afghanistan.)

In their own words

N.D. Guard gets new commander

By Don Canton,
North Dakota Governor's Office

Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk assumed command of the N. D. National Guard and became the state's 20th Adjutant General during ceremonies at the Raymond J. Bohn Armory on Aug. 26, 2006. Gov. John Hoeven, as the Commander-in-Chief of the state's National Guard, presided over the ceremony as Maj. Gen. Michael Haugen stepped down after nearly six years as the state's top Guardsman.

"These distinguished public servants have brought an outstanding set of skills, leadership and experience to their respective positions, and they have enriched our state," Hoeven said. "Mike Haugen leaves a strong, efficient organization to his successor, and a legacy of accomplishment in both military and civil missions. His service has been greatly appreciated. At the same time, Dave's knowledge of military issues and emergency response procedures, as well as his engineering background, will be an outstanding asset to the National Guard."

Haugen enlisted in the North Dakota Air National Guard in 1967, and has served in various assignments and command positions at the squadron, group, wing and state headquarters. He is the 18th adjutant general of the North Dakota National Guard and was appointed by Hoeven on Dec. 19, 2000.

Among many key positions over the course of his career, Haugen served as the commander of the 119th Fighter Wing from March 1992 to April 1999. He served with the Headquarters North American Aerospace Defense Command, Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., as an assistant to the Director of Plans before becoming the adjutant general.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, while Haugen served as the adjutant general, more than 3,300 soldiers and airmen of the North Dakota National Guard have served on active duty in Iraq, Afghanistan and other locations, the highest operations tempo the organization has seen since World War I.

Haugen is also responsible to the chief of the National Guard Bureau for providing soldiers and airmen who are trained, equipped and mission-ready to support military deployments worldwide.

"General Haugen leaves an outstanding record of leadership in the North Dakota National Guard, and we extend our best wishes for a happy and active retirement," Hoeven said. "As adjutant general, he earned a reputation for effectiveness and dedication to his soldiers and airmen. He will be missed."

"It has been professionally and personally rewarding to be a steward of the North Dakota Guard for the past 39 years," Haugen said. "I deeply appreciate Governor Hoeven's leadership, legislative support, and citizen involvement in maintaining an organization that is the highest quality I've experienced as the adjutant general."

In a letter to members of the North Dakota National Guard announcing his retirement,



Photo by Sgt. Shawna Cale

Left to Right: Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, Gov. John Hoeven, and Maj. Gen. Michael Haugen.

Haugen said. "It's been my honor to serve with you and to represent you on a national level. Each of you has performed every mission with pride and professionalism. The global war on terror called you to the service of your country and you responded in a manner second to none."

Maj. Gen. Haugen, the Governor's senior military advisor, has presided since 2002 over the Governor's military task force, TF-MIND, a committee designed to examine current military force structure and missions in our state and to identify, recommend, and promote enhanced military opportunities and partnerships between military and civilian entities. The Task Force composition represents a cross-section of current and retired senior military officers, business and community leaders, as well as higher education and economic development interests.

Maj. Gen. Sprynczynatyk enlisted in the North Dakota National Guard in 1972 and rose through the ranks, holding positions including Assistant Adjutant General of the North Dakota Army National Guard in Bismarck. He has received several decorations including the North Dakota Legion of Merit, the Army Meritorious Service Medal (with one bronze leaf oak cluster), the Army Commendation Medal (with one bronze leaf oak cluster), the Army Achievement Medal (with one silver oak leaf cluster and 3 bronze oak leaf clusters) and the Humanitarian Service Medal (with one bronze service star).

Sprynczynatyk currently serves as North Dakota's Director of Transportation and Director of Logistics for the National Guard Bureau. Major General Sprynczynatyk graduated from Wilton High School in 1968 and North Dakota State University in 1972 with a Bachelor of Science degree in

"I am both humbled and excited at the prospect of serving as North Dakota's Adjutant General, grateful to Governor Hoeven for his confidence in me, and privileged to follow in the footsteps of Maj. Gen. Mike Haugen."

Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk

Civil Engineering. He started his career in government in 1972 with the State Water Commission, ultimately becoming the State Engineer in 1989. Hoeven appointed him Director of Transportation in 2001.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to have served with such a fine staff at the North Dakota Department of Transportation," Sprynczynatyk said. "It has been a fast-paced five years of significant progress. At the same time, I am both humbled and excited at the prospect of serving as North Dakota's Adjutant General, grateful to Governor Hoeven for his confidence in me, and privileged to follow in the footsteps of Maj. Gen. Mike Haugen. His work to take care of our Guard members during these difficult deployments and his leadership at the national level has been exemplary."

The Adjutant General guides the preparation of over 4,000 North Dakota Army and Air National Guard citizen soldiers and airmen to respond in times of state or national emergency. As Director of North Dakota Department of Emergency Services (DES), the adjutant general directs and coordinates state and local government agencies when emergencies and natural disasters strike in the state, as well as deterring and, if necessary, leading the states' response to and recovery from a terrorist attack.

Sprynczynatyk biography

David A. Sprynczynatyk currently serves as North Dakota's Director of Transportation and as Director of Logistics for the National Guard Bureau. Major General Sprynczynatyk graduated from Wilton High School in 1968 and North Dakota State University in 1972 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. He started his career in government in 1972 with the State Water Commission, ultimately becoming the State Engineer in 1989. Governor Hoeven appointed him Director of Transportation in 2001. General Sprynczynatyk is a Registered Professional Engineer and a member of both the North Dakota Society of Professional Engineers and the National Society of Professional Engineers. He was elected president of the Western Association of State Highway Transportation Officials in 2005 and currently serves as vice-president of the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials.

General Sprynczynatyk enlisted in the North Dakota National Guard in 1972 and rose through the ranks, holding positions including Assistant Adjutant General of the North Dakota Army National Guard in Bismarck. He has received several decorations including the North Dakota Legion of Merit, the Army Meritorious Service Medal (with one bronze leaf oak cluster), the Army Commendation Medal (with one bronze leaf oak cluster), the Army Achievement Medal (with one silver oak leaf cluster and 3 bronze oak leaf clusters) and the Humanitarian Service Medal (with one bronze service star).

General Sprynczynatyk is the past president of the Bismarck Far West Rotary Club and is a member of the executive board of the Northern Lights Council of the Boy Scouts of America. He and his wife Connie live in Bismarck and have two adult children, Thomas and Cathryn.

Haugen biography

Major General Michael J. Haugen, 59, assumed the duties of the Adjutant General of North Dakota on December 19th, 2000. The adjutant general commands 4,500 North Dakota Air and Army National Guard men and women, with approximately 1100 full time federal and state employees. He is responsible for federal and state missions, is the Director of the North Dakota Department of Emergency Services consisting of two Divisions; the Division of Homeland Security and the Division of State Radio Communications.

The general enlisted in the North Dakota Air National Guard in 1967 and served in aircraft maintenance. He received his commission in 1970, and completed Undergraduate Pilot Training in 1972. He has served in various assignments and command positions at the squadron, group and wing level. MG Haugen is a command pilot with more than 11,000 hours of flying time. Aircraft flown include: T-37, T-38, F-101, F-4D, C-131, Convair 580, Boeing 737, and F-16

N.D. National Guard Soldier recognized for heroic act

Editor's note: Pvt. 1st Class Mark Longanilla was recently recognized for helping civilians who were involved in a car accident. He was awarded the State Achievement Medal for his act of heroism. Following is a letter from Deputy Craig Dunbar detailing the event.

Hello,
I am Deputy Craig Dunbar with the Nelson County Sheriff's Department. I am writing you in regards to Pvt. Mark A. Longanilla. Apparently he just graduated Basic Training and AIT and happened to be one of the first on scene of a motor vehicle accident in our county.

Pvt. Longanilla risked his own personal well being to keep a woman from going into shock. He took his own sleeping bag and other items from his car and covered the trapped woman and kept her warm and calm until EMT's and myself arrived to the scene. It was very icy from an earlier freezing rain. Pvt. Longanilla made sure the injured woman's belongings were secured until law enforcement arrived. He did an outstanding job and his heroism reflects what the North Dakota Army National Guard can do for a young individual.

I am in the Air National Guard myself and can see a good troop potential and you have it in Pvt. Longanilla. He said his First Sergeant was 1st SGT Freze. Please pass this on to the proper personnel to give a pat on the back for a job well done. I have attached pictures of the accident scene. Thank you very much.

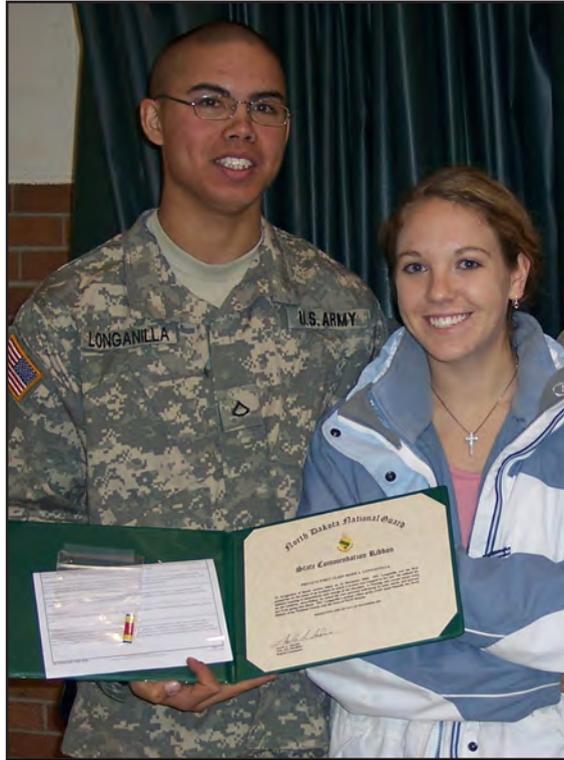


Photo by Sgt. Shawn Roness, 818th Engineer Company SAPPERS
Pvt. 1st Class Mark Longanilla along with his girlfriend, Whitney Hagen, poses with his North Dakota State Achievement Medal.



Photo By Garry Redmann

Gov. John Hoeven shakes hands with Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Wicks while Lt. Dan Murphy looks on at the State of the State Address.

N.D. is 'Driving An Agenda For Growth'

Gov. John Hoeven in his State of the State Address said that the State of North Dakota is financially strong, fueled by an agenda that is driving economic growth. In 2000, North Dakotans earned 84 percent of the national average in per capita personal income. As of last year, 2005, we increased that figure to 91 percent," Hoeven said. "Today, I challenge us to go further: Let us resolve that we will not only meet, but exceed the national average in personal income, and achieve a higher standard of living for all North Dakotans." Hoeven said.

Dates announced for 2007 State Combined Conference

The N.D. National Guard Associations State Combined Conference will be held February 23-24 at the Doublewood Inn in Bismarck. The registration fee is \$30 per person, which includes the Friday night social, Saturday luncheon, Saturday night banquet and use of the hospitality room. Registrations received before Feb. 1, 2007, are eligible for a \$50 cash drawing. Room reservations can be made by calling 800-554-7077, and must be made by Feb. 8. To view the conference agenda and get more information, go to www.ngand.org or www.ndngea.org.

Benson coined by Army Chief of Staff

Photo and story by Sgt. Ann Knudson, Joint Force Headquarters

Kathy Benson, wife of Master Sgt. Dean Benson, is a longtime North Dakota National Guard family program volunteer. She was sitting with her workgroup in their assigned seating for a panel discussion at the Army Family Action Plan HQ DA conference at Alexandria, Va., when a staffer came looking for her and informed her she was not in her assigned seat.

"My first reaction was, 'What did I do now?'" said Benson. "A civilian in a sea of Active Duty and not familiar with protocol, especially with so many stars sitting at the head table, I just figured I did or said something someone disagreed with and that someone turned me in."

After she had been reseated in the back row, she was told that the panel leader, the Chief of Staff - Army, Gen. Peter Schoomaker wanted to meet with selected delegates after the discussion just to visit.

"After the CSA panel discussion was over, we were escorted out to an area outside the ballroom where Gen. Peter Schoomaker made his way along the line, shaking our hand, presenting his coin and asking a question or two," said Benson.

"He asked where I was from, and my response was 'North Dakota National Guard-hoohah.' He said he was from Wyoming originally, and asked if we lived in Fargo or Bismarck. I answered 'Wolford' and added that my Soldier is with Joint Force Headquarters as an m-day. He thanked me for all the Guard was doing and the family program for taking care of the Soldiers and families. He also presented the ladies in the group with an Angel Pin, engraved on the reverse '35th CSA.' There were around 12 delegates selected to meet Gen. Schoomaker. Six were wounded warriors, and a couple were wounded warriors' family. Two were youth (teen) delegates, and then there was an Army spouse from Fort Drum (NY) and another Soldier."

"My first reaction was, 'What did I do now?'"

Kathy Benson



Kathy Benson holds coin given to her by Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker

AFAP conferences are week long working meetings to resolve issues put forth by the Army community. Not strictly Family Support, the work groups are divided by subject areas (Medical-2, Force Support, Family Support, Benefits & Entitlements and a new group this year, Wounded Warriors). The Army community consists of Soldiers, family, employers, civilian employees and veterans. The GFAP (Army and Air Guard) is the mid-level conference that works the issues put forth from the Guard community. Active issues make their way from GFAP to Army or Air side for review by the General Officers Steering Committee.

Maj. Jackie Huber, the current AFAP coordinator for N.D., selected Benson and Elaine Dosch to attend the GFAP conference in May. They were monitoring the progress of a Tricare issue - respite care for special needs children. After this issue was selected to go onward to AFAP, Huber put Benson's name forward for the AFAP HQ DA conference. Benson completed an application and was approved as one of three National Guard delegates out of 108.

North Dakota National Guard
JOINT MENTORING
Developing Leaders

The North Dakota National Guard has launched a formal mentoring program for employees who are interested in participating as mentors or mentees. The intent of the Developing Leaders program is to transfer the culture and values, as well as job knowledge and skills, from more experienced leaders to others. This ties directly to the National Guard's strategic plan to enhance employee satisfaction and well-being and to our vision of a dynamic force where everyone is a leader - mentored, trained and empowered; essential to our communities, State and Nation.

General Sprynczynatyk stated: "I am proud to be the first mentor to apply for this program. I have seen how mentoring can help employees at every level acquire skills, broaden perspectives, open doors, increase confidence and enhance career and life goals and improve the success of an organization."

Participants are matched for a twelve month partnership. Twelve matches have been made based on mentee applicants' goals and mentor applicants' strengths. The participant statistics are: 12 Army and 12 Air, 12 officer and 12 enlisted, 13 male and 11 female, 21-full time and 3 traditional.

The Developing Leaders program will kick off with training for the participants on January 24 at Bismarck State College. If you have questions about mentoring, please contact Maj. Noreen Keeseey at 701-333-2003.

In memory of our Soldiers

N.D. Public Affairs Office news release

Two Soldiers were killed in action while serving in Afghanistan. Cpl. Nathan J. Goodiron from 1st Battalion, 188th Air Defense Artillery (Security Forces-SECFOR), was killed in action and two others were wounded in action in Afghanistan on Thursday, Nov. 23, 2006. The Soldiers were participating in a combat patrol mission.

In a separate incident, Cpl. Christopher K. Kleinwachter with the Grand Forks based 1st Battalion, 188th Air Defense Artillery (Security Forces-SECFOR), was killed in action in eastern Afghanistan on Thursday, Nov. 29. He was participating in military convoy operations in the Ghazni province when the vehicle he was riding in was involved in a rolled-over.

Cpl. Nathan J. Goodiron, 25, of Mandaree, N.D., was killed in action as a result of a rocket propelled grenade (RPG) striking the vehicle he was driving. Also wounded in the same attack were Spc. Samuel Floberg, Fargo, and Sgt. Claude O'Berry, Mandaree.

Cpl. Floberg was airlifted to Bagram Air Field where he is awaiting transportation to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany. He is listed in stable condition. Sgt. Claude O'Berry received minor injuries and was treated and released.

The Soldiers were participating in a combat patrol mission the evening of Nov. 23 escorting military convoys from one forward operating base (FOB) to another when the enemy attack occurred.

"On behalf of all North Dakotans, Mikey and I extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Cpl. Nathan Goodiron, a brave soldier who served our country with distinction and honor," said Governor John Hoeven. "As a state and a nation, we share in their loss and grief, and we offer our heartfelt support to them during this difficult time. Nathan was a true hero, who made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of all of us. He will never be forgotten."

"Our thoughts and prayers also go out to Spc. Samuel Floberg and Sgt. Claude O'Berry, who were wounded in the same tragic incident. We thank them for their service and their sacrifices."

According to Maj. Robert Fugere, commander of SECFOR of the 1st Battalion, 188th ADA, military honors were rendered in Bagram Air Field as Cpl. Goodiron's remains were loaded on an aircraft for the flight back to the United States. A "Fallen Comrade" ceremony was conducted at Forward Operating Base "Warrior" where Cpl. Goodiron was stationed.

Cpl. Goodiron is survived by his wife, Eileen, Minot, N.D., and parents, Nathan "Paul" and Harriet Goodiron, Mandaree. He is originally from Mandaree and attended Mandaree High School. Goodiron enlisted into the North Dakota Army National Guard in April 2001 and completed basic training in August 2001. After basic training, he was assigned to Battery F of the 1st Battalion, 188 Air Defense Artillery as a Man-Portable Air Defense System Crewmember.

Cpl. Christopher K. Kleinwachter, 29, of Wahpeton, died in a separate incident of injuries as a result of a vehicle rollover accident.

"I know that North Dakotans are saddened as well as members of the North Dakota National Guard at the loss of one of our own," said Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk. "Cpl. Christopher Kleinwachter lost his life in service to this country. I am very proud of what he stood for and he will be remembered as a great Soldier and will be missed by everyone."

Cpl. Kleinwachter, a native of Grand Forks, enlisted into the North Dakota Army National Guard while still a senior in high school. After graduation from Grand Forks Central High School, he reported to basic training at Ft. Sill, Okla. He completed basic training and advanced individual training in 1995. He was serving as a power generator equipment repairer.

His military awards include the Combat Action Badge, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal and the North Dakota Legion of Merit medal. Kleinwachter is survived by his mother, Carmen A. Kleinwachter, Crookston, Minn.; his father, Clare R. Kleinwachter, Wahpeton; and his brother Creg Kleinwachter, also of Wahpeton.

Cpl. Kleinwachter is the fourth N.D. Army National Guard Soldier to die in Afghanistan in support of "Operation Enduring Freedom." Two other members of the ADA SECFOR, Sgt. Travis A. VanZoest and Cpl. Curtis R. Mehrer, both of Bismarck, were killed during the deployment when an anti-tank mine exploded near their military vehicle on June 6, 2006. Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Wicks, Bismarck, was severely injured in the same attack.

1-188th ADA SECFOR, deployed with 152 Soldiers to Afghanistan. The company was mobilized Dec. 2005 and arrived in Afghanistan in March 2006. The unit provides around-the-clock security in support of U.S. Armed Forces.



Cpl. Nathan J. Goodiron



Cpl. Christopher K. Kleinwachter

Chaplain's Corner

'Peace be with you'

CH (1st Lt.) Justin Schmidt, 1-188th Air Defense Artillery

During the holiday season, the words of the angel always seem to ring in my ears, "Peace be with you." During this time in our nation's history, they are words we all would like to hear again. We, in the National Guard, have paid a high price for our nation's security.

As I write this article, I am mindful that everyone in the Guard might be having different feelings about the season. For some, it's pure celebration because a long deployment is over and now Christmas was spent with family.

For others, a long deployment is coming up and as much as you want to make Christmas special, there is a bit of sadness knowing that next year you will not be with your family. There are those families that will read this article that currently have a loved one deployed, and no matter what the family does there is a loneliness that comes from not having the whole family together during holiday celebrations. The message that the angel announced applies to you as well, "Peace be with you." It is a peace that comes from the message that is celebrated every Christmas, "God is with us."

Finally, during this holiday season, there are those families that feel the pain of this Christmas and all the Christmases yet to come without their loved one. This year, the North Dakota National Guard lost several Soldiers in the conflicts that we are fighting in, and for these families the message I hope is all the more clear, "Peace be with you." We in the Guard family mourn their loss, celebrate their lives, and do all we can to comfort the families. In such pain filled times, it is the peace that God gives that can only give true comfort to those who mourn.

As the messengers of God, the angels give a clear witness of what Christmas is all about; it's a peace that comes from God to the peoples of the world. May the joy of this season and the time we spend with family bring each and every one of you joy during this holiday season. For God and for country.

Hooligans prepare for deployments

By 1st Lt. Penny Ripperger, 119th Fighter Wing

FARGO – The North Dakota Air National Guard (NDANG) is continuing to serve in the Global War on Terror (GWOT). Over the next several months approximately 52 Airmen will deploy to the following locations for 60-120 day tours: Kuwait, Iraq, Germany, Kyrgyzstan, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

The first group to leave will be eight Airmen from the 119th Civil Engineering Squadron. The group will deploy between Jan. 4 and Jan. 6 to Iraq for 120 days. The Civil Engineering group will be responsible for facility maintenance while serving in Iraq.

Six airmen from the 119th Services team will return in January after a 120 day deployment in Kyrgyzstan. Some members of the deployed 119th Services team were the core members of the Mortuary team and became prime examples of leadership in a time honored and sensitive duty.

119th Mortuary Affairs personnel assisted with processing the remains of our recent fallen heroes from N.D., Cpl. Christopher K. Kleinwachter and Cpl Nathan J. Goodiron who were coming home to N.D.

Currently seven members from the NDANG are supporting Operation Jump Start (OJS). OJS is a border patrol operation with missions extending to Ariz., N.M. Calif., and Texas. A total of 22 members have been deployed to these areas for OJS since the operation began last year.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, 1009 airmen have been mobilized from the 119th FW in support of the GWOT.

ESAR benefits extended to full-timers

Every Soldier is a Recruiter (ESAR) is the Army National Guard's pilot referral bonus program that provides select Soldiers the opportunity to assist with the ARNG's recruiting efforts, and rewards those efforts with referral bonuses up to \$2,000.

ESAR was established to instill in all Soldiers and leaders the fact that Every Soldier is a Recruiter. Personnel eligible to this program have expanded.

ESAR is now open to individuals in the ARNG, including AGR Soldiers on Active Duty, Military Technicians, and Active Duty for Special Work (ADSW) personnel. Referrals must be non-prior service, and may not be a member of the referring Soldier's immediate family.

Referrals may be any component of the Army (Active, Reserve, or ARNG) and do not have to be in the same component as the referring Soldier. Currently, there is no limit on the number of referrals that a Soldier may provide. Army retirees are also eligible under this program.

For more information, contact, contact me First Lt. Donovan L. Blazek at 701-333-3064 or Sgt. Chad Smestad, Incentives Manager at 701-333-3089.



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Flying in Bosnia

Twenty-three members of the 112th Aviation served at Eagle Base Tusla, Bosnia Herzegovina from Dec. 20, 2005, to Oct. 3, 2006. They had four UH 60 helicopters and their NATO mission was to help in the apprehension of personnel indicted for war crimes. In this photo, the site of the 1984 Winter Olympics in Sarajevo is right below the helicopters. According to CW4 Tom Bry, "Flying in Bosnia was like flying in the foothills of the Rockies. There were a lot of castles on the countryside. In the summertime it was really green because they get a lot of rain, and in the winter it was all white because they get a lot of snow." While flying in the country, the pilots observed many destroyed buildings still evident from the war.

Photo by CW3 Kiel Skager, Joint Force Headquarters