



NORTH DAKOTA GUARDIAN



THE
Happy Hoosiers

Volume 1, Issue 7

August 2008



Long Haul

Railcar Move Requires N.D. Guardsmen's Teamwork, Creativity

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- Editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the Joint Force Headquarters, N.D. National Guard (JFND) Public Affairs Officer.
- 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 7,500.
- The *North Dakota Guardian* is published by the JFND Public Information Office, Box 5511, Bismarck, N.D. 58506-5511, 701-333-2007

ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

Contributions to the *North Dakota Guardian* are encouraged! Send articles, photos and art to Editor, JFND PIO, Box 5511, Bismarck, N.D. 58506-5511.

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Digital photos should be at least 300 dpi.

On the Cover



Train Kept A'Rollin': North Dakota National Guard Soldiers and Airmen prepare to unload a railcar donated by BNSF Railway at the 119th Wing. Two Railcars were received from Barstow, Calif. to be used as simulated propane, alcohol and anhydrous railcars at the 119th Wing's emergency management training site. (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp, 119th Wing)

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Command Sgt. Maj. Dan Job, Joint Force Headquarters

Strengthening the 'Backbone' of the North Dakota National Guard

Our Soldiers and Airmen have been faced with many challenges and constantly changing missions as the North Dakota National Guard continually mobilizes in support of the Global War on Terrorism. While participating in missions at home and around the world, the non-commissioned officers of the N.D. National Guard are being tasked with the responsibility of increased leadership roles and responsibilities to accomplish missions. This increased demand of leadership, at all levels, has been going on for years. NCOs have long been known to be the backbone of the military. This continues today and into the future.

Enlisted leaders must stay current in military operative skills, the Non-Commissioned Officer Education System, Career Development Courses and Professional Military Education along with balancing their lives between family, military and civilian commitments. Much more is being asked of our citizen-Soldiers and Airmen and the enlisted corps of the N.D. National Guard continues to respond professionally.

Our vision statement reads "everyone is a trained, mentored leader." This includes every Soldier and Airmen regardless of rank. When promotions are accepted, enlisted leaders have an even greater amount of responsibility. These responsibilities and additional tasks can be some of the greatest challenges Airmen and Soldiers have in their military career if not properly trained. Leadership becomes even more

difficult if NCOs have not set themselves up for success by accomplishing the next level of education.

With the recent transformation and reorganizations throughout the N. D. National Guard, there are more career path choices and opportunities available than ever before. These opportunities have required many of us to look at what positions are available and how to position ourselves for that next level. More importantly, we need to ask ourselves, "How do we get there?"

Regardless of your branch of service, you need to fully understand your enlisted promotion process. How does it work and what does it take to advance and continue to grow in your military career? As leaders, regardless of rank, we are all mentors and have long-lasting effects and impacts on this great organization. These impacts are made by what we do during our terms of enlistment, how we complete our tasks and how we grow personally and professionally. Each of us is accountable to stay relevant by furthering our military and civilian education. This effort on your part will position you to become a trustworthy and successful leader to take on the responsibilities and challenges that are ahead of this organization.

If you have questions about your next assignment or the level of education needed to accomplish your goals, it is incumbent upon you to seek out your chain of command or a mentor to help you succeed.



"Leadership becomes even more difficult if NCOs have not set themselves up for success by accomplishing the next level of education."

Dan R Job

NATIONAL 
GUARD
North Dakota

F-4 Static Display Struck by Lightning

The F-4 Fighting Phantom static display that is proudly displayed directly inside the main gate of the N.D. Air Guard base, 119th Wing was struck by lightning July 10.

The aircraft's radome (ray-dome), which is located in the nose of the jet, was slightly damaged by the lightning strike. No one was injured in the incident.

The 119th Wing, at the time called the 119th Fighter Wing, successfully flew the F-4 from 1977 to 1990. The unit received many awards during the F-4 flying era, to include winning William Tell, a world-wide weapons meet in Florida in 1984.

Heritage Park, located south of the F-4 Static Display exhibits static displays of every aircraft flown by 119th Wing since the conception of the N.D. Air Guard in 1947.

Marriage Seminar Offered at 119th Wing

Due to popular demand, the North Dakota Air National Guard Family Program Office and Chaplains will present a relationship seminar from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Nov. 1 at the 119th Wing in the CE Classroom.

Author Gary Chapman will lead the seminar by generating discussion from his book, *The Five Love Languages: How to Express Heartfelt Commitment to Your Mate*. The event is open to single and married Airmen. To register or for more information, contact Jody Harms at 701-451-2112, jody.harms@ndfarg.ang.af.mil or Chaplain (Maj.) John Flowers at 701-451-2676, john.flowers@ndfarg.ang.af.mil.

ABATE Provides Coupon for Free Motorcycle Safety Course

American Bikers Aiming Toward Education (ABATE) of North Dakota continues to offer motorcycle safety courses to members of the North Dakota National Guard. These courses are designed to help riders sharpen their skills and, in turn, prevent accidents.

The course is of no cost to North Dakota National Guard Soldiers and Airmen.



Photos by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

Above, The F-4 Fighting Phantom is proudly displayed just inside the entrance of the 119th Wing, N.D. Air National Guard. Airmen from the organization flew this aircraft from 1977 to 1990. Left, Lightning damaged the radome of the F-4 Fighting Phantom on July 10, 2008.

Riders can register for a class at www.ndmsp.com. Upon registration, the rider will be prompted to enter a coupon code. The code is **fibuca83puff**; all lowercase.

Courses available for the remainder of the year will be posted to the Web site. Once an account is created, Guardsmen will receive an e-mail when new classes are posted.

New VA Clinic Coming to Grand Forks

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake announced plans for a new community-based outpatient clinic to bring the world-class health care of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) closer to home for North Dakota veterans.

"VA continues to make access to care easier through an expanding outpatient system focused not only on primary treatment but also prevention of disease, early detection, and health promotion," Dr. Peake said.

The new clinic, scheduled to be activated over the next 15 months, was approved for the Grand Forks County area. In the coming months, VA will firm up the exact location, staffing, services to be offered and a timetable for development.

The new North Dakota facility is part of a VA clinic decision involving 44 new clinics around the country that ultimately will increase VA's network of independent and community-based clinics to 782, an increase of more than 100 in five years.

Fellow Airmen Host Motorcycle Ride for Injured Captain

On July 14 over 34 Happy Hooligans took part in a motorcycle run to raise money and show support for one of their own.

Capt. Luke Gardner of the 119th Wing injured his back in a moto cross motorcycle accident. As a result of the crash, Gardner suffered injury to 3 vertebrae resulting in an emergency lifeflight to Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis, Minn. Gardner underwent surgery to replace one vertebrae and repair the other two that were damaged while at Hennepin County. The pain and emotional strain in dealing with the injury was compounded by the length of stay in Minneapolis and now with the follow-on care and therapy required while Gardner is at home.

The motorcycle group, consisting of Air Guard members, friends and family, donned their leather and took off on a beautiful Monday afternoon for a motorcycle road trip in honor of Gardner's recovery. The group met in Fargo and traveled to Fort Ransom, located south of Valley City, N.D.

"We wanted him to know that we were thinking about him and thought this would be a good way to do it," said Chief Master Sgt. Brad Johnson, event organizer.

— News Briefs Submitted By 119th Wing & Joint Force Headquarters

Back to School

A Quick-Start Guide to Applying for Tuition Assistance Through the North Dakota National Guard

Pursuing higher education goals has been made easier with the help of the North Dakota National Guard's Tuition Assistance Programs. Soldiers and Airmen returning to the classroom for the fall semester will want to take advantage of Federal and State educational incentives. If you are preparing to attend a higher learning institution, the N. D. National Guard can assist you in pursuing your academic goals.

Both the N. D. Army and Air National Guard will provide tuition assistance of up to 100 percent through a combination of Federal and State programs. N. D. Air Guard members can use State Tuition Assistance towards North Dakota University System schools and private in-state schools that participate in the program.

N. D. Army Guard members can use Federal Tuition assistance at any accredited school and in combination with the State Tuition Assistance for North Dakota University System schools and private in-state schools that participate in the program.

Applications

N. D. Army Guard members can apply for Federal Tuition Assistance through www.nationalguardbenefits.com. An Army Knowledge On-Line username and password are required to submit an application. By meeting

the application deadline of Aug. 31, N. D. Army Guard members are likely to receive the required funding for their college courses as applications are processed on a first-come, first-serve basis.

N. D. Air Guard members can submit an application for State Tuition Assistance through the North Dakota National Guard Web site at <https://www.ndguard.com/benefits/default.asp?ID=289>.

Applications should be received no later than the day before classes begin.

Guidelines

N. D. Army and Air National Guard members who are using State Tuition Assistance must achieve a grade of "C" or better. Additionally, N. D. Army Guard members must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or better to receive Federal Tuition Assistance.

The North Dakota Army Guard members attending out-of-state schools must submit an unofficial copy of their college transcripts to the Education Services Office at NGNDJ1ESOs@ng.army.mil within 30 days of completing their courses. If grades are not received 60 days past the course end date, the Soldier will not be allowed to apply for further Tuition Assistance.

N.D. Army Guard members who have added or dropped courses must also inform the Education Services Office. Federal Tuition Assistance funds will be recouped for course changes that are not reported.

New Requirements for North Dakota Army National Guard Members

N. D. Army Guard members are now required to submit degree plans to the Education Services Office if taking more than nine semester hours. Degree plans can be submitted to NGNDJ1ESOs@ng.army.mil. Soldiers who do not submit a degree plan by Dec. 1, 2008 will not receive funding for the Spring 2009 term.

For more information about Federal or State Tuition Assistance programs, contact:

North Dakota Army National Guard

Sgt. Mark Jundt, Federal Tuition Assistance Manager, 701-333-3071 or e-mail mark.jundt@us.army.mil.

North Dakota Air National Guard

Master Sgt. MJ Filloon, Retention Office Manager, 701-451-2248 or e-mail merri.filloon@ndfarg.af.mil.



Finding Simple Ways to Reduce Our Energy Costs

By Wesley Schmidt
N.D. National Guard Energy Manager

How much energy does a personal computer or monitor use? More than a printer? More than a microwave? Surprisingly, a microwave uses 600-800 watt-hours compared to 60-80 watt-hours for a personal computer for the same period of time. Even though a personal computer uses less energy, turning it off when not in use can save on significant energy costs. We should all be looking at electricity consumption and how to be more energy aware and efficient, while saving money.



Wesley Schmidt
NDNG Energy Manager

The first major energy legislation passed by Congress in 13 years, the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAAct 2005) and Executive Order 13423 were signed into law by President Bush prompting a push to be more efficient with our energy resources.

Although there are several goals for these directives, the primary goal is to reduce energy consumption in all federal agencies by 2-3 percent per year with a cumulative reduction of 20 percent by the end of 2015.

The most important initial step for the North Dakota National Guard Energy Program is to increase energy awareness for all personnel. We must attempt to reduce our demand for electricity. We can do this through awareness and teamwork.

When you leave your office area and spaces that are typically unoccupied for more than ten minutes, shut off your lights. During the day when adequate lighting can come from windows or desk lights, turn off your overhead lights.

Turning the heating thermostat(s) down by just one degree as well as raising cooling thermostat(s) by one degree can save up to 10 percent of your overall electricity bill.

As an example, a 140,000 square ft. N.D. National Guard facility was evaluated to see how energy costs could be lowered by turning down thermostats. After researching, we found that lowering the average room temperature by 3 degrees would result in savings of \$12,000 per year.

With your cooperation, we can meet the President's energy conservation directives, reduce this organization's energy consumption and cut utility bills while protecting limited energy resources.

For more information on what you can do to reduce energy consumption, contact Wesley Schmidt, N. D. National Guard Energy Manager, at 701-333-2090. For more information on energy reduction and other related topics, please visit www.energy.gov.

North Dakota Air National Guard

Recruiting and Retention Team



The Air National Guard Recruiting and Retention team stands next to a C-21 Learjet at the 119th Wing. The team is comprised of, from left to right, Senior Master Sgt. Sandi Renville, Tech. Sgt. Tina Sly, Tech. Sgt. Tanya Augdahl, Master Sgt. Glenda Edwardson, Master Sgt. Troy Krabbenhoft and Master Sgt. MJ Fillloon.

Below, from left to right, Air Guard recruiters Master Sgt. Troy Krabbenhoft, Tech. Sgt. Tanya Augdahl and Tech. Sgt. Tina Sly visit with potential recruits at the North Dakota State Fair July 22. The recruiters brought a Mobile Recruiting Unit to the event, which is used by Air Guard recruiters across the U.S. The unit features "Hot Seats"; a variety of flying and race car games that are available to the public to play free of charge.

Contact the NDANG Recruiting and Retention team at Fargo: 1-800-972-8825 or Minot: 1-866-422-1198



RTI Receives High Marks From Intensive Review

By Sgt. Amy Wieser Willson
Joint Force Headquarters

Not one to ever settle for second-best, the 164th Regional Training Institute overcame the challenges of an ever-changing organizational structure to again earn a “fully accredited” rating. The score came July 17 after the final portion of a vigorous accreditation review by the Engineer School at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. A year has yet to pass that the RTI has not scored in the highest percentile for U.S. Army training standards.

The final review began July 14, when a team of four from Fort Leonard Wood began scouring policies, records and procedures. Team leader Robert Havlicek commended the RTI for its test standards and presented a coin to Staff Sgt. Jonnie Schmaltz, RTI instructor, to recognize her exemplary performance.

“The test control was outstanding,” Havlicek said.

He also noted that the team atmosphere at North Dakota’s training center was unlike others.

“Instructors help each other. Instructors talk to each other,” he said. “In turn, students get consistent answers to questions.”

Col. Bill Seekins, 164th RTI commandant, commented on the numerous personnel changes at the RTI in the past two years due to Soldiers mobilizing and others temporarily filling those slots.

“There are very few organizations that could go through the organizational changes we have these last two years and yet still meet the top of every standard,” Seekins said to his staff after the results were announced. “To come out — after all the changes we’ve gone through — as ‘fully accredited,’ that’s a really big deal.”

Every organization always has some room for improvement. Havlicek said that during the review the team had suggested that the RTI add an on-site sexual assault prevention response coordinator to work with the state’s full-time response coordinator. Before the review concluded, the RTI had provided paperwork detailing efforts made in this area along with an expected completion date within 10 days.

“This is one thing I like about this unit,” Havlicek said. “They don’t just talk about stuff ... they turn around and do it.”

In 2006, the National Guard Bureau and the U.S. Army Engineer Training Center at Fort Leonard Wood recognized the RTI as an “Institution of Excellence.” The honor acknowledges that the RTI met vigorous U.S. Army accreditation standards by scoring within the very top percentile. The Training and Doctrine Command no longer presents the award.

The Regional Training Institute provides 25 fully-accredited engineer courses with more than 200 classes planned annually. Each year, it schedules more than 3,800 training seats. The RTI’s reach spans far beyond North Dakota’s borders, with 60 percent of all Army Reserve and Army National Guard engineers across the United States receiving training there. In March 2006, the Institute began training active-duty Army engineers, as well.

To achieve this busy training schedule, the institute employs 72 full-time Soldiers as well as 15 traditional Guardsmen. In addition to Seekins, the RTI is led by Command Sgt. Maj. Gerald Miller, noncommissioned officer commandant; Lt. Col. Daniel Tomanek, 1st Engineer Training Battalion commander; and Lt. Col. Gary Christianson, 2nd General Study Battalion commander.



Left, Staff Sgt. Gregory McGath, 164th Regional Training Institute instructor, guides a student on loading and unloading a shotgun during a combat engineer course July 17 at the RTI. The class was preparing to practice breaching techniques in order to enter a locked building. The institute was just recognized as meeting vigorous U.S. Army standards with a “fully accredited” rating, meaning the institute scored in the highest percentile.

Below, A combat engineer student at the 164th Regional Training Institute practices loading an inert shotgun shell during a class at Camp Grafton Training Center on using shotguns to breach buildings.



Photos by Sgt. Amy Wieser Willson



Members of the N. D. National Guard transport a complete railcar with wheels on a flatbed trailer in Fargo July 9. A railroad track was constructed on the top of the flatbed to guide the wheels and distribute the weight on the trailer. When hauling railcars it is common practice to take the wheels and undercarriage off in order to limit excess height. The Fargo Police Department helped block traffic as the trailer maneuvered around traffic lights that were too low to pass by without being raised for the large railcar.

Special Delivery

119th Wing Receives Two Railcars From BNSF Railway for Use in New Training Site

Story by Capt. Penny Ripperger, 119th Wing
Photos by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp, 119th Wing

The North Dakota Air Guard, 119th Wing received two railcars donated by BNSF Railway Company July 9.

The former water railcars originally came from Barstow, Calif. and will be transformed to simulate propane, alcohol and anhydrous railcars. The railcars will be used for training to include hazardous material leaks and other disasters involving emergency management response techniques.

"This transfer has been in the works for over two years and BNSF has been incredible throughout the whole process. Their gracious donation of these railcars will be extremely beneficial for training," said Senior Master Sgt. Michelle Reitan, 119th Wing Emergency Management Flight.

The railcar training site at the 119th Wing will be one of only two sites in the entire Air Guard and already interested participants are knocking on the door.

"We have had over 60 local fire departments who have expressed



interest in training with the railcars once the site is established,” said Reitan.

The training site will be ready for training as soon as the railcars are secured on the track.

“The railcar training site will be ready almost immediately. In fact, our next hazmat class scheduled in August at the Air Guard will definitely utilize the railcars in their training,” said Reitan.



Above, Master Sgt. Scott Terry, of the 119th Civil Engineer Squadron and Lt Col. James Loegering work on unloading the railcar. Loegering directed the project and has unique skills to do so, as he works for BNSF railroad.

At the loading site located at the Spur railroad track near the North Dakota State University campus, a temporary platform was constructed out of railroad crossing planks, which are large rubber blocks weighing approximately 350 pounds each. A flatbed trailer with a railroad track attached to it drove on the platform to line up the railcar wheels with the track on the flatbed. The driver had approximately 1/2 an inch of tolerance during the maneuver. Above Right, Master Sgt. Al Zimmerman, Joint Force Headquarters, prepares the flatbed in order to lower the railcar into place at the North Dakota Air National Guard.



Above, The railcar is unloaded from the flatbed and lowered to the track located at the Regional Training Site at the 119th Wing. 119th Wing Civil Engineers constructed a “road” for the flatbed truck to back onto during the maneuver. Left, A group of North Dakota Army and Air Guard members push the railcar into place on the track at the North Dakota Air National Guard.





Guardian Snapshots



Sgt. Amy Wieser Willson

Reunion: Former members of the 141st Engineer Combat Battalion gathered July 21 at the Valley City Armory to browse through old photos and newspaper clippings. The unit is planning a deactivation ceremony Oct. 18, at which time many photos will be displayed. The former members spent the afternoon identifying people in the photos in order to better preserve the battalion's history. Back row, from left, are Roger Mathias, Auddie Quast, Ernest "Jim" Altringer, Lloyd A. Nelson, Allen Boumont, Tom Vagle, Duane Hanson, David Sauer, Warren Syverson, Wally Bjornson, Larry Hovel, Roger Berntson, Jim Drong, Norton A. Tangen, Eldred Knutson. Front row, from left, Skip Pedersen, Ralph Metcalf, Ed Quast, Jack Willson Jr., Jim Verwey, Gerald Pedersen, Melvin Srozinski, Ted Wieser, Vince Olson, Gene Thom, Mitch Johnson and Duane Hesch.



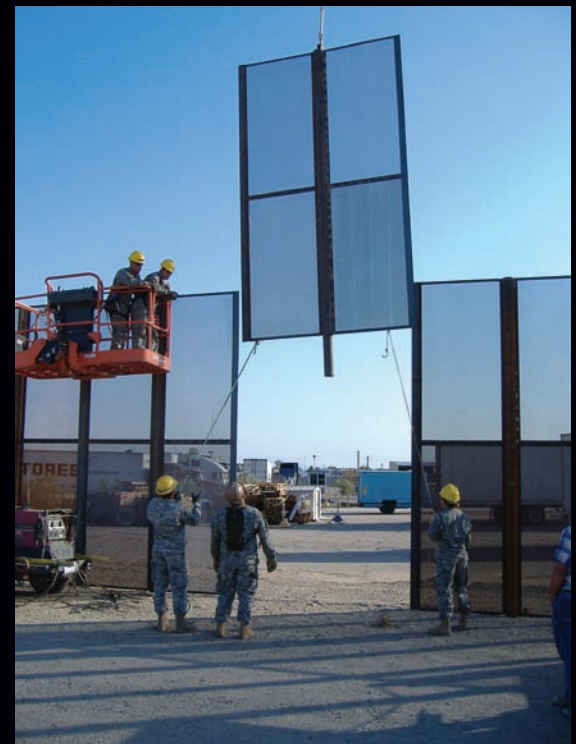
Sgt. Jonathan Haugen

Safety First: Staff Sgt. Kayla Gartner, of the 957th Multi-Role Bridge Erection Boat at Camp Ripley, Minn. during the unit's annual training July 17. The boat is used to retrieve personnel in case of accidents on the water.



Maj. Robert Schulte

Check-Up: Capt. Dwight G. Harley, 119th Medical Group, examines a patient in Tamale, Ghana, on June 17. Harley was part of a joint force U.S. military humanitarian medical group that deployed to the African country from June 7-21.



Sergeant 1st Class Brian Schmoker

Perfect Fit: Soldiers of the 816th Engineer Company (Horizontal) install the last panel of a secondary border fence near Yuma, Ariz. The unit spent three weeks on the U.S.- Mexico border supporting the U.S. Customs and Border Protection by working on various road projects as part of their annual training period from June 20 to July 10.



Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

Training: Staff Sgt. Alexandra G. Knier adjusts her personal protective gear as she and other members of the 119th Services Flight set up tents in mission-oriented protective posture 4 (MOPP 4) during a recent exercise at the North Dakota Air National Guard.



Sgt. Jonathan Haugen

Hitting the Road: During convoy operations, 188th Air Defense Artillery Soldiers defend against a simulated enemy attack provided by a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter at Camp Ripley, Minn., July 17. The unit trained at Camp Ripley from July 12 through July 19 for its annual training.



Bill Prokopyk

Hero Honored: Gov. John Hoeven (left) and Russell Hawkins unveil Master Sgt. Woodrow Wilson Keeble's portrait during a ceremony commemorating Keeble's Theodore Roosevelt Rough Rider Award at Dakota Magic Casino, Hankinson, N.D. on July 23, 2008. Hawkins is Keeble's stepson. Looking on is Kurt Bluedog, Keeble's great-nephew.



Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

Senior Airman Andrew Jahnke, of the 147th Air Refueling Squadron, helps Senior Airman Theta Olson, center, with her air tank for her respirator mask as she dons a personal protection level A suit along with Senior Airman Chrystal Nelson, both of the 119th Wing, during a hazardous materials (HAZMAT) exercise June 26 at the North Dakota Air National Guard Regional Training Site, Fargo.

119th Wing Hosts Emergency Management Exercise

By Capt. Penny Ripperger
119th Wing

The 119th Wing, N.D. Air Guard participated in a multi-state exercise June 26th that simulated a hazardous material (HAZMAT) terrorist attack at the 119th Wing. Airmen used a mobile emergency operations center; worked with base on-scene command and control procedures and performed crime scene preservation under simulated hostile conditions.

The 119th Wing hosted a two-week training course to ensure Airmen from all over the nation are trained and ready to perform Emergency Management (EM) skills that are vital in homeland defense and overseas wartime operations.

Emergency Management personnel from Washington D.C., South Dakota, Illinois and Texas trained in Fargo. Leadership from many of the visiting units also participated in the exercise.

“One of the goals of this training is to give Air Force Emergency Management personnel experience on how to operate in an environment after an incident involving weapons of mass destruction or Hazardous Materials,” said Staff Sgt. Kristi M. Krabbenhoft, 119th Wing Emergency Management Flight.

Emergency Management is sometimes described as the “CSI” (Crime Scene Investigators) of the military. EM personnel could be on-scene immediately following a catastrophic event to provide identification, gathering, preservation of evidence and

command and control.

The EM airmen also perform radiological, biological, and chemical detection tests to ensure a safe operating environment.

“This is one of the highest levels of response training in the military for Emergency Management,” said Senior Master Sgt Rick Larson, Emergency Manager at the 114th Fighter Wing, Sioux Falls, S.D.

“It’s not only great training for military members, but it is also a benefit for our local communities to have these specialty-trained personnel available in the event of a disaster,” he said.

The 119th is one of the limited sites where this type of specialized HAZMAT training is available in combating the Global War on Terror.



Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

Senior Airman Chrystal Nelson wears a protective level A suit as she takes a sample of a simulated chemical agent. The samples are taken and tested using a HAZMAT identification machine, which determines the type of chemical encountered in a HAZMAT area.

SONS OF IRAQ



191st MP Company Helps Strengthen the Iraqi Police

BY SGT. 1ST CLASS TOBY VETTER
PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. THOMAS WEBSTER
191ST MILITARY POLICE COMPANY

Members of the 191st Military Police (MP) Company recently assisted a group of cadets from the 'Sons of Iraq' to become the newest members of the Bab Al Sheikh station in Baghdad as officers in the Iraqi Police. The 'Sons of Iraq' are locally recruited security forces working side-by-side with Iraqi and U.S. forces to patrol neighborhoods and battle insurgents.

As members of the Police Transition Team, Soldiers of the 191st MPs assist, coach and mentor local Iraqi Police in force protection and law and order operations.

"This is another example of N.D. National Guardsmen making a positive



Gen. Latiff Khalif, District Commander for the Iraqi Police, shakes hands with an Iraqi Police graduate as Capt. Benjamin Cleghorn, Commander of the N.D. Army National Guard's 191st MP Company, looks on.



The new Iraqi Police cadets practice arrest procedures while training with the N.D. Army National Guard's 191st Military Police Company from Fargo, Bismarck and Mayville, N.D.

contribution to the citizens of Iraq," said Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, Adjutant General for the N.D. National Guard. "Partnered with the Iraqi Police, the Soldiers of the 191st MPs will continue to help local communities improve stability."

The 191st MPs provided the 'Sons of Iraq' with a three-week training course that resulted in 15 members of the group becoming members of the Iraqi Police force. The training included first aid, room-clearing techniques, dealing with domestic violence, police ethics, human rights protection, conducting checkpoint operations, community policing, along with weapons and physical fitness training. Community involvement is critical to creating stable communities within Iraqi cities.

"The 'Sons of Iraq' has been a successful program, and the current plan is to integrate them into the local security forces whenever possible allowing them to work closely with the Iraqi government," said 2nd Lt. Peter Hartje, Fargo. "This is our contribution to that effort."

"Our Soldiers conducted most of the hands-on training. There was an almost one-to-one trainer to student ratio," said Sgt. Joseph Sauvageau, Fargo. "This helped

them to quickly pick up on the techniques we were teaching them."

The new members of the Iraqi Police will patrol their local communities and receive continuous training at the Bab Al Sheikh police station with the help of the N.D. Soldiers.

The commander of the 191st MP Company, Capt. Benjamin Cleghorn, Jamestown, and Gen. Latiff Khalif, District Commander for the Iraqi Police, were at a graduation ceremony for the new Iraqi Police officers and presented them with certificates.

"It was great to take part in the training of the new Iraqi Police officers. Hopefully we gave them the tools to succeed in helping them provide stability in their local communities," said Staff Sgt. Thomas Webster, Blanchard, N.D.

The 191st MP Co., from Fargo, Bismarck and Mayville, consists of Soldiers from over 40 communities across North Dakota and neighboring states.

The 191st MP Co. was previously mobilized for six months in 1990 to support Operation Desert Storm, where they guarded and processed enemy prisoners of war. The unit was deactivated in 1997 and recently reactivated in 2006.

More than 4,300 members of the N.D. National Guard have been called to federal active duty for service, mostly in Iraq or Afghanistan, since Sept. 11.

FIRE FLIES

North Dakota Soldiers Assist With California Firefighting Mission

STORY BY SGT. AMY WIESER WILLSON
JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS

Always willing to help neighbors during natural disasters, North Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers recently assisted more distant neighbors. Sharing skills and equipment used to battle this spring's wildfires in western North Dakota, pilots and crew chiefs spent three weeks in July partnering with the California National Guard, which was battling a significantly bigger disaster.

Three pilots and two crew chiefs left July 3 in a Black Hawk helicopter equipped with a water bucket to support fire operations. During the mission, three Soldiers rotated out as three fresh North Dakota Soldiers came to assist.

Gov. John Hoeven approved the support request from California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. North Dakota Soldiers responded to Gov. Hoeven's orders in less than 24 hours.

"Once again our National Guard members have responded to a challenge with professionalism and true dedication to duty," Hoeven said. "Whenever our Soldiers are called on to help, they show up and do an outstanding job."

The state-to-state assistance comes through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, or EMAC, a mutual-aid partnership agreement allowing governors to help fellow governors who have declared a state emergency. Under the compact, states can step in to assist another state when its resources become overwhelmed. EMAC reimburses all costs of the mission support.

"Our dedicated Guardsmen are always eager and ready to respond to requests for assistance," said Maj. Gen. David A.



Courtesy Photo

Left, North Dakota Soldiers pause from fighting fires in California to mark the event in a photo with Anna Anderson, second from left, with Cal Fire. Soldiers pictured by North Dakota's firefighting equipment include, from left to right, Sgt. 1st Class Troy Balkowitsch, Staff Sgt. Mike Carlson, Chief Warrant Officer Ron Doll and Chief Warrant Officer Cory Wentz.

Below, Wildfires ravage the California landscape. North Dakota's pilots and crew chiefs gained greater experience flying in these challenging conditions while supporting the California National Guard earlier this month.



Courtesy Photo

Sprynczynatyk, North Dakota National Guard Adjutant General. "Our aviation crews are among the best in the world with an outstanding record of more than 50 years of safe flying."

North Dakota Soldiers operated from the same helicopter base as Guardsmen from Utah, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Nebraska and California. They flew missions in the Shasta and Trinity County areas of northern California.

"As you know, our Soldiers will always contribute in any way they can. Most of the crew (are) full-time AASF (Army Aviation Support Facility) employees and fighting fires is a job we conduct on a yearly basis, here in North Dakota and other places as well," said Chief Warrant Officer Monte Myers, who served through the duration of the mission along with Chief Warrant Officer Ron Doll.

Throughout the mission, North Dakota Soldiers dropped about 118,000 gallons of water on the fires during

50.2 flight hours.

"We are definitely seeing benefits," Myers said. "Among the benefits are additional flight experiences for younger pilots in a challenging environment. The heat, smoke and flames and other helicopter traffic make for busy flights (as do) continuous operations with up to six or eight aircraft operating in a daisy-chain, flying water to the fires from the designated dip site."

California's lightning-caused fires in the Shasta and Trinity County area began June 21. As of July 16, 81,115 acres had burned, injuring 34 people, destroying 10 buildings and damaging four additional structures.



815th Engineer Co. Prepares Vet's Home Site for Construction

By Sgt. 1st Class Mike Hagburg
141st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade

Members of the North Dakota National Guard's 815th Engineer Company spent their 2007 annual training preparing the ground for new construction at the Lisbon Veterans Home.

Commanded by Capt. Jaime J. Stephan, the 815th is based in Edgeley with detachments in Jamestown, Lisbon and Wishek. It is part of the 141st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade of Fargo.

The work in Lisbon was done as an Innovative Readiness Training project, providing mission-oriented training to Soldiers while also helping improve the Veterans' Home.

"Everybody is just really happy to have this type of a project where they can do something really meaningful, something that's going to last, something where the local people can actually see them doing their job," said Capt. Andrew Kuchera, a representative for the 141st MEB's engineer companies.

The Jamestown detachment worked on the site from May 31-June 14, the Lisbon detachment followed from June 14-28, and the Wishek detachment wrapped up the work from July 12-26.

The site will be home to a new \$25.6 million Veterans' Home structure, which is being jointly funded by the United States



Sgt. 1st Class Mike Hagburg

Soldiers from the 815th Engineer Co. look on as trees are loaded for removal from the Lisbon Veterans' Home construction site.

Veterans Administration and the State of North Dakota. The facility is scheduled for completion June 2010.

Kuchera said the job site began as a farm field with several large tree rows. The 815th removed about 150-200 big cottonwoods and a row of oak and pine trees. The unit cut and hauled most of the trees away — some trees were taken for public use.

The 815th then used its

heavy equipment — dozers, scrapers, graders, loaders, and dump trucks — to grade the site and distribute fill dirt. Kuchera said the 815th added "100,000 to 120,000 cubic yards of compacted and graded fill" to the site.



Sgt. 1st Class Mike Hagburg



Sgt. 1st Class Mike Hagburg

Above, Heavy equipment is used to prepare the Lisbon Veterans' Home construction site.

"The reason they put so much fill in is to raise it three feet above the existing 100-year flood plain," Kuchera said.

Soldiers from the 815th had the chance to log many hours on their equipment during the project.

"The Lisbon Vet's Home paid for all the fuel and some of the other associated costs like paying for the fill material for the site," Kuchera said. "It adds to our training value because they pick up some of the tab for what we're doing — it's definitely a two-way benefit."



Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

Military Civil Engineer Squadron fire fighters from other units are regularly utilizing the North Dakota Air National Guard Regional Training Site mock aircraft burn pit in Fargo this summer. Here members of the 153rd Civil Engineer Squadron Senior Airman Baeu Murphy, right, and Staff Sgt. David Fabian form a two-person fire fighter hose team as Master Sgt. Jeff Edwards, in red helmet, gives instructions during fire fighting training July 11. The fire fighters are spraying water on the simulated aircraft fire to fulfill annual fire fighter training requirements. The mock aircraft burn pit is one of only five at Air National Guard Bases in the United States.