



NORTH DAKOTA GUARDIAN



THE
Happy Hooligans

Volume 1, Issue 9

October 2008

A Challenge Met

Hooligans Excel
at Unit Compliance Inspection

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Digital photos should be at least 300 dpi.

On the Cover



Everything's in Order: 119th Wing commander Col. Robert J. Becklund, with red patch, greets Air Combat Command/Unit Compliance Inspection Team Chief Col. William Mullins as the inspection team arrives at the North Dakota Air National Guard Sept. 18. (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp)

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Lieutenant Colonel Tad Schauer, 219th Security Forces Squadron Commander

219th Squadron Represents Dawning of New Era for North Dakota National Guard

On Oct. 18, we will be honoring a significant achievement. The 119th Wing Detachment 2 will officially be recognized as the 219th Security Forces Squadron.

This historical day can be attributed to all members of the North Dakota National Guard who had a vision, made it a goal and then put steps in place to make it a reality. This vision and goal spanned more than 10 years, three adjutant generals, four Wing commanders, four state command chiefs and one senior enlisted advisor. It is the N.D. National Guard leadership's commitment to ensuring relevant missions that support our communities, our state and nation that made this vision a reality.

In addition, this achievement could not have happened without the hard-working men and women of the North Dakota Air National Guard who trusted the leadership and worked diligently to make this squadron successful. Many of these Airmen packed up their belongings and moved their families to Minot to be part of this new and innovative squadron. It is this type of commitment and dedication that makes the N.D. National Guard successful.

The 219th Security Forces Squadron is a first of its kind and we are leading the way in the total force concept of the military. When fully-manned, this squadron will be the largest Security Forces Squadron in the Air National Guard. It will be the first Air National Guard unit whose mission is to provide security for Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missiles, one of our nation's highest priority assets. This

mission came with many challenges and we had to blaze our own trail in unfamiliar territory. No matter what the obstacle, the dedicated Airmen of this squadron overcame it because of their outstanding work ethic and professionalism.

As Air National Guardsmen working side-by-side with active-duty Airmen stationed at Minot Air Force Base, we are showing leaders nationwide the benefit of working in a collaborated environment.

With the creation of this squadron, we have begun to bridge the gap between the Guard and the active duty. Today, we look toward the future and continue to build important relationships that will benefit us in future joint missions. As we work together, we have realized that the capabilities and opportunities available to us are limitless.

I also think it is fitting to mention that as one door opens, another door closes on this important day.

On Oct. 18, the 141st Engineer Battalion will come to an end after 53 years of dedicated service.

As Airmen in Minot take part in an activation ceremony to celebrate a new beginning, Soldiers in Valley City will be involved in a deactivation ceremony, ending an era of a highly decorated and successful unit.

Oct. 18 represents what the N.D. National Guard is all about. Together - the Air Guard, Army Guard and active-duty forces — will move forward, continuing to do everything we can to proudly serve our country.



"With the creation of this squadron, we have begun to bridge the gap between the Guard and the active duty."

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tad Schauer".

NATIONAL 
GUARD
North Dakota

J6 Helps Ghanaians Establish Network

Three J6 (command, control, communications and computers) Soldiers spent a week in Ghana, where they assisted the Ghanaian Armed Forces in establishing a National Military-Wide Area Network.

Col. Jim Hrdlicka, Maj. Jason Stecker and Sgt. 1st Class Todd Wetsch, all of Bismarck, left Sept. 13 on the Department of Defense-sponsored State Partnership Program mission. The program aligns states with partner countries to encourage the development of economic, political and military ties. The North Dakota-Ghana partnership strengthens each year as Guardsmen, Ghanaian troops and civilians participate in missions both here and abroad.

This particular mission made steps toward improvements to Ghana's infrastructure, cyber capabilities and security while increasing their ability to respond to threats to information access.

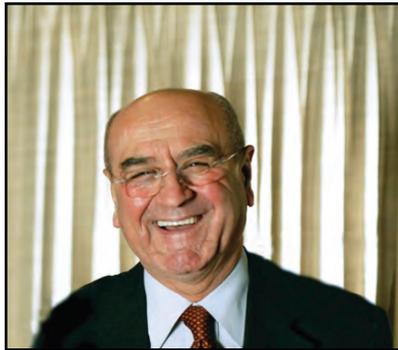
Saddam Adviser Shares Middle East Knowledge

N.D. National Guard Soldiers, Airmen and family members had the opportunity to hear one of Saddam Hussein's advisers speak during a presentation in Bismarck.

Maj. Gen. Georges Hormis Sada was an ace fighter pilot who became an air vice marshal in Hussein's military.

Sada was favored by the former Iraqi dictator and believes that is a key reason why he served as one of Hussein's most trusted advisers. In that role, he persuaded Hussein not to attack Israel with chemical weapons. Sada now serves as the Iraqi Institute for Peace's executive secretary and as a spokesman for Iraq's prime minister. He authored the book "Saddam's Secrets" on Iraq's weapons program and Hussein's reign.

Sada spoke for three hours at Raymond J. Bohn Armory about Middle East affairs, including progress in Iraq and the situation



Maj. Gen. Georges Hormis Sada

Courtesy Photo

Wing Commander Swears in Flight Surgeon

Dr. Craig Smith was sworn into the N.D. Air National Guard by Col. Robert Becklund, 119th Wing commander, in the Boniface Auditorium of St. Alexius Medical Center in Bismarck on Aug. 20.

Smith, formerly a major in the Army Reserves, transferred into the N.D. Air National Guard as a flight surgeon for the 119th Wing. Smith is an anesthesiologist at St. Alexius Medical Center.

"Dr. Smith will be filling a great need within our medical squadron. Our new missions with the C-21 and Predator have amplified the demand for flight surgeons in the unit because of the increased number of personnel who now need flight exams," said Master Sgt. Glenda Edwardson, 119th Wing recruiter.

The Air National Guard is actively seeking qualified medical personnel to add to its ranks. The unit is looking for five more health professionals, to include three flight surgeons, one family physician and one internist.

"Due to their demanding schedules, it can be a challenge to find medical personnel to join the Air Guard, but we've been very successful this year. There are many patriotic people out there and that includes those working in the medical community," Edwardson said.

119th Wing Seeking Members for Honor Guard Team

The 119th Wing Services Flight is looking for potential members to join the N.D. Air Guard Honor Guard Team. The Honor Guard is responsible for posting colors, supporting both military and civic events, military funeral honors and other ceremonies. Members are volunteers, but may be

tasked to support specific Wing, Group or unit functions and events.

"Ceremonial Guardsmen are a picture-perfect example of individuals who are highly motivated, maintain exceptionally high standards of conduct both on- and off-duty and exude enormous amounts of pride in everything they do. As ceremonial Guardsmen, our actions bring to credit the United States Air Force and the ceremonial

Guardsmen profession," said Lt. Col. Gaylord Z. Thomas, commander, United States Air Force Honor Guard

If you are interested in being a part of the Honor Guard team, please stop by the

services office and fill out an application. The Honor Guard application can also be found on the 119th Wing SharePoint site under "Services."



Col. Robert Becklund, 119th Wing commander, left, swears Dr. (Maj.) Craig Smith into the N.D. Air National Guard. Smith will serve as a flight surgeon for the 119th Wing.

Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

N.D. Army Guard Opens New Maintenance Shop

A new North Dakota Army National Guard field maintenance shop in Minot is open for business. At 28,677 square feet, the new workspace is more than eight times larger than the previous shop. The construction also includes a separate 39,968-square-foot unheated, enclosed building with storage, a wash platform and a fuel storage and dispensing system.

The larger space was needed as the Army's force structure transitions to two levels of maintenance that involve performing more complex repairs than in the past.

Construction began in May 2006 for the new facility, which contains 10 maintenance, direct support and warm-up work bays, as well as administrative and personnel areas. A congressional approval of \$10.8 million funded the bulk of the \$11.91 million project. The additional \$1.07 million is a result of a NGB reprogramming action.

News Briefs Submitted By 119th Wing & Joint Force Headquarters

Guardsmen Wanted:

Deployments Open Up Job Opportunities for Members of the N.D. National Guard

By Staff Sgt. Kayla Bosch
Human Resource Office

If you have ever thought about applying for a full-time position in the North Dakota National Guard and you are not on a deployment roster, there will be job opportunities opening up soon. With upcoming deployments leaving positions vacant, many temporary or indefinite jobs will be opening up throughout our organization. We will need to fill these jobs for those deploying who hold full-time positions.

Human resources cannot guarantee exactly when specific positions will open up, but we encourage you to keep a close eye on the N.D. National Guard Web site (www.ndguard.com/employment) for the most updated listing of vacancies.

Full-time N. D. National Guard positions offer many benefits. The benefits vary with technician positions and active-duty tours, but are great under both programs.

Some Commonly Asked Questions:

Q: Can a person not in the North Dakota National Guard apply for positions?

A: Yes, some positions are able to be filled by either North Dakota Guardsmen or persons outside of the organization.

Airlines Modify Excess Accompanied Baggage Fees for Military Members

Defense Travel System
www.defensetravel.osd.mil

Major airlines have recently modified their excess accompanied baggage policy for military members traveling on **official business**. Military members are required to show their military ID to check up to three bags with no charge. Please note that some carriers have included dependents and other carriers never had a third-bag fee policy for excess accompanied baggage.

Travelers should review airline policies on respective Web sites to ensure compliance with weight and size restrictions. Bags that exceed the weight and size restriction also may be subject to additional charges.

Military services should ensure that members who require excess accompanied baggage have "excess accompanied baggage" authorized on travel orders in accordance with the service's excess baggage guidance. Military members who do not have a travel charge card or personal charge card are strongly advised to request an advance if such charges are anticipated.



The position vacancy will clearly state what the requirements are for this. We will try first to fill positions by using those who are current members of the N.D. National Guard.

Q: How do I apply for vacancies that become available?

A: Verify that you are in the area of consideration for the position being advertised (such as enlisted, officer or warrant officer). For technician positions, submit either an OF 612 (Application for Federal Employment) or a resume. Read the "How to Apply" page on each vacancy announcement carefully. This will provide you helpful hints so that you do not miss anything when filling out your application. For active-duty positions, submit a resume with a cover letter.

Q: When will positions start being advertised?

A: We expect positions to start being advertised around January 2009, so start getting your applications ready! Vacancy announcements may only be open for as little as 10 days, so if you start preparing now you will be prepared when the vacancy announcement hits the Web site.

For more information about technician vacancy announcements, please contact 1st Sgt. Beth Handt at 701-333-3365 or Sgt. 1st Class Laurie Zacher for active duty vacancy announcements at 701-333-3369.



Chaplain's Corner: Strength for Life's Surprises

By Chaplain (Maj.) David Johnson
164th Engineer Battalion

Two explorers were on a jungle safari when suddenly a ferocious lion jumped in front of them. "Keep calm," the first explorer whispered. "Remember what we read in that book on wild animals? If you stand perfectly still and look the lion in the eye, he will turn and run." "Sure," replied his companion. "You've read the book, and I've read the book. But has the lion read the book?"

If you stop and think about it, there are a lot of books out there to guide us through life. Yet even with all the books and manuals that we read for our jobs, there is nothing that takes the place of "doing" the work. A book can get only so far and then "life" hits us.

Sgt. Casey Bosch and I are good examples of this. Neither of us had been deployed as a Unit Ministry Team (UMT). Yes ... we knew what it meant to be a UMT stateside and we knew what the manuals said about X, Y and Z. We also made plans for X, Y and Z, but then we arrived in Iraq. To make a long story short, manuals can take you only so far and then "life happens." You know what I mean, right? The fact is that life is always throwing us curve balls. They take us by surprise and surprises aren't always that easy to handle! This is when we rely on our support network



Courtesy Photo

Chaplain (Maj.) David Johnson, left, with Sgt. Casey Bosch. Both Soldiers returned from mobilization to Iraq May 2008 with the 164th Engineer Battalion.

and our faith, or a combination thereof, to get us "through" whatever comes our way.

Like the explorers, when "life happens" to me, I rely on some words from a book, as well. This book, the Bible, says, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths (Proverbs 3:5-6)." This is where I continue to draw my strength for each day. How about you? Where is it that you find your strength to get you through?

Mentoring Program Gives Current, Future Leaders Opportunity for Growth

By Chief Warrant Officer Theresia Hersch
Joint Force Headquarters

As we approach the kick-off for the third year of the Developing Leaders Joint Mentoring program, we would like to invite all members of the North Dakota Army and Air National Guard to become either a mentor or mentee. This program allows paired teams to transfer organizational culture, values, knowledge and skills from more experienced leaders to the future leaders of this organization.



Mentoring is integral to our vision and key to our success as an organization.

Over the last two years, we have had mentees accomplish a number of goals, both professional and personal. Mentors have had the opportunity to learn more about our current generation of Soldiers and Airmen and to help mentor them for

continued success. Along the way, lasting relationships have formed among those who have dedicated themselves to the process.

If you have personal or professional goals, a desire to broaden your leadership ability and are interested in learning from those who are successful in their fields, this program is for you. If you have a technical skill or experience in the organization and you enjoy helping others to meet their goals and expectations for future leadership positions in their career and life, then

we need your expertise.

Forms for the 2009-2010 Developing Leaders program can be found on NDKO starting Oct.1. Go to JFHQCmd, click on J5ND and then scroll down to the "Mentorship Program" section.

For those without access to NDKO, ask your unit or contact Noreen Keesey at 701-333-2003 or noreen.keesey@us.army.mil; and Theresia Hersch at 333-2286 or theresia.hersch@us.army.mil for applications.

How to Vote Early (Absentee) in North Dakota

Voting before Election Day (also known as absentee voting and early voting) is easy in North Dakota and available to every voter. Simply complete an Absent Voter's Ballot Application and deliver it to your County Election Administrator (Auditor) at any time during an election year. Ballots are available to voters 40 days prior to each Election Day. When the ballots are prepared, the county auditor will send a ballot and other information to all who have applied to vote early.

After voting on the ballot, the voter returns it and the other required documents to the county auditor's office where it will be kept secure until it is counted on Election Day. If the ballot is returned by mail, it must have a postmark by at least the day before the election. For more information and an Absent Voter's Ballot Application, visit www.nd.gov/sos/electvote/voting/voting-absentee.html.

Love & Marriage



Guard Offers Innovative Programs for Strengthening Relationships

By Sgt. Amy Wieser Willson
Joint Force Headquarters

Nobody wants to marry a jerk (or “jerkette”), but sometimes it happens. “How?” is something many divorced and unhappy couples will ponder for years. “What went wrong?”

A new program in the North Dakota National Guard can help Soldiers and Airmen pinpoint possible problems and key in on positive spouse traits before they ever consider pondering the how or why of an unhappy marriage.

Premarital Interpersonal Choices and Knowledge, or P.I.C.K., “goes over the head and the heart because when you meet somebody, the heart takes over,” said Jane Johnson, a full-time licensed social worker with the North Dakota National Guard. Unfortunately, that’s not usually enough to sustain a marriage for years to come.

P.I.C.K. centers around the “How Not to Marry a Jerk (or Jerkette)” series, in which Johnson and Nathan Sather, Air Guard Chaplain John Flowers’ assistant, both are certified. Additional members of the therapeutic team are working to complete the extensive certification training and testing requirements. Among the program’s lessons is the Relationship Attachment Model, which examines and weights the importance of five levels of a relationship: know, trust, rely, commit and touch.

P.I.C.K. is just the latest in innovative course offerings available to Guard members at no charge. The Marriage and Relationship Enrichment, or MRE, program is in its third year. It’s based on the acclaimed PREP (Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program), and about 135 couples participate annually during three programs in various locations.

“Oftentimes when we communicate, we speak around the issue and don’t get anywhere,” said Maj. David Johnson, a North Dakota National Guard chaplain who coordinates the program. “MRE teaches basic communication and problem resolution skills. Bottom line, it teaches skills to help nurture the relationship and help make the relationship grow.”

MRE guides couples, and ultimately families, to be strong and stay strong through life’s stressors. The program helps to identify those stressors and provides basic tools to help them constructively communicate so that they can address the real issue or concern at hand.

“Taking care of Soldiers and Airmen and their families has



Sgt. Amy Wieser Willson

North Dakota Air National Guard Staff Sgt. William Kennedy holds “the floor,” a guide for speakers and listeners, during the September Marriage and Relationship Enrichment weekend in Medora. His wife, North Dakota Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Stephanie Collins, listens and prepares to practice paraphrasing his “concern” during a “Talking without Fighting” practice session.

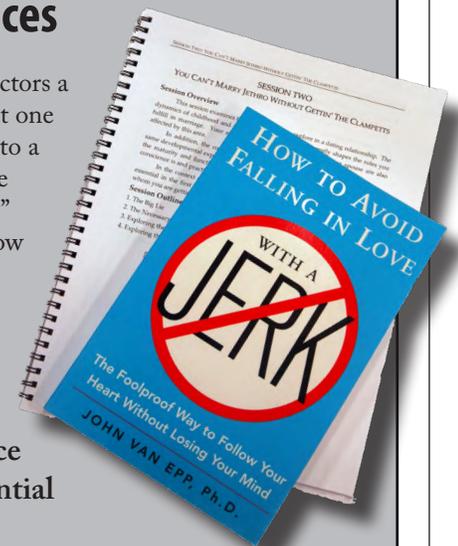
been and continues to be my No. 1 priority,” said Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, North Dakota National Guard adjutant general. “Offering the relationship enrichment program is just one piece of that, albeit a very important piece. It’s a valuable experience that we take pride in being able to offer to our Guardsmen to help them and their families.”

Commanders must make every attempt to allow interested Soldiers and Airmen to attend the P.I.C.K. and MRE weekends because the programs are considered a critical component to unit readiness levels. The weekend may be done in lieu of drill, and attendees will be reimbursed for expenses. Guardsmen should contact their unit for more information or call Julie McKenzie in the Family Program Office at 701-333-2172. The next MRE weekend will be Feb. 6-8. Dates for the next P.I.C.K. have not been set yet.

Knowing Faces

Some of the important factors a couple should know about one another before moving into a long-term relationship are incorporated in “FACES,” an acronym from the “How Not to Marry a Jerk (or Jerkette)” series.

- Family background
- Attitudes and actions of conscience
- Compatibility potential
- Examples of other relationships
- Skills of communication



HIGH ANXIETY

After Months of Stressful Preparation, the 119th Wing Breezes Through Its Unit Compliance Inspection

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

Many years of dotting the i's and crossing the t's culminated favorably during a U.S. Air Force Unit Compliance Inspection (UCI) Sept. 18-23 for the North Dakota Air National Guard (NDANG).

The tedious and stressful process of reviewing and self-inspecting piles of paperwork and researching updates to Air Force regulations came to a climactic conclusion during the six-day UCI in Fargo.

A team of 39 Air Combat Command/Inspector General (ACC/IGIS) UCI inspectors arrived on the flight line at the NDANG in a U.S. Navy C-9 Thursday, Sept. 18, ready to look through file plans and question personnel about their knowledge of the Air Force policies and procedures.

To prepare for the UCI, NDANG members had been evaluating themselves and one another for many months prior to the arrival of the UCI inspection team. Reviewing of regulation compliance checklists has been a daily ritual for individuals and groups alike for the past several months at the NDANG in an effort to not only pass the inspection, but to excel.

The challenge of a UCI has been increased by the recent mission transitions for the NDANG from the F-16 aircraft to the MQ-1 Unmanned Aerial System and



Inspectors Senior Master Sgt. Robert A. Craig Jr., far left, and Master Sgt. Janice L. Williams, far right, question Staff Sgt. Brian J. Kieselbach, of the 119th Security Forces Squadron, second from right, and Master Sgt. Thomas W. Krabbenhoft, of the 119th Logistics Readiness Squadron, about weapons security and maintenance methods in the mobility weapons storage area Sep. 21 at the North Dakota Air National Guard. The North Dakota Air National Guard was recognized by the inspection team as the "best seen to date" in the area of mobility weapons and mobility bags.

the C-21 aircraft.

"It can be a challenge for an inspector to keep up with the changes that occur in the U.S. Air Force, just as it is for the people who are being inspected," said Senior Master Sgt. Michelle Reitan, of the 119th Civil Engineer Squadron, who has been a member of operational readiness inspection (ORI) teams as well as a unit member being inspected. "It really takes diligence to stay on top of the regulations and to be prepared for inspections on a regular basis. It takes doing a little bit at a time every day to be prepared for these inspections," Reitan said.

Changes are an everyday occurrence in technical areas of the Air National Guard, such as the Communications Flight, which increases the pressure of inspections.

"Ever-changing technology systems and software with constant downwardly directed updates make it challenging to stay current with regulations in the information technology area," said Chief Master Sgt. Patti Mark, the 119th Communications Flight base network control center superintendent. "Network security issues are fast-paced and updates are critical to the protection of our communications process, which is now categorized as a weapons system,"

The anxiety level is high during an inspection because the results can be a reflection on how well a unit is doing its job.

"Maintaining a good attitude during the inspection process is critical to a successful inspection. I welcome inspections because it keeps us better prepared to do

our job,” Reitan said.

Hooligan pride was evident during the inspection as unit members embraced the challenge and enthusiastically interacted with the inspectors.

The 119th Security Forces Squadron was one of many areas singled out for recognition by the inspection team.

“From top to bottom the Security Forces Squadron here has been outstanding. Your folks are doing everything right,” said

Col. William Mullins, UCI team chief. “This is the first Combat Arms Training and Maintenance shop to receive zero negative comments by this UCI team.”

Tech. Sgt. Levi J. Heller was individually recognized within the 119th Security Forces Squadron and Col. Mullins presented him with a rare inspector general (IG) commander’s coin. Only one-half of one percent of personnel inspected earn the IG Commander’s Coin in recognition

of excellence. It was only the fourth such coin presented in the last 14 months.

The positive feedback stemmed far beyond the Security Forces, however.

“Coming from the active duty side, it surprises me to see the Guard guys come in one weekend a month and see how well they pull this off in the fire hall. It makes me feel good to see them meet the same standards that full-time personnel have to meet,” said Senior Master Sgt. Gerald A. Johnson, an ACC/IGIS fire department inspector.

The results of the UCI positively reflected the hard work the Happy Hooligans put in on a day-to-day basis in addition to their thorough preparations for the inspection.

The inspection team only documents whether the unit complies, complies with comments, or does not comply in the UCI report, but the number of negatives was extremely low.

“My assessment is that we turned in an absolutely outstanding overall performance, that we have a lot of extremely relieved, happy and proud personnel here, that we got a great baseline document to focus our efforts on and that we left a very positive opinion of the NDANG with the inspection team,” said Col. Robert J. Becklund, 119th Wing commander, upon hearing the out-brief from UCI Team Chief Col. Mullins.

Brig. Gen. Alan W. Palmer, the Air Component Commander of the North Dakota National Guard, read portions of an evaluation of the 119th Wing written by Chief Master Sgt. Harold L. Clark, the ACC/IG Team Superintendent, to a large gathering of Happy Hooligans upon completion of the UCI.

The letter was full of praise for the NDANG, but can be summed up with the following statements by Clark, “I was impressed by the level of professionalism, enthusiasm, pride and genuine hospitality of every member of the Happy Hooligans and attribute it to the great leadership provided by this enthusiastic and engaged leadership team. The Airmen of the 119th Wing are ready, willing and able to continually evolve and execute their mission,” and “Wing members were professional in their behavior and appearance without exception. This is one of the most professional organizations I have visited.”



Left, U.S. Air Force Col. William Mullins, right, presents a special unit compliance inspection coin to Tech. Sgt. Levi J. Heller, of the 119th Security Forces Squadron, in recognition of the outstanding work he has done in the combat arms training and maintenance area of the North Dakota Air National Guard. Heller is responsible for procuring, storing and tracking weapons parts for all weapon systems on the installation, which was reported as ‘the best seen to date’ by the unit compliance inspection team.

Right, Master Sgt. Charles R. Saxton lines out completed checklist review items during a meeting of 119th Communications Flight personnel in preparation for the unit compliance inspection prior to the UCI team arrival. Below, Senior Airman Chrystal A. Nelson, of the 119th Civil Engineer Squadron, right, explains her knowledge of the 119th emergency management lesson plans to inspector Senior Master Sgt. Mark E. Atlow.





Spc. Brett Miller

Soldiers of the 188th Air Defense Artillery Rapid Aerostat Initial Deployment (RAID) search Staff Sgt. Phillip Weiser, Pre - Mobilization Training Assistance Element (PTAE) training assistor, during an entry control point exercise at Camp Grafton Training Center Sept. 17. The unit was alerted for possible mobilization March 2008. The PTAE assists units with pre-mobilization training prior to leaving for mobilization stations where units complete mission-essential training for overseas deployments.

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

By Sgt. Eric W. Jensen
116th Public Affairs Detachment

Training for a deployment takes time. Staff Sgt. Phillip Weiser, 1-188th Air Defense Artillery (Security Forces), would know. His unit spent nearly 16 months on active duty after being mobilized in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Four of those months were spent in Fort Lewis, Wash., undergoing a barrage of training requirements necessary for the 188th to deploy. In addition, the unit went through back-to-back two-week training periods before even leaving North Dakota. The lengthy preparation for Afghanistan added more months to the Soldiers' deployment and meant less time spent at home with families. As a training assistor in the North Dakota National Guard's Pre-Mobilization Training Assistance Element (PTAE), Weiser aims to make pre-mobiliza-

The Pre-Mobilization Training Assistance Element stands ready to prepare units for mobilizations. Their brand of realistic, relevant training enhances Soldiers' readiness and shaves time off lengthy stays at mobilization stations.

tion training just a little more bearable.

The PTAE is a 20-Soldier team designed to reduce the amount of training units do at mobilization stations by giving them the tools to conduct some of that training within their home states. Moreover, the PTAE can stretch training out over a longer period of time so units are able to meet training requirements prior to mobilizations.

"It just makes that much more family time available to get affairs ready," Weiser said.

Specifically, PTAEs were created by National Guard Bureau in response to a policy enacted by Secretary of Defense Robert Gates in January 2007, which limited National Guard mobilization periods to 12 months — a stark contrast to the old practice of 16- to 24-month mobilizations. By reducing time at a mobilization station, PTAEs also allow units more "boots on the ground" time at their deployment destinations.

“WHAT WE’RE DOING IS IDENTIFYING EVERY NEED A UNIT MIGHT HAVE.”

— MASTER SGT. SHAYNE BECKERT

“Most people I’ve talked to would rather be in theater than mobilization stations,” said Lt. Col. Owen Speidel, PTAE officer-in-charge. “Hopefully, we can make it better for Soldiers by allowing them to train here (in North Dakota) and spend less time there.”

Because nearly 80 percent of the N.D. National Guard PTAE are veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, the team is qualified to assist units with pre-mobilization training. Weiser said that having real-world experience lends credibility to the PTAE. Chief Warrant Officer Neil Hutchison, PTAE operations officer, agrees.

“We try to get people with different skills and people who have been mobilized so they have that background of going through the deployment process,” he said. “The units also benefit by working with people from their own state. They can relate to them well.”

Mirroring scenarios that Soldiers may face in combat is crucial to the type of training they aim to provide.

“We stay current with what is happening in theater,” Master Sgt. Shayne Beckert, PTAE noncommissioned officer-in-charge said. “It’s ideal for us to be able to provide up-to-date warrior tasks and battle drills.”

With a three-person command cell, a combat lifesaver team and 14 training assistants, the PTAE is able to bring a myriad of specialties to the table and the arsenal of training they provide is extensive. The long list includes a driver’s training course, Engagement Skills Trainer 2000 exercises, weapons training on virtually any U.S. military firearm available, instruction on the single-channel ground and airborne radio system (SINCGARS) and defense advanced global positioning system receiver (DAGR), convoy operations and any warrior task or battle drill that needs attention.

And that’s just getting started.

The PTAE is continually expanding its efforts. Soon, they hope to be able to

provide a combatives course for mobilizing units. Working in conjunction with a certified combatives instructor, the PTAE will, in the future, start training Soldiers in hand-to-hand combat.

“What we’re doing is identifying every need a unit might have,” Beckert said. “If they need to teach their Soldiers combatives, we’re taking the steps to make that happen.”

They’re also taking the steps to make pre-mobilization training innovative and realistic.

Sgt. 1st Class Jamie Odegaard, a combat lifesaver instructor with the PTAE, said her team tries to make practical exercises during her course as “true to life” as possible. In addition to learning the standard first aid classes, students practice life-saving skills in hands-on scenarios that use real Soldiers as “casualties.” Fake blood is used to add to the realism and loud noise makes it difficult to communicate and concentrate during the exercise.

“The pressure they experience with us is going to be less than when in theater, but we try to heighten stress levels as best we can,” Odegaard said.

So far, feedback to this type of training has been positive.

“The Soldiers that have mobilized in the past, who have recently been through the combat lifesaver course, have told us that this training would have been so much more helpful had they had it before they deployed,” Odegaard said.

The PTAE exists to make that kind of

training more accessible. Beckert said that the team is a “one-stop shop” and is available to help commanders prepare their units for mobilization.

“A lot of commanders may not realize what kind of asset we are,” he said. “A lot of them take all the duties of preparing their unit training on their shoulders, however, they can really just come to us and we have everything prepared.”

The PTAE is also helpful when it comes to communicating with a unit’s mobilization station to make sure that the training Soldiers have done at home is validated.

“We’re in contact with mobilization stations long before the units even get there,” Beckert said. “We build relationships with them to make sure everything transitions smoothly.”

Ultimately, training at home will whittle some time off the length of stay at a mobilization station. Weiser believes that’s a good thing. He said that being able to complete training in-state, rather than entirely at a mobilization station, makes for a much better process.

“They put so many Soldiers through so rapidly during those four-month mobilization stations that at times you almost felt like you were getting lost in the shuffle,” Weiser said.

Members of the PTAE hope those days are over. With 12-month deployments and less time at mobilization stations, it seems to be going that way.

“Now, it’s a lot more organized,” Hutchison said.



Spc. Brett Miller

Capt. James Lindeman, PTAE training assistant, demonstrates how to “move over, through or around” an obstacle; an Army warrior task taught by the PTAE. Lindeman is throwing a grappling hook to detonate any possible booby traps as Soldiers from the 188th ADA (RAID) look on.



Guardian Snapshots

Trigger Squeeze: Sgt. Kim Lohse, 231st Brigade Support Battalion, aims her M16A2 rifle down range at Camp Grafton Training Center Sept. 20. Lohse competed with 17 of the best Soldiers in the N.D. Army National Guard during the first phase of competition to determine the best in the state and be named "Soldier of the Year" or "Noncommissioned Officer of the Year." Marksmanship is just one of the events Soldiers compete in.



Sgt. Ann Knudson



Progress: An aerial view shows progress being made on building at Camp Grafton Training Center, Devils Lake. Building began in May with a completion date expected



Sgt. 1st Class Paul Deegan

Knock, Knock: Staff Sgt. Bradley Bergeron, 164th Regional Training Institute (RTI), surveys the result of a water impulse charge at an Urban Mobility Breach Course (UMBC) in Camp Lejeune, N.C. Bergeron attended the course with Sgt. 1st Class Paul Deegan, also with the 164th RTI, to learn about various breaching techniques used to blow entry points into hardened targets. As many as eight RTI instructors have been through the training and use portions of the UMBC to teach combat engineer students who attend noncommissioned officer leadership schools and military occupational specialty-qualification-producing courses at the RTI.



Packed House: Retirees gather to listen to presenters at the North Dakota National Guard Retirees Weekend at Camp Grafton Training Center, Devils Lake. The September retirees weekend had the largest recorded attendance ever for this type of event. The retirees weekends serve as reunion gatherings and opportunities to get important updates about



Spc. Brett J. Miller

Construction on the new Regional Training Institute building is well advanced. Construction on the 182,372-square-foot building is scheduled to start in August 2010.



Mr. Greg Wilz

Training exercise held Sept. 5-7 at Camp Grafton Training Center. The event had more than 150 participants from the National Guard and Reserve.

Stations Ready: Senior Airman Nicholis Mitchell, a firefighter with the 119 Civil Engineering Squadron, attaches a water hose to a decontamination station during a hazardous material training exercise at the Air National Guard training facility in Fargo.

Tech. Sgt. Bradley A. Schneider



Staff Sgt. Billie Jo Lomous

Freedom Salute: Left, Staff Sgt. Krista Glanville, of 68th Troop Command, hands out awards to Soldiers of the 164th Engineer Battalion at the unit's Freedom Salute Ceremony and Homecoming Tribute in Minot Sept. 13. The Freedom Salute campaign is designed to publicly acknowledge Army Guard Soldiers and those who supported them during the President's call to duty for Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.



Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

All Clear: Chief Master Sgt. Jason A. Anderson, of the Logistics Readiness Squadron, is questioned by Security Forces member Master Sgt. Albert C. Humphrey Jr. as his truck is stopped at the main gate during an exercise Aug. 27.





Left, Senior Airman Nikolas Z. Guttormson searches for his name on deployment packets as Senior Master Sgt. Rodney R. Draeger and Master Sgt. Robert P. Ramsett (all of the 119th Civil Engineer Squadron) follow him through an out-processing line Aug. 28 at the North Dakota Air National Guard, Fargo. The 119th Civil Engineers are part of a group about to embark on a six-month Air Expeditionary Force deployment. Below, Staff Sgt. James Jennen of the 119th Wing is greeted by his mother at Hector International Airport in Fargo on Sept. 11. Jennen deployed to Afghanistan in July 2008.



Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

The World Over

119th Airmen Travel to Far
Corners of the Globe
While Deployed

By Capt. Penny Ripperger
119th Wing

Often unnoticed or publicly recognized, Airmen continuously answer the call to deploy and serve their country. As the 119th Wing braces for the next wave of deployments, the Airmen who raised their hand prepare themselves and their families for the day they are scheduled to leave.

"I try to meet with each Airman and their family individually before they deploy," said Jody Harms, 119th Wing Family Programs coordinator. "It's important that I make personal contact with the family so they know who I am and that I am here to help them while their loved one is away."

In addition to meeting with the Family Programs Coordinator, deploying Airmen are required to complete a deployment checklist. The checklist consists of multiple areas on base that Airmen must report to before they are approved to leave.

"The checklist takes one to two days to complete. We are fortunate to typically deploy in small numbers so we can give each member the individual attention they deserve to prepare them for their deployment," said Capt. Jennifer Silbernägel, 119th Wing logistics readiness officer.

The lengths of Air Guard deployments vary, but generally airmen deploy for four to six months. Airmen typically deploy individually or in small groups based on their career specialty. Although

they often get the option to deploy to a variety of locations, it can be daunting to some Airmen to travel alone to a foreign land.

"When you have to deploy, it can be somewhat intimidating, but also very rewarding. You're taken out of your comfort zone and into unfamiliar situations and forced to interact with people you have never met before — but they're not going to be too different from you. We're all in the Air Force," said Col. Ron Solberg, 119th Support Group commander, who recently returned from a six-month deployment to Iraq.

Over the next several months a significant number of Happy Hooligans will deploy all over the world to include Iraq, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Spain.

The 119th Wing deployment office is no stranger to the high operations tempo and the variety of overseas locations to which Airmen are requested to deploy. In addition to the current deployments previously listed, 119th Wing Airmen have deployed to Afghanistan, Canada, Columbia, Curacao, Diego Garcia, England, Germany, Ghana, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Panama, Romania, Uganda and the United Kingdom.

Just as Airmen leave in small or single numbers, they come home the same way.

"It could be easy to miss an Airmen's homecoming, especially when they come home individually and often make their own airline reservations," Harms said.

The Family Programs office and Deployments office work diligently to inform 119th Wing members when an Airman is expected to return home. In addition, a media advisory is released state-wide informing the public of each homecoming.

"Regardless of the length of the deployment or the number of Airmen returning, it's a priority for the 119th Wing to have people at the airport to welcome them home," Harms said. "Every Airman deserves a hero's welcome when they step off that plane and we try to make sure that happens."

Retirements • Promotions • New Members

July 2008 — August 2008

Promotions • Army

Lieutenant Colonel

Lt. Col. Jerry M. Anderson
Lt. Col. Scott A. Fontaine
Lt. Col. David W. Hall
Lt. Col. Rick J. Smith

Major

Maj. Jeremy P. Hall
Maj. Paul R. Helten

First Lieutenant

1st Lt. Karl R. Altenburg
1st Lt. William H. Brown
1st Lt. Ryan R. Kaufman
1st Lt. Kimberly A. Miller
1st Lt. Scott D. Reed
1st Lt. Leean R. Vandolah
1st Lt. Matthew J. Voeller

Chief Warrant Officer

CW2 Bradley S. Flaa
CW2 Kelby J. Hovey
CW2 Dennis D. Lahti
CW2 Jonathan P. Sigl
CW3 Shane W. Arlien

Master Sergeant

Master Sgt. Kevin M. Magstadt

Sergeant First Class

Sgt. 1st Class Corey W. Askin
Sgt. 1st Class Russell K. Garrett
Sgt. 1st Class Gabriel T. Gietzen
Sgt. 1st Class Freddie . Griffin
Sgt. 1st Class Samuel T. Hansen
Sgt. 1st Class Brian R. Messmer
Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey L. Pfingsten
Sgt. 1st Class Steven R. Urlacher
Sgt. 1st Class William K. Willmann

Staff Sergeant

Staff Sgt. Richard A. Bohl
Staff Sgt. Nicholas J. Clark
Staff Sgt. William R. Griffin
Staff Sgt. Jacob M. Hiebeck
Staff Sgt. Lance J. Joramo
Staff Sgt. Stephanie L. Kuehn
Staff Sgt. Mark W. McMahon
Staff Sgt. Christopher J. Smallbeck
Staff Sgt. Bradley B. Turck
Staff Sgt. Melanie L. Vincent

Staff Sgt. Deborah K. Walker

Sergeant

Sgt. Joshua J. Alex
Sgt. Ryan M. Diede
Sgt. Ricky P. Gaden
Sgt. Brittany J. Iverson
Sgt. David R. Kilber
Sgt. Zachary R. Landis
Sgt. Cole L. Larocque
Sgt. Sherie M. Loebcantlon
Sgt. Priscilla A. Lundgren
Sgt. Michael J. Matthews
Sgt. Chad M. Prescott
Sgt. Benjamin S. Reberg
Sgt. Joshua E. Seil
Sgt. Allen D. Shefstad
Sgt. Christopher A. Silbernagel
Sgt. Andrew C. Sogge

Specialist

Spc. Erik E. Anderson
Spc. Justine A. Baltz
Spc. Darren J. Benneweis
Spc. Michael A. Berman
Spc. John F. Brezinsky
Spc. Melissa R. Campbell
Spc. Kyle D. Christensen
Spc. Christopher L. Ellison
Spc. Kyle S. Emmel
Spc. Thomas J. Fakler
Spc. John J. Faul
Spc. Zachary A. Fink
Spc. Brent P. Freese
Spc. Brooklyn A. Gilje
Spc. Eric M. Gustafson
Spc. Logan M. Hauff
Spc. Tiffany-iris H. Heflin
Spc. Kyle A. Hertz
Spc. Michael J. Herz
Spc. Stephanie Y. Hopkins
Spc. Justin A. Huber
Spc. Michael J. Hughes
Spc. Charles J. Johnson
Spc. Cody A. Johnson
Spc. James R. Kenney
Spc. Benjamin W. Knight

Spc. Jace M. Kouba
Spc. Ashley D. Kromrey
Spc. Adam C. Lalim
Spc. Tyler D. Larson
Spc. Lindsey A. Lauritsen
Spc. Heather L. Lepp
Spc. Trevor J. Mendiola
Spc. Brandon J. Molgard
Spc. Charles J. Nelson
Spc. Ivan A. Nychyporuk
Spc. Donald J. Olson
Spc. Kyle W. Olson
Spc. Jonathan F. Parnell
Spc. Jose J. Pasillas
Spc. Christopher M. Rasmussen
Spc. Cody J. Renner
Spc. Michael S. Rogers
Spc. David J. Rohrer
Spc. Nicolas J. Salvaggio
Spc. Eric S. Sansburn
Spc. Kevin L. Schafer
Spc. Justin L. Schuh
Spc. Cody A. Sivertson
Spc. Timothy J. Sprenger
Spc. Andrew J. Swiontek
Spc. Reece A. Thomas
Spc. Cole R. Tucker
Spc. David T. Walsh
Spc. Forrest L. Wells
Spc. Brett A. Zeltinger

Private First Class

Pfc. Luke J. Abell
Pfc. Austin W. Ackerman
Pfc. Samuel D. Asleson
Pfc. Chad A. Avdem
Pfc. Brandon A. Bartlett
Pfc. Joshua E. Becker
Pfc. Preston L. Blazek
Pfc. Seth D. Bowman
Pfc. Carissa L. Brandt
Pfc. Briony M. Braswell
Pfc. Miles J. Bricks
Pfc. Paul K. Bromley
Pfc. Daniel A. Byzewski
Pfc. Nathaniel R. Cheek
Pfc. Dominic W. Dalman
Pfc. Scott M. Douglas
Pfc. Ryan E. Gendron
Pfc. Kyle D. Hanson
Pfc. Andrew J. Hertz
Pfc. Dylan J. Hoppe
Pfc. Zachary D. Horner
Pfc. Melanie R. Howard
Pfc. Billy J. Kimbrough
Pfc. Timothy P. Knudson
Pfc. Tyler J. Leingang
Pfc. Trent K. Maetzold
Pfc. Joshua L. Mahlum
Pfc. Matthew C. Mehlhoff
Pfc. Bryce L. Monson
Pfc. Shelby R. Nelson
Pfc. Bryce A. Noonan
Pfc. Sean F. Nordstog
Pfc. Jessica J. Ohlhauser
Pfc. Kylie J. Pailing
Pfc. Timothy J. Pickering
Pfc. Celina M. Poukka
Pfc. Tyler J. Preston
Pfc. Daniel B. Reese
Pfc. Chad R. Reimer
Pfc. Christopher G. Richter
Pfc. Bryce A. Rost
Pfc. Tiffany L. Schmitz
Pfc. Cody D. Schoonover
Pfc. Jared S. Schwanke
Pfc. Dillon A. Sivertson
Pfc. Kevin P. Sponsler
Pfc. Shawn S. Stafford
Pfc. Jeffrey J. Stein
Pfc. Alexa B. Stoller
Pfc. Vance D. Summerfield
Pfc. Jared L. Sundby
Pfc. Travis A. Sundeen
Pfc. Kalli R. Thompson

Private

PV2 Mitchell A. Almen
PV2 Kyle A. Anderson
PV2 Leah M. Bartholomay
PV2 Brandi J. Berg
PV2 James T. Berman

PV2 Antonette M. Bobbins
PV2 Nicholas T. Breazile
PV2 Dominique P. Campagna
PV2 Michael W. Connole
PV2 Joseph D. Cruff
PV2 Thomas A. Doyle
PV2 Skyler S. Duffy
PV2 Brady R. Eggiman
PV2 Christopher J. Eppler
PV2 Eric V. Heldt
PV2 Travis D. Johnson
PV2 Lucas K. Krueger
PV2 Daniel R. Kusler
PV2 Derrick J. Lafountain
PV2 Sheena E. Leno
PV2 Jordan K. Lunn
PV2 James T. Mann
PV2 Timothy S. McCullough
PV2 Micheal P. McKay
PV2 Amanda J. Melas
PV2 Katerra L. Middletent
PV2 Zachary T. Miller
PV2 Duel D. Mord
PV2 Christopher H. Perman
PV2 Patricia L. Peterson
PV2 Benjamin E. Phelps
PV2 Ashley A. Porter
PV2 Clint J. Rood
PV2 Kale S. Rorvik
PV2 Andrew S. Sand
PV2 Kris M. Schaller
PV2 Anthony J. Scheen
PV2 Curtis A. Schestler
PV2 Amanda J. Schumacher
PV2 Brittanee A. Scooby
PV2 Nathan D. Sheets
PV2 Bradley P. Sherman
PV2 Felicia R. Sherman
PV2 Christopher A. Stenvold
PV2 Mitchell G. Swenning
PV2 Zachary T. Tesky
PV2 Jerry R. Velek
PV2 Aubriana M. Wolf

Promotions • Air

Captain

Capt. Joseph D. Anderson

First Lieutenant

1st Lt. Corey J. Brandt
1st Lt. Vance Q. Emerson
1st Lt. Kristopher W. Gillett
1st Lt. Stephanie R. Hayden

Senior Master Sgt.

Senior Master Sgt. Wade T. Swenson

Senior Master Sgt. Scott D. Wagner

Master Sgt.

Master Sgt. Shane J. Amundson
Master Sgt. Tanya K. Augdahl
Master Sgt. Thomas H. Eagleson
Master Sgt. Troy L. Pederson
Master Sgt. Jacy J. Voglewede

Tech Sgt.

Tech. Sgt. Jimi A. Fogle
Tech. Sgt. Troy D. Kinnunen
Tech. Sgt. Adam D. Lund
Tech. Sgt. Daniel W. Mathis
Tech. Sgt. Darrick W. Mischke
Tech. Sgt. Lisa M. Narum
Tech. Sgt. Jodi L. Renschler

Staff Sgt.

Staff Sgt. Amy M. Flores
Staff Sgt. Nikolas Z. Guttormson
Staff Sgt. Travis P. Halling
Staff Sgt. Geoffrey P. Manter
Staff Sgt. Matt C. Llewellyn
Staff Sgt. Brandon C. Ressler
Staff Sgt. Amber L. Samuelson
Staff Sgt. Bryan S. Voss
Staff Sgt. Kasey R. Wood

New Members • Air

Tech. Sgt. Ryan J. Sherman
Staff Sgt. Mark O. Devisfruto
Staff Sgt. Brian S. Holt
Staff Sgt. William F. McNierney III
Staff Sgt. Nathan D. Sather
Staff Sgt. Matthew W. Sinkhorn
Staff Sgt. Timothy J. Soderstrom
Staff Sgt. Eric P. Zurn
Senior Airman Lindsay K. Becker
Senior Airman Tyrel D. Cale
Senior Airman Charles A. Cole
Senior Airman Michael S. Erb

Senior Airman Amy M. Flores
Senior Airman Dawniece L. Pagan
Airman 1st Class Ashley J. Christianson
Airman 1st Class Donald D. Drechsel
Airman 1st Class Kimberly R. Hest
Airman 1st Class Gabriel J. Irvis
Airman 1st Class Eric J.W. Jensen
Airman 1st Class Edward A. Keller
Airman 1st Class Christopher R. Larson
Airman 1st Class Samantha R. Manning
Airman 1st Class Michael A. Rohwedder Jr.
Airman 1st Class Tyler J. Wentz
Airman Basic Kellie A. Chesley

Retirements • Air

Senior Master Sgt. James P. Kram
Senior Master Sgt. Cameron S. McCullough

New Members • Army

Pfc. Logan J. Kubasta
Pfc. Nicholas D. Olauson
Pfc. Daniel B. Reese
Pfc. Tiffany L. Schmitz
Pfc. Sara E. Strauss
Pfc. Daniel A. Thorp
Pfc. Matthew J. Winters
PV2 Adrian J. Bartsch
PV2 James T. Berman
PV2 Jeshua L. Buckmeier
PV2 Brandon A. Carrigan
PV2 Ashley R. Decoteau
PV2 Brian K. Dunn
PV2 Nicholas J. Gladue
PV2 Timothy S. McCullough
PV2 Beau J. McIntyre
PV2 Matthew R. Rodriguez
PV2 Travis C. Vandal
PV2 Barbara J. Widstrup
Pvt. Casey D. Austin
Pvt. Jacob R. Dauenhauer
Pvt. Steven D. Davenport
Pvt. Stefanie L. Decker
Pvt. Brandon L. Enno
Pvt. Mckenzie M. Ensrud
Pvt. Cody D. Foss
Pvt. Caleb R. Genre

Pvt. Daniel J. Gergen
Pvt. Katherine L. Gloria
Pvt. Gregory L. Hanson
Pvt. Roger J. Harris
Pvt. Jeremiah L. Harrison
Pvt. Trevor D. Ihly
Pvt. Cory S. Junck
Pvt. Jason L. Kemmis
Pvt. Nicholas W. Law
Pvt. Danielle M. Legg
Pvt. Trey C. Meyer
Pvt. Nathaniel J. Nelson
Pvt. Joseph R. Paulus
Pvt. Nicole D. Riepl
Pvt. Joshua D. Roy
Pvt. Lacey L. Schumacher
Pvt. Christopher R. Senff
Pvt. Marnie L. Shea
Pvt. Robert D. Slavick
Pvt. Matthew J. Snell
Pvt. Michael C. Sorum
Pvt. Andrew J. Tanata
Pvt. Jacklyn S. Ust
Pvt. Jeremy M. Wegner
Pvt. Whitney L. Wild

Appointments

2nd Lt. Benjamin R. Buntrock
2nd Lt. Marshall Clemons
2nd Lt. Jun U. Elegino
2nd Lt. Bradley D. Hoff
2nd Lt. David A. Kawasaki
2nd Lt. Badger K. Koepplin
2nd Lt. Tyler J. Ruelle
2nd Lt. Torger D. Soma
2nd Lt. Michelle M. Thomsen
2nd Lt. Justin D. Wilz
Maj. Mark A. Quire
WO Justin A. Gartner
WO Lance P. Good
WO Anthony T. Peck
WO Robert O. Smette

Retirements • Army

Col. Gerald M. Heinle
Maj. Mark A. Cutshaw
CW4 William R. Franke
1st Sgt. Jeffrey L. Sjoquist
Master Sgt. Ronald M. Balkowitsch
Master Sgt. Kenneth R. Hostetter
Master Sgt. Robyn O. Keller
Master Sgt. Kevin A. Mayer
Master Sgt. Frances J. Roerick
Sgt. 1st Class James D. Gorres
Sgt. 1st Class Shane E. Henricks
Sgt. 1st Class Matthew L. Mathern
Sgt. 1st Class Rocky L. Mundt
Sgt. 1st Class Scott D. Redding
Sgt. 1st Class Ronald E. Sell
Sgt. 1st Class Clyde L. Smestad
Sgt. 1st Class Jack William Willson Jr.
Staff Sgt. Philip J. Korynta
Staff Sgt. Steven E. Montplaisir
Staff Sgt. Michele C. Olson
Staff Sgt. Edward C. Pergotski
Staff Sgt. Eric J. Schrader
Sgt. Dale D. Aman
Sgt. Michael S. Castle
Spc. Douglas A. Duppong



Sgt. Adam Pribula

First to Fire: A Vehicle Mounted Guided Missile Battery Control Central, better known as the Avenger, fires a Stinger missile at a drone simulating an enemy aircraft during a live fire exercise conducted by the 1st Battalion, 188th Air Defense Artillery at Fort Bliss, Texas. For the exercise, 36 Soldiers representing 18 assigned teams were given the opportunity to fire.