



NORTH DAKOTA GUARDIAN



THE
Happy Hoosigans

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Wreaths Show Commitment
to Honoring the Fallen

SACRIFICES REMEMBERED



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On the Cover



Remember, Honor and Teach:
That is the mission of the Wreaths Across America program — to remember the fallen, honor those who serve and teach children the value of freedom. That mission was upheld during a wreath laying ceremony at the North Dakota Veterans' Cemetery in Mandan Dec. 13, when more than 2,600 wreaths were laid at the headstones of North Dakota Veterans. (Photo by Bill Prokopyk)

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119th Wing Embraces Change, Greets Their Future

Welcome to the future! It's said that we can let the future happen or we can enable it. I suggest the latter is the wiser of the two choices. Charles Darwin once said, "It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one that is the most adaptable to change."

North Dakota Governor John Hoeven and Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Michael J. Haugen understood the essence of Darwin's statement. They saw the need for change and that we had to adapt to the 21st century, which required moving out of a 60-year mission of air sovereignty flying fighters into the "sunrise" mission of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). Maj. Gen. Haugen had a vision for the North Dakota Air National Guard. That vision continues today under the direction of Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk and the North Dakota National Guard leadership.

Ayn Rand is quoted as saying, "Throughout the centuries there were men who took first steps, down new roads, armed with nothing but their own vision." Maj. Gen. Haugen was such a man. He knew that accepting the Block 15 F-16's was merely going from the oldest aircraft in the inventory to the oldest aircraft in the inventory. The "greatest fighter wing on planet earth" must change if it was to survive.

But everyone knows that change is hard. It entails moving from one state to another. To do so, leadership must set up and define clear goals of what it wishes to attain. The analysis of such a problem includes defining the outcomes of the change effort, identifying the processes that produce these changes and then finding ways to implement them. It's said that a trait of an effective leader is the ability to translate vision into reality.

Immediately, Col. Robert Becklund,

119th Wing commander; with the North Dakota National Guard leadership, set about to make it happen, for he too understood the need for change.

Just like the Tuckman Model, Col. Becklund formed a team and, of course, there was some *storming* followed by *norming* and now the 119th Wing is *performing*. Now, it's widely accepted that UAS flown by the 119th Wing have been stars in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. The Air Force and the Air National Guard recognize that the Happy Hooligans are leading the way into the 21st century — just as it should be.

As you would expect, the State of North Dakota is poised to play a significant role in the evolution of the UAS in both civilian and military applications. The market research firm Forecast International recently released "The Market for UAS Reconnaissance Systems," which claims that the total UAS market including air vehicles, ground control equipment and payloads is expected to be worth \$13.6 billion through 2014. More than 9,000 UAS's are expected to be purchased over the next 10 years by countries in every region of the world. Growth in the UAS business will bring prosperity to North Dakota in the form of jobs, research, education and operations. Welcome to the future — it's bright for North Dakota and its National Guard.

Oprah said that "the future is so bright that it burns my eyes when I look toward it." I personally like that quote. So, thanks to everyone in the North Dakota National Guard for enabling our future.

Sincerely,



Brig. Gen. Alan Palmer



Brig. Gen. Alan Palmer

North Dakota National Guard
Air Component Commander

"The Air Force and the Air National Guard recognize that the Happy Hooligans are leading the way into the 21st century — just as it should be."



Veterans Honored With Wreath Laying Ceremonies

More than 2600 headstones at the North Dakota Veterans' Cemetery in Mandan were adorned with holiday wreaths as part of the "Wreaths Across America" effort to honor deceased Service members Dec. 13. The Civil Air Patrol's (CAP) Bismarck Composite Squadron sponsored the local event which was one of over 300 such ceremonies held nationwide, in 24 cemeteries overseas and aboard Naval ships serving all across the world.

The formal portion of the ceremony was organized by the commander of the Bismarck Composite Squadron, Maj. Sean Johnson, and was held inside at the N.D. Veterans Cemetery chapel due to the extremely cold weather.

The N.D. Army National Guard Honor platoon along with members of the American Veterans (AMVETS), American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and their respective auxiliaries presented colors and rendered honors. Other organizations participating included the 188th Air Defense Artillery Family Readiness Group, N.D. Patriot Guard Riders, the Boy Scouts of America and Bismarck Vocational Technical Institute.

After wreaths were ceremoniously placed inside the chapel; one each for the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Merchant marine and POW/MIA, a 21-gun salute was rendered.

Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. National Guard adjutant general, who participated in the wreath laying effort, thanked all of the volunteers who braved the bone-chilling weather to take part in the ceremony.

"The response by the community volunteers and donors was overwhelming and clearly demonstrates the high regard that North Dakotans feel for their military heroes. Without the coordinated effort of the Bismarck Civil Air Patrol and our local groups, this effort could not have been accomplished," Sprynczynatyk said.

The Wreaths Across America endeavor began in 1992 when Morrill Worcester of the Worcester Wreath Company in Maine began a tradition of placing wreaths on the headstones of fallen heroes at Arlington National Cemetery during the holidays. In 2006, the program expanded to include other Veterans cemeteries. Nation-wide



Bill Prokopyk

Left, Maj. Gen. David A. Sprynczynatyk and his wife, Connie Sprynczynatyk, battle the winter elements as they help lay wreaths at the headstones of Veterans during a "Wreaths Across America" event at the North Dakota Veterans' Cemetery in Mandan. Above, More than 2,600 wreaths were placed at the Veterans' Cemetery thanks to individual sponsorships and contributions from local businesses.

Civil Air Patrol units stepped up to volunteer to help lead and coordinate efforts in their local areas.

Locally, the project was accomplished through a partnership with Wreaths Across America and the Bismarck Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol. The CAP sought out sponsors from local businesses and citizens at a cost of \$15 per wreath.

More than 2,600 wreaths were laid at Veterans' headstones in the North Dakota Veterans' ceremony.

Brig. Gen. Udland Retires From North Dakota National Guard

A ceremony and reception honored Brig. Gen. Robert Udland, assistant adjutant general - Army, upon his retirement from the North Dakota National Guard Dec. 8. In addition to his role as the assistant adjutant general, Udland also served as commander of the North Dakota National Guard's Joint Training and Operations Command (JTOC). All together, he has served in the military for 38 years.

"The North Dakota National Guard is very indebted to Brig. Gen. Udland for his many years of dedicated service to the state and nation," said Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, North Dakota National Guard adjutant general. "He has made a difference in the lives of so many as both an officer and an attorney. His knowledge and leadership have greatly impacted the success of the Guard. I wish him nothing but the best as he retires."

Outside of the National Guard, Udland

works as a trial attorney with Vogel Law Firm in Fargo.

81st Civil Support Team Soldiers Receive Air Force Medals for Missile Recovery Response

Five members of the 81st Civil Support Team (CST) received the Air Force Achievement Medal Dec. 15 for supporting the 91st Missile Wing, Minot Air Force Base, during an accident involving a three-stage booster of a Minuteman III missile earlier this year. Typically, each branch awards its own medals, which makes Army Soldiers receiving an Air Force award a distinct honor.

Sgt. 1st Class Phil Engmann, Sgt. 1st Class Michael Jennens, Sgt. 1st Class Brian Messmer, Sgt. William Miller and Sgt. Jamie Roaldson received the award for their work in the recovery response of an overturned 74,000-pound Transporter Erector containing a 70,000-pound three-stage booster of a Minuteman III missile near Makoti, N.D., while being transported in August.

According to the award citation, the Soldiers' leadership during the nine-day deployment enabled the on-scene commanders to have vital command and control and real-time weather data during the assessment and recovery phases following the accident. While on site, the Soldiers provided telephone lines and high-speed internet access, which allowed personnel to communicate during the recovery.

Outreach Team Helps Veterans Find Programs and Benefits

Courtesy of the Reintegration Program Office

A team of six outreach specialists are blanketing the communities of North Dakota in search of Veterans from all services to aid them in finding programs and incentives available to them. The Outreach Team for North Dakota Veterans is a confidential service that follows up with Veterans within the state and provides care by working in conjunction with local Veteran organizations including County Veterans Service Officers, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and Vet Centers.

“What we do is connect North Dakota Veterans from any service, or any time of service, with resources they need,” said Angela Christensen, military outreach specialist. “These resources can include information on educational programs, financial assistance, marital counseling, help with substance abuse and a variety of other areas.”

The Military Outreach program was initiated to support the North Dakota National Guard’s Reintegration Program, which is designed to support North Dakota Guardsmen and their families as they return home from active-duty mobilizations.

1st Lt. Rachael Walters, North Dakota National Guard Reintegration officer, said the Military Outreach program was an obvious and necessary addition to the Reintegration Program.

“While we make every effort to care for Soldiers and Airmen in the North Dakota National Guard upon their return from deployments, oftentimes we find that there are a number of Veterans who are not aware of the programs and benefits available to them,” Walters said. “By launching the Military Outreach program we are able to foster a community that takes pride in giving our Veterans the proper welcoming home they deserve.”

Christensen said the outreach team finds clients through referrals made by the different Veterans organizations as well as Job Service North Dakota and homeless shelters. They also contact Veterans via phone calls and by dropping off business cards with local vendors. Walters said word-of-mouth and reaching out to the communities helps reveal the benefits that the Military Outreach team can provide.

In addition to meeting with North Dakota’s Veterans, the Outreach Team can assist family members and employers.

“We’re more than happy to meet with anyone,” Christensen said. “We may not always be able to give them what they’re looking for, but we can evaluate their needs and find out who can best help and serve them.”

While the Military Outreach program has only been operational for two months, the Outreach Team has established a number of long-term goals including initiating contact with every North Dakota National Guard Veteran who has served in the Global War on Terrorism by telephone or letter. So far, they have reached 90 clients whom they have helped with various resources, including Veterans from the Korean War, Vietnam War and even World War II.

Christensen said another goal is to reach Veterans who live in the rural communities of North Dakota. These service members do not always have access to information about Veterans’ programs and incentives.

“Programs and resources are always changing, too,” Christensen said. “It makes it very difficult to keep up on these benefits. We’re glad to be able to help out with that.”

Walters agrees.

“Sometimes an ear is all we need to provide. It’s nice to know that someone is there to listen. We strive to help Veterans help themselves through kindness and support as well as benefits and care services,” she said.

Meet the Military Outreach Team

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Spc. Bret J. Miller

Angela Messmer works as the Military OneSource consultant for North Dakota at the Family Assistance Center in Raymond J. Bohn Army, Bismarck. Military OneSource is a free information and referral service for military families.

By Angela Messmer
Family Assistance Center

I have been a member of the military family all my life. I was the daughter of an Army Soldier. I served four years in the Air Force and I am now married to a North Dakota Guardsman. I have had the privilege of experiencing the benefits and challenges of being part of a military family. For the past five years, I have assisted Service members and their families by providing resources to assist them in coping with the difficult situa-

tion of deployment and separation. With the increasing number of deployments, it is important that service members and their families are aware of the incentives that are available. As the new Military OneSource consultant for North Dakota, I am excited to have the opportunity to visit with North Dakota Guardsmen and their families about Military OneSource and the benefits it can provide.

Military OneSource is a free 24-hour a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year information and referral service available via toll-free telephone and Internet access

to active duty, Guard and Reserve (regardless of activation status) and their immediate family members. The scope of services provided by Military OneSource includes:

» **Counseling Services:** Military OneSource provides referrals for non-medical short-term solution-focused, face-to-face counseling at no cost to Service members and their families in their local community. Service members in remote locations and overseas are eligible for short-term solution-focused telephonic (STSF-T) consultation. STSF-T consultations include up to six non-medical telephonic sessions for issues such as stress, decision-making and parenting.

» **Interactive Web site:** includes search and decision tools; locators for education and child care; educational materials; recordings; links to military and community resources; financial calculators, search by topic, live on-line workshops, podcasts, discussion boards and "E-mail a consultant." During the tax season, Service members can prepare and file federal and state tax returns at no cost.

» **Prepaid educational materials:** Available in a variety of formats (booklet, CD, cassette and electronic downloads) and can be ordered via phone or online.

For more information, please visit www.militaryonesource.com or call toll-free 1-800-342-9647. For general information, or to request a briefing, you may reach me at angela.messmer@militaryonesource.com or 701-425-5478.

Chaplain's Corner — Working Through the Obstacles in Our Paths

By Chaplain (Maj.) David Johnson
68th Troop Command



Chaplain (Maj.) David Johnson
68th Troop Command

In ancient times, a King had a boulder placed on a roadway. Then he hid himself and watched to see if anyone would remove the huge rock. Some of the King's wealthiest merchants and courtiers came by and simply walked around it. Many loudly blamed the King for not keeping the roads clear, but none did anything about getting the stone out of the way.

Then a peasant came along carrying a load of vegetables. Upon approaching the boulder, the peasant laid down his burden and tried to move the stone to the side of the road. After much pushing and straining, he finally succeeded. After the peasant picked up his load of vegetables, he noticed a purse ly-

ing in the road where the boulder had been. The purse contained many gold coins and a note from the King indicating that the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway. The peasant learned what many of us never understand — every obstacle presents an opportunity to improve our condition.

As you begin the New Year, what obstacles are you facing? Are they big or small? Even the New Year doesn't change the looming or potential problems and issues that are out there, right? As you get ready to face them, I think we have a good illustration of how to do just that. Instead of working "around" them or "avoiding" them, the man in the story shows us that working "through" them is the better way to go. This is not an easy thing to do! But in the end, we can grow stronger through the hardship and become better able to handle the next obstacle that comes our way.

Blessings & Happy New Year, Chaplain Johnson
...suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope... (From Romans 5).



Holiday Visit

Guardsmen Bring Gifts, Cheer to Veterans Home

North Dakota Air National Guard members lead by 2nd Lt. Roy Thomsen, left, and Chief Master Sgt. Paula Johnson carry Christmas gifts into the North Dakota Veterans' Nursing Home, Lisbon, N.D., Dec. 10. The gifts are given to Veterans at the nursing home by the North Dakota Air and Army National Guard annually, using funds which are raised through personal donations given by the North Dakota National Guard members.

By Capt. Penny Ripperger
119th Wing

Soldiers and Airmen of the North Dakota National Guard loaded vehicles full of presents and military volunteers to make their annual trip to the North Dakota Veterans' Home in Lisbon, N.D., and deliver presents and good cheer to retired military members and spouses Dec. 10.

The North Dakota Air and Army National Guard alternate the coordination of this popular event each year. Master Sgt. Glenda Edwardson and Tech. Sgt. Tracy Zidon, of the 119th Wing, organized this year's gift drive for the Veterans.

"Often the items on the Veterans' wish list are everyday-type items like clothing, shoes or toiletry items and sometimes it's the only gift they receive," Edwardson said.

"The Veterans typically ask for so little and they are so grateful when we come visit them. It is by far a favorite event for

the unit each year," Zidon said.

Several military members have gotten to know the Veterans and pick the same person each year and some Airmen, such as Senior Master Sgt. Wade Swenson, have an even closer bond with Veterans in Lisbon.

"A former co-worker and Happy Hooligan that retired about 10 years ago is at the Veterans' Home in Lisbon," he said "This year a group of us who used to work with him when he was in the unit decided to sponsor him. It was nice to see him again and remind him that his Hooligan family is thinking about him."

North Dakota Air and Army Guard members began fundraising for the event in October. Many members bought gifts for the Veterans or donated money toward the cause.

The 119th Wing Chaplain's office also helped raise funds by sponsoring a coin drive competition amongst the different squadrons in the unit.

"The squadron with the most weight in coins won the contest, but the catch was if you donated paper money, you could steal coins from another squadron. It was a lot of fun and very successful," said Tech. Sgt. Chadwick Hanson, 119th Wing Chaplains office.

Once the gifts were bought and gathered, the 119th Wing Family Support Group gathered volunteers to wrap all of the presents. This year the group wrapped more than 100 gifts.

"This event is special not only because it brings together so many different areas in the North Dakota National Guard for a good cause, but it also connects us with military Veterans who served before us," Edwardson said.

"Coordinating this event is definitely a rewarding experience. To see their faces when we come to visit them and hear their stories is the best present of all," Zidon said.

Where the Buffalo Roam



Courtesy Photo

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

Soldiers from the 817th Engineer Company operated a 30-foot robotic arm, or "iron claw" from within the Buffalo to probe debris and dirt to identify objects as improvised explosive devices. The new technology was critical to successful missions.

817th Engineer Company Uses Technology, Experience for Completion of Successful Trailblazer Mission

Jamestown's 817th Engineer Company rode a new wave of technology as it carried out its trailblazer mission in Iraq, using sophisticated systems to sniff out and destroy roadside bombs.

In the end, however, the deployment was a success because of the 817th's highly trained, hard-working and experienced Soldiers, said Capt. Craig Hillig, Fargo, the unit's commander.

To get a head start on using new bomb detection technology, six 817th Soldiers were sent to Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Ala., for the Explosive Ordnance Clearance Agent (EOCA) course prior to the deployment. The Soldiers were given special training on locating, identifying and disposing of unexploded ordinance like improvised explosive devices and roadside bombs.

Spc. Jonathan Jurgens, Grand Forks, and Spc. Dustin Kirschenmann, Fargo, attended the EOCA course.

"We learned to do some of the things that EOD does," said Jurgens.

"If we came across bombs we could identify them and possibly disarm them and get rid of them," said Kirschenmann.

"Our EOCA's were worth their weight in gold" because they helped the unit deal with roadside bombs on its own, said Hillig.

On route clearance missions, the EOCA's spent their days manning the Buffalo, a heavily armored truck equipped with video cameras and a robotic arm.

"We call it a spork. It's like an arm with a fork on the end," Kirschenmann. "You can dig and find things. Ours also had an air digger. You can put a hundred PSI to the ground and blow the dirt away and clear debris. We were the cleanup crew and the investigating crew all in one."

Jurgens said that most of the unit's Soldiers went on more than 100 route clearance missions during their Iraq deployment.

"The missions took anywhere from six to eighteen hours, just depending on what the bad guys wanted," said Jurgens. "There wasn't really any day that stood

The Buffalo is an armored personnel carrier designed to detect and interrogate possible improvised explosive devices while units are patrolling major and secondary military supply routes.

out. There were some days where it was a little bit more intense.”

The 817th took 104 Soldiers to Iraq and together they performed 575 combat patrols, said Sgt. 1st Class Rob Hertz, the unit’s readiness sergeant. Between its arrival in Iraq in August 2007 and its departure in June 2008, the unit traveled over more than 80,000 kilometers of Iraqi roadway, clearing 119 IEDs along the way.

About 70 of the 817th’s Soldiers were on their “second, third or fourth” deployment, said Hertz. Jurgens and Kirschenmann had deployed to Iraq with the 141st Engineer Battalion in 2004–2005, where they served on close to 200 trailblazer missions each.

Having experienced Soldiers as the hard core of the unit was valuable, said Spc. Matt Perkins, Fargo, who was “one of the new guys” on his first deployment.

“It was a big thing, taking what those guys knew and having them say this is what you want to look out for,” said Perkins. “That helped tremendously.”

On the deployment, Perkins served as a driver, gunner and — after a week of special training in Baghdad — as a “sapper” assisting the EOCAs in disposing of IEDs.

Kirschenmann said one of the best things about the deployment was getting to know “the newer guys.”

“Jamestown’s always had a good unit and the reason I think we’re so good at our job is everybody’s looking out for everybody because everybody wants everybody to come home,” he said. “It’s a great unit to be in, great people.”



Courtesy Photo

Spc. Reed Zieman and Spc. Jonathan M. Jurgens laugh before leaving on a mission. The Soldiers used the Buffalo while serving in Iraq with the 817th Engineers. Both became familiar with the equipment while deployed to Iraq in 2004 with B Company of the 141st Engineer Combat Battalion, although the Buffalo has undergone a number of updates since then.

"We were very fortunate this time around. We had better equipment. We had Soldiers that had the experience."

- Spc. Dustin Kirschenmann

“I don’t think you could go with a better group,” said Jurgens. “The guys were great.”

Getting everyone home alive from Iraq was the unit’s biggest accomplishment, said Hillig.

“On the last tour, losing friends, that was

the worst thing probably ever. I’m still dealing with it,” said Kirschenmann. “We were very fortunate this time around. We had better equipment. We had Soldiers that had the experience.”

“It was just good to come back with everybody this time,” said Jurgens.

Being away from family and friends was very hard, said Perkins, and things got “a little rocky sometimes” on the deployment. Still, he is glad he had the opportunity to serve in Iraq with the 817th.

“I definitely grew a lot as a person, and I think I have a lot better perspective on things. Like at school, I’m probably a lot more dedicated,” he said. “You know how crappy life can be in other places in the world and you realize how fortunate you are and you want to make the best of it.”

Even after two deployments to Iraq, Kirschenmann is ready to go again if necessary.

“I’d go over there a thousand times before I’d ever want anything to be on our soil. Any time we have to go over and do what we do, that’s the job. My outlook is, if I can go over there and protect my family back here, I would do that a thousand times.”



817th Engineer Company By the Numbers

Between their arrival in Iraq in August 2007 and their departure in June 2008, Soldiers of the 817th Engineer Co. accumulated a list of achievements:

- » 82,000 kilometers of roadway cleared
- » 119 improvised explosive devices removed
- » More than 575 combat patrols conducted
- » 15 Bronze Star Medals earned
- » Four Meritorious Service Medals
- » 90 Army Commendation Medals

- » 29 Combat Action Badges (CABs)
- » 40 Soldiers from the 817th had earned CABs in prior deployments bringing the total to 69 CABs for the unit — roughly 66 percent of the company
- » 87 of the 110 Soldiers mobilized had deployed two years prior with the now deactivated 141st Engineer Combat Battalion
- » The 817th was comprised of Soldiers from more than 40 cities across North Dakota



Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

North Dakota Air National Guard 219th Security Forces Squadron members Airman 1st Class Erik R. Foss, left, and Staff Sgt. John F. Chalupa load their gear into a vehicle as they prepare to dispatch into the U.S. Air Force missile fields near Minot Air Force Base for the first time Dec. 18. Chalupa and Foss are the first North Dakota Air National Guard members to work in a National Guard status, conjunctively in the missile security mission with U.S. Air Force active-duty members of the 91st Missile Security Forces Squadron near Minot, N.D. The Guard and active-duty Airmen are beginning to handle the missile security mission in Minot together.

FIELD DAY

Minot Air Guard Squadron Dispatches Personnel Into Missile Fields for the First Time

By Capt. Penny Ripperger
119th Wing

The Minot-based 219th Security Forces Squadron of the North Dakota Air National Guard's 119th Wing dispatched security forces Airmen into the missile fields at Minot Air Force Base for the first time.

"Putting Guardsmen into the field to work side by side with the active duty is a significant accomplishment and it would not be happening without the exceptional Airmen of the 219th who have shown unwavering dedication to their mission," said North Dakota Governor John Hoeven.

"The 219 Security Forces have prepared and trained for this mission and I was proud of their accomplishments earlier this month with the Headquarters Air Force approval of their Personnel Reliability Program," said Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, North Dakota National Guard adjutant general. "This marks a milestone and the N.D. National Guard looks to the future through this exceptional partnership with the Minot Air Force Base."

This milestone of putting 219th SFS Airmen into the missile fields was made possible

when the unit received Headquarters Air Force approval of their Personnel Reliability Program for full-time Air Guard members earlier this month.

"To be PRP-approved means that we have implemented all of the necessary procedures and requirements set forth by the Secretary of Defense and the Air Force to ensure only the most reliable Airmen fill positions associated with missile field security" said Master Sgt. Lonnie Ballweg, 219th SFS senior medical technician.

"The approval of the 219th PRP program is significant because it allows full-time Guardsman of the 219th SFS to conduct mission-specific training and support the 91st Missile Wing in day-to-day training and surge requirements."

On Dec. 18, Staff Sgt. John Chalupa and Airman 1st Class Erik Foss, both of the 219th SFS, were the first PRP-certified airman to deploy into the missile field.

"Sergeant Chalupa and Airman Foss are leading the way within the 219th SFS the same way that the 219th itself is leading the way in the nation. Guardsmen working alongside active-duty Airmen on a daily basis is the future and that is exactly what we're doing in Minot," said Col. Robert Becklund, 119th Wing commander.

Currently, 219th SFS leaders are working with Headquarters Air Force officials to establish a special plan required for the inclusion of traditional Guardsman into the PRP program.

"We've had to overcome many hurdles, which are expected when you're forging your way in new territory," said Lt. Col. Tad Schauer, 219th SFS commander. "We could not have done this without the support and commitment of 'Team Minot.' No one has ever done anything like this before and we are working together to ensure it gets done right the first time."

The relatively new squadron celebrated its official activation on Oct. 18, but recruiters began filling the 140 positions in April 2007. Once fully staffed, the 219th SFS will be the largest Air Guard security forces squadron in the nation.

"It is very exciting because we just hit the halfway point in filling the positions in the 219th SFS," said Master Sgt. Tanya Augdaul, 219th SFS recruiter. "We are right on target for our recruiting goals, but we're not slowing down. We need to keep working hard to make sure people know that there are Air National Guard opportunities in the western part of the state."



From left to right in the front row, Staff Sgt. John F. Chalupa and Airman 1st Class Erik R. Foss stand in formation with their flight during guard mount. The pair of Airmen, in the 219th SFS, are the first Air National Guard members to dispatch into the missile fields at Minot AFB.



Have Pack, Will Travel

Story by Sgt. Amy Wieser Willson
Joint Force Headquarters

Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

Sgt. Jacob Bollinger takes the “all-volunteer Army” to a new standard. The 26-year-old North Dakota Army National Guard Soldier has completed four active-duty deployments — more than anyone else in the state — and just volunteered for No. 5.

Why?
“It’s just in my nature, I guess,” he said. “I’ll go so others don’t have to.”

NINE YEARS IN

Since he joined the Guard nine years ago, as a junior at Edgeley High School, Bollinger’s life has rotated between school and deployments, and now work and deployments. The first and shortest Title 10 tour came in March 2002, when he left Bismarck State College and volunteered for Operation Enduring Freedom. For more than six months, he worked along the U.S.-Canadian border.

“I was a young E-4 (specialist) and was able to work side-by-side with the U.S. Customs agents searching vehicles,” he said.

“I’m single, no kids and saw people with hardships and threw my name in and got a hard slot.”

— Sgt. Jacob Bollinger

He barely made it back to BSC, where he was studying to be an electrical line worker, when his unit — Company A of the 141st Engineer Combat Battalion — was activated. The unit and its detachments spread out to provide security support, with Bollinger’s unit in Edgeley deploying to assist the 119th Security Forces in Fargo for a year.

Once the deployment wrapped up in December 2003, Bollinger thought he’d go into the active-duty Army. It’s not the only time he’s considered the active forces but been pulled back to serve with the North Dakota National Guard.

“I’ve been in combat twice, and we worked with active duty and kicked their butt in everything we did,” he said. “I’d say (the National Guard is) the best organization in the military, especially our state.”

REPLACEMENT IN IRAQ

The first combat mission came as his second deployment ended. The 141st Engineer Combat Battalion had deployed to Iraq that same month. Company A was replaced with Soldiers from the 164th Engineer Battalion for the mission since the 141st’s Company A already was on active duty at the time of the alert.

Bollinger planned to transfer to the Army in July 2004. On May 8, 2004, the 141st Battalion lost two of its Soldiers. Spc. Phil Brown was killed in action

Left to right, Sgt. Jacob Bollinger, Staff Sgt Pat Altringer, Spc Brock Klettke , Spc. Levi Bischof, Spc Radi Alexander, Sgt. 1st Class Robbie Hertz and Spc. Matthew Perkins (far right) prepare for the long flight with the 817th Engineer Company to Kuwait August 2007. Below, Bollinger takes inventory of his gear while packing for his return home to North Dakota. The 817th was mobilized for active duty in Iraq June 2007 and returned June 2008.

and Spc. James Holmes died in Germany of wounds he had received in action. A replacement was needed, and Bollinger volunteered. He spent a week at Fort Bliss, Texas, getting as much information as he could. The other Soldiers in the battalion had received two months of training at Fort Carson, Colo. With that week and travel time, he arrived in Iraq on Day 12 of active duty: July 28, 2004. By Day 13, the 22-year-old was already doing route clearance missions out of Forward Operating Base O’Ryan with Company A.

“When I got there and I saw 5-tons with steel welded to the sides ...,” Bollinger said as he shook his head slowly back and forth.

The 141st Battalion’s equipment raised some eyebrows, he said. Dump trucks dating to the 1940s had received “hillbilly up-armor” with steel plates and sandbags. Coupled with Humvees that had received similar treatment, the company drove slowly along Iraq’s roadways searching for improvised explosive devices, or IEDs.

Somehow, that never dissuaded Bollinger from volunteering for anything ever again.

He worked 88 days straight in Iraq before taking a day off, serving with the 141st for the following seven months until the deployment ended.

BACK TO LIFE

Soon after returning to North Dakota, Bollinger began work with Xcel Energy in Fargo. It was what he had gone to school for and yet, he “got bored with that.” He got back into uniform full time, accepting a technician position in Edgeley.

And he stayed in North Dakota for two full years.

Then the 817th and 815th Engineer Companies were alerted in January 2007. The alert included many of the former members of Company B of the 141st, who continued to drill in Jamestown when the 817th was activated. Units in Edgeley, Wishek and Lisbon also were placed on alert.

“I’d been there once and saw Bravo (Company) had to go again,” Bollinger said. “I’m single, no kids and saw people with hardships and threw my name in and got a hard slot.”

WHAT ABOUT MOM?

Not once did his mom say “enough”



— not the third time he volunteered, nor the fourth time when headed into combat to do the same dangerous mission as before.

“She always encouraged me,” he said. “She’s proud.”

Bollinger’s father, who is deceased, had served in the U.S. Navy and in the National Guard. He has two older brothers, but is the only one of the three to serve in the military.

Bollinger’s mom, Michelle, hasn’t been the least bit surprised by her son’s volunteerism and multiple deployments. She knows her son well and has never thought to question his loyalty to the military no matter how many times it takes him away from home.

“Knowing Jake, that’s what he wants to do,” she said without a second thought. “He’s very dedicated to what he’s doing, and he enjoys what he’s doing as far as serving his country.”

READY FOR NO. 5

After returning earlier this year, Bollinger again considered active duty — but this time with the thought of following his father, as well as a grandfather, into the Navy.

He has the utmost respect for all of his fellow Guard Soldiers, and speaks more highly of them than any other service members he has ever worked with, yet was looking for something new. He thought he would join the Navy’s explosive ordnance disposal team, a mission similar to that done by the “Trailblazers” he was part of



during his two Iraq deployments.

It doesn’t seem to take much convincing to keep Bollinger in North Dakota, though. At the annual North Dakota National Guard Human Resource Office golf tournament in Bismarck this past August, Maj. Pat Gleich chatted with him.

Bollinger laughs as he reflects on the day.

“I talked to Maj. Gleich and he wouldn’t let me leave and he said, ‘Valley City, Tuesday morning, 7 o’clock,’” Bollinger said.

Like any good Soldier, Bollinger took the “order” and was there. He came on board to do ADOS, active duty for operational support, to assist the 231st Brigade Support Battalion as they prepare to deploy to Kosovo late next year. Then he “figured I might as well go along.” So he volunteered. Again.

“It’s with the North Dakota National Guard and they’re the best to deploy with,” Bollinger said of his decision. “It’s another group of Soldiers to get to know, a good group, so I’ll give my experience where I can.”

That’s four deployments worth of experience ... and counting.



Santa's Little Helpers: Santa Claus is surrounded by Happy Hooligans and their kids as he makes a visit to the North Dakota Air National Guard Dec. 13 for the annual Children's Christmas party. The party is hosted by the North Dakota Air National Guard Family Program and features a clown as well as gifts from Santa.



Snowed In: Senior Airman Michael J. Repogal, of the 119th Security Forces Squadron, crawling out of a snowcave Dec. 17. The dwelling was built at the North Dakota Air National Guard in a large snow drift left by the blizzard that covered most of North Dakota Dec. 14.



Sgt. Amy Wieser Willson

Special Visit: David Pagel (left), North Dakota Patriot Guard state captain, rubs Santa's head as Santa (also known as Vietnam vet Eldon "Red" Gade) reveals his bald head to Shaunn Wieser as he sits with his dad, Spc. Matthew Wieser. Two-year-old Shaunn was diagnosed with a Wilms' tumor, which was removed in June along with his left kidney. He has been undergoing chemotherapy since then, although the cancer recently returned on his lungs. Always supportive of service members, the Patriot Guard decided to "adopt" the family for Christmas. They came caroling to the Wiesers' home in Valley City on Dec. 22, and Santa came along bearing gifts to make the holiday a little brighter. Patriot Guard members who came on the mission include Pagel, Craig and Kristen Haug, Spc. Elyse Moen, Sgt. 1st Class Tim Moen, Dave Stokes (hidden), Dave Brager and Craig Dockter (not pictured).

North Dakota National Guard

Retirements • Promotions • New Members

August 2008 – November 2008

Promotions • Army

Colonel

Col. Virginia A. Kraushaar

Lieutenant Colonel

Lt. Col. Lonnie C. Punton

Captain

Capt. Trevor Y. Bakalar

Capt. Robert L. Bohl

Capt. Gary L. Delorme

First Lieutenant

1st Lt. Janet K. Nitschke

Chief Warrant Officer

CW3 Jay M. Knopp

CW3 Dennis M. Piker

CW4 Shelley M. Yantzer

First Sergeant

1st Sgt. Richard J. Pecoraro

Master Sergeant

Master Sgt. Kenneth G. Baer

Master Sgt. James E. Jansky

Master Sgt. Jeffery G. Wolschlaeger

Sergeant First Class

Sgt. 1st Class Cory J. Everson

Sgt. 1st Class Matthew F. Waldner

Staff Sergeant

Staff Sgt. Luke A. Christians

Staff Sgt. David M. Dreher

Staff Sgt. Sean S. Jerde

Staff Sgt. Timothy P. Linn

Staff Sgt. Carl J. Quam

Staff Sgt. Shane W. Sager

Staff Sgt. David L. Vinson

Staff Sgt. Michael M. Zietz

Sergeant

Sgt. Jessie E. Allen

Sgt. Gina M. Deibel

Sgt. Mitchel J. Dwyer

Sgt. Joel D. Erickson

Sgt. Kary J. Fountain

Sgt. Brad A. Gardner

Sgt. Joshua J. Gervin

Sgt. Billy J. Hanson

Sgt. Daniel J. Hilzendege

Sgt. Shane M. Koch

Sgt. Kacey R. Krueger

Sgt. Scott A. Roisum

Sgt. Jesse J. Schmaltz

Sgt. Scott T. Strahm

Sgt. Chad M. Weber

Sgt. Lynda M. Whitty

Sgt. Rachel K. Zent

Specialist

Spc. Garrett I. Belgarde

Spc. Matthew J. Bockheim

Spc. Sara E. Boger

Spc. Brandon L. Brandner

Spc. Alexander G. Bryson

Spc. Fredrick A. Burdick

Spc. Mark T. Buske

Spc. Jeffrey J. Cline

Spc. Evan C. Condry

Spc. Krista M. Dahl

Spc. Shawm M. Derby

Spc. Dana H. Dickinson

Spc. Brandon R. Diehl

Spc. Jason J. Dittus

Spc. Timothy P. Dodd

Spc. Demetrous L. Few

Spc. Michael J. Freadhoff

Spc. Brent P. Freese

Spc. Mikhail V. Gospodenok

Spc. Andrew J. Hertz

Spc. Tessa M. Hogan

Spc. Michael D. Hons

Spc. Zachary D. Horner

Spc. Cody W. Hurley

Spc. Austin R. Jamtgaard

Spc. Anita M. Jepsen

Spc. Nicolas M. Johansen

Spc. Joseph M. Kallenbach

Spc. Travis M. Karch

Spc. Samuel D. Kerr

Spc. Thomas R. Kok

Spc. Andrew J. Kuhn

Spc. Desirae A. Lauinger

Spc. Heather S. Lentz

Spc. Glenn P. Manor

Spc. Kevin E. Marvig

Spc. Amy G. Meier

Spc. Elyse N. Moen

Spc. Brandon L. Mortenson

Spc. Aimee L. Page

Spc. Justin E. Pavek

Spc. Desarae F. Pfeifle

Spc. Matthew W. Piram

Spc. Ian C. Placek

Spc. Steve A. Rau

Spc. Chad R. Reimer

Spc. Preston J. Ripplinger

Spc. Bryce A. Rost

Spc. Brett J. Ruff

Spc. Darryl G. Scarborough

Spc. Dominic J. Sevigny

Spc. Jonathan M. Sheppard

Spc. Vance D. Summerfield

Spc. Christian L. Taylor

Spc. Joseph P. Taylor

Spc. Amanda G. Weninger

Spc. Michael A. Woessner

Spc. Nathan B. Wolter

Private First Class

Pfc. Brandon A. Carrigan

Pfc. Calie C. Craddock

Pfc. Eric V. Heldt

Pfc. Kritina R. Hoffman

Pfc. Megan R. Huseth

Pfc. Trevor D. Ihly

Pfc. Jordan J. Jesser-markward

Pfc. Timothy P. Knudson

Pfc. Eric L. Lenertz

Pfc. Sheena E. Leno

Pfc. Nathan A. Lund

Pfc. Gordon E. Machipiness

Pfc. Christopher D. Mckay

Pfc. Edward J. Nuckols

Pfc. Jessica J. Ohlhauser

Pfc. Tiffany J. Peterson

Pfc. Clint J. Rood

Pfc. Gregory J. Schaff

Pfc. Curtis A. Schestler

Pfc. Tiffany L. Schmitz

Pfc. Trevor D. Slominski

Pfc. Mitchell E. Spottedhorse

Pfc. Shawn S. Stafford

Pfc. Nathan J. Svihovec

Pfc. Travis C. Vandal

Pfc. Zachary J. Walz

Pfc. Barbara J. Widstrup

Private

PV2 Kurt B. Altenburg

PV2 Michael E. Campbell

PV2 Jacob R. Dauenhauer

PV2 Christopher N. Dobransky

PV2 Robert M. Dunwoodie

PV2 Shana D. Emery

PV2 Aaron M. Hallof

PV2 Allen R. Hecker

PV2 Cade M. Henson

PV2 Cory S. Junck

PV2 Lindsay J. Lowman

PV2 Steven A. Moen

PV2 Joshua D. Roy

PV2 Theodore J. Schulz

PV2 David W. Sundberg

PV2 Buck V. Thornton

Promotions • Air

Colonel

Col. Ricky D. Gibney

Lieutenant Colonel

Lt. Col. Lynette E. Arntson

Lt. Col. Mark R. Johnson

Captain

Capt. Dawn R. Back

First Lieutenant

1st Lt. Gregory K. Ames

1st Lt. Benjamin B. Brogard

1st Lt. Shaun P. Carlson

1st Lt. Christopher J. Kennedy

1st Lt. Eric S. Mattson

1st Lt. Nicole J. Selnes

1st Lt. Treff A. Wagner

Senior Master Sergeant

Senior Master Sgt. Andrew Fischer

Senior Master Sgt. Kimberly J. Potter

Senior Master Sgt. Michael W. Vanbavel

Master Sergeant

Master Sgt. Kenneth D. Cawrse

Master Sgt. Kristopher J. Mack

Master Sgt. David R. Smith

Master Sgt. Todd A. Strom

Master Sgt. Melissa J. Woodard

Technical Sergeant

Tech. Sgt. Joseph J. Buntrock

Tech. Sgt. Raymond J. Chiavetta

Tech. Sgt. Anthony W. Gehrig

Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey A. Gunter Jr.

Tech. Sgt. Jason R. Meyers

Tech. Sgt. Terry E. Moser

Tech. Sgt. Darrin L. Quam

Tech. Sgt. Timothy O. Tjon

Staff Sergeant

Staff Sgt. Joshua C. Bartholomew

Staff Sgt. John F. Chalupa

Staff Sgt. Nicole M. Johnson

Staff Sgt. Michelle Y. Mahrer

Staff Sgt. Matthew W. Strand

Staff Sgt. Roy W. Thomsen

Maj. Stephen H. Cooper

Capt. Samuel A. Gereszcek

1st Lt. Timothy M. Nance

Sgt. Rocky L. Engle

Sgt. Jessica R. Geffre

Sgt. Bridget L. Harris

Sgt. Derek J. Holt

Sgt. John A. Powell

Spc. Nicole L. Boeddeker

Spc. Joel T. Cavanaugh

Spc. Troy D. Edin

Spc. Elizabeth N. Froese

Spc. Carol L. Kauk

Spc. Richard L. Koon

Spc. Josiah S. Koop

Spc. Peter J. Laducer

Spc. Kevin M. McCullough

Spc. Scott E. Noyes

Spc. Tyler J. Olson

Spc. Jimmy L. Steinberg

New Members • Army

Spc. Erik A. Wall

Pfc. Joseph D. Gilbert

Pfc. Nicholas P. Maro

Pfc. Chelsea L. Miller

Pfc. Nikki C. Reiser

Pfc. Christopher J. Rothschilds

Pfc. Trevor D. Slominski

Pfc. Dustin R. Suko

PV2 Kurt B. Altenburg

PV2 Eric M. Blumhagen

PV2 William T. Case

PV2 Matthew D. Edinger

PV2 Brandon L. Hietala

PV2 Brittany M. Iceman

PV2 Brandon J. Kolstad

PV2 Megan A. McDonald

PV2 Ashley R. Nelson

PV2 Christopher A. Touchtone

PV2 Allan A. Venegasmitidieri

PV2 Kelsey J. Wagensdorf

PV2 Jacob E. Weible

Pvt. Nikki L. Besser

Pvt. Andrew B. Burckhard

Pvt. Mason J. Clayton

Pvt. Skyler M. Dauphinais

Pvt. Bruce A. Densberger

Pvt. Matthew W. Gerenz

Pvt. Gilberto E. Herrera

Pvt. Tiffany M. Horning

Pvt. Levi R. Jesz

Pvt. Jonathan K. Kassian

Pvt. Blake D. Lukach

Pvt. Travis J. Lutz

Pvt. Jacob J. Martin

Pvt. Kalissa K. Muscha

Pvt. Stephen S. Preston

Pvt. Joseph P. Scanlan

Pvt. Cassandra M. Simonton

New Members • Air

Master Sgt. Sherry M. Nelson

Tech. Sgt. Shawn D. Aubrecht

Staff Sgt. Peter W. Chambers

Staff Sgt. Elena R. Golden

Staff Sgt. Jamie A. Hoge

Senior Airman Robin L. Allen

Senior Airman Felecia T. Gelvin

Airman First Class Mathew M. Jasper

Airman First Class Alexander J. Kube

Airman First Class Erin N. Weaver

Retirements • Army

Col. Michael J. Hall

Capt. Mark A. Westereng

CW3 Bonnie J. Lahr

CW4 Wayne A. Fylling

1st Sgt. Jeffrey J. Capp

Master Sgt. Shawn M. Franek

Sgt. 1st Class Richard W. Anderson

Sgt. 1st Class Marvin W. Ballensky Jr.

Sgt. 1st Class Scott D. Redding

Staff Sgt. Douglas S. Bykonen

Staff Sgt. Kevin D. Hamlin

Staff Sgt. Sheldon D. Mohr

Staff Sgt. Grant R. Nelson

Staff Sgt. Douglas M. Volk

Staff Sgt. John A. Wagensdorf

Sgt. Steven L. Bakken

Sgt. Matthew C. Beck

Sgt. Thomas L. Davis

Retirements • Air

Lt. Col. Michael P. Nelson

Lt. Col. William T. Pallen

Lt. Col. Craig R. Schroeder

Chief Master Sgt. Larry R. Gilleland

Senior Master Sgt. Mark S. Ferguson

Senior Master Sgt. Miles R. McAllister

Master Sgt. Dino J. Olivieri

Master Sgt. Roger J. Zetocha

Appointments

Army

WO Christopher E. Hanson

WO David R. Kilber

WO Dustin G. Masseth

WO Chandler C. Raab

WO Kenneth W. Schaffer



Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

Prepared for Landing: The first U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) MQ-9 Predator B, Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) to be stationed along the northern border of the United States, lands at Grand Forks Air Force Base Dec. 6. The UAS will be maintained at the Grand Forks Air Force Base and is slated to begin operational flights as early as this month. It will be tasked with enhancing border security efforts along the northern border between the United States and Canada. The MQ-9 is a slightly larger and newer model of unmanned aerial system than the MQ-1, which is currently operated by the North Dakota Air National Guard in Fargo.