



# NORTH DAKOTA GUARDIAN

Volume 2, Issue 11

November 2009

## Farewell From the Sky

Aviation Company  
Departs for Iraq

NORTH DAKOTA  
CAPITOL

» Inside:

Guardsmen Assume Fighting Stances, Dobie's Big Adventure

# INSIDE THIS ISSUE

## FEATURES



8

### Fight Club

Guardsmen take to the mat to learn hand-to-hand fighting techniques as part of the Modern Army Combatives program while some venture into the realm of mixed martial arts entirely for competition and enjoyment.



10

### Blogging Buddy

Maj. Davina French, planner with Kosovo Forces 12, documents her deployment to Kosovo through the eyes of her furry friend, Dobie. "Major Goof" (the pen name she writes under) shares her experiences with audiences of her blog to show what Soldiers go through during mobilizations.



12

### A League of Their Own

The 119th Wing receives the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for an unprecedented 13th time in a row. Watch the ceremony on YouTube at [www.youtube.com/ndnationalguard](http://www.youtube.com/ndnationalguard).

## DEPARTMENTS

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| News Briefs .....         | 4 |
| Sound-Off .....           | 6 |
| Benefits & Services ..... | 7 |



**Commander in Chief**  
North Dakota Governor  
John Hoeven

**The Adjutant General**  
Maj. Gen. David A. Sprynczynatyk

**Chief of Public Affairs**  
Lt. Col. Rick Smith

**Editor**  
Sgt. Eric W. Jensen

**Contributors**  
Capt. Penny Ripperger  
Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp  
Sgt. Amy Wieser Willson  
Bill Prokopyk  
Lt. Col. Rick Smith  
Sgt. Jon Haugen  
Spc. Tiffany Hefflin  
Wesley Schmidt  
Shari Lopatin  
Spc. Chris Erickson  
Tech. Sgt. Bradly A. Schneider  
Staff Sgt. Billie Jo Lorius  
1st Lt. Jeff Hoffer  
Chaplain (Maj.) Leo Moenkedick

The *North Dakota Guardian* is an authorized publication for members, families and retirees of the N.D. National Guard.

- Contents of the *North Dakota Guardian* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, or the Department of the Army or Air Force.
- Editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the Joint Force Headquarters, N.D. National Guard (JFND) Public Affairs Officer.
- Printed by United Printing, a private firm in no way connected to the U.S. Government under exclusive written contract with the JFND. Reproduction is by the offset method with a circulation of 7,500.
- The *North Dakota Guardian* is published by the JFND Public Information Office, Box 5511, Bismarck, N.D. 58506-5511, 701-333-2007

## ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

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

Electronic submissions are preferred. Please e-mail stories in Word format to:

[eric.william.jensen@us.army.mil](mailto:eric.william.jensen@us.army.mil)

Phone: 701-333-2195 Fax: 701-333-2017

Digital photos should be at least 300 dpi.

## On the Cover



**Aerial Goodbyes:** Three of a formation of five Black Hawk helicopters that flew over the Bismarck Capitol Oct. 5 are viewed by family and well-wishers. The Soldiers on board are part of Company C, 2-285th Aviation Battalion deploying to Iraq. (Photo by Bill Prokopyk, Joint Force Headquarters)

Please visit us on the Web at:  
[www.twitter.com/ndnationalguard](http://www.twitter.com/ndnationalguard)  
[www.youtube.com/ndnationalguard](http://www.youtube.com/ndnationalguard)  
[www.flickr.com/photos/ndguard](http://www.flickr.com/photos/ndguard)

# VIEW FROM THE TOP

Comments from North Dakota National Guard Leadership

## The Art of Caring Leadership Through Attitude

In the North Dakota National Guard, we are facing some of the most challenging times in our history due to the transformation of a reserve force to an operational force. Due to deployments, we have fewer people in critical jobs. Make no mistake, we will always get the job done and to standard, but it will take much perseverance. I believe with the right attitude daily and caring for one another personally and professionally, we have the ability to make a difference in our organization and ensure we meet our standards.

I believe that attitude is the one thing in our life that we have full control over each day, hour, minute and second. We are able to choose how we think, feel and most importantly how we treat our Families, our co-workers and everyone else around us. Eight simple letters can make a difference between winning or losing, happy and sad, or how we treat one another. These letters are the difference between existing in life or truly living it to the fullest each day. The first thing I do each day is check my ATTITUDE and choose to have a great day instead of just existing.

Attitude is the foundation for a great leader versus an average leader. It means being able to develop others through care

and mentorship, including letting someone know what their strengths are along with being able to let them know areas for improvement. It's about being honest to yourself and others that you lead or leaders you may follow. Great leaders give direction not directions. No matter our position within the organization, we all have the ability to make decisions, have confidence in others and let them decide the "how," you just provide the "what." Give your subordinates tough problems and challenge them to wrestle with them; ALWAYS tell them the positives along with areas for

improvement. The worst thing we can do is say nothing.

Many times in life, we spend a great amount of time worrying about things

that never materialize. We need to control what we can control. It all circles back to attitude and changing ourselves instead of trying to change others or situations we may be in. We must go back to the core values of the military; what we are taught and most importantly, the life experiences. The professional military ethic is loyalty to the nation, the military and the unit. Duty is our obligation to do the job to the best of our abilities. Selfless Service is putting the needs and the goals of the nation, the military, and your unit and your Soldier or



**Lt. Col. Rick Smith**

Public Information Officer  
North Dakota National Guard

Airman ahead of your personal needs and interest. We need to possess courage, overcoming fears of bodily harm and do our duty while doing what's right – even when no one is looking. Candor is being frank, open, honest and sincere with Soldiers, Airmen, seniors and peers. Competence is proficiency in required professional knowledge, judgment and skills. Commitment means the dedication to carry out all unit missions and to serve the values of the unit, military and the country.

Given the challenges that we are facing in the N.D. National Guard, it is important that we focus on the mission and each other to create a culture of caring and mentorship to take the organization into the future. Do the hard, right thing and choose the right attitude to make a difference in someone's life. Imagine the power of these eight letters and the difference you can make!!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Smith".

Lt. Col. Rick Smith

### Aviation Soldiers Depart North Dakota

Well-wishers, friends and family gathered Sept. 30 at the Bismarck Army Aviation Support Facility complex in Bismarck for a send-off ceremony held in honor of Soldiers of Company C, 2-285<sup>th</sup> Aviation Battalion as they prepared to leave for a yearlong deployment to Iraq. The Soldiers are part of the 2-285<sup>th</sup> Air Assault Battalion headquartered out of Arizona.

“Our country knows it can turn to North Dakota for some of the nation’s most capable Soldiers,” said Gov. John Hoeven. “Our Soldiers have been engaged in defending our liberties, peacekeeping missions abroad, as well as standing ready to answer the call at home as they did during this year’s flood fight.”

The Soldiers departed North Dakota Oct. 5 to attend training at their mobilization station in Oklahoma before deploying to Iraq. As part of their departure, the unit conducted a fly-over at the Capitol as the Soldiers left the state.

“Members of this company have a vast amount of experience and knowledge, and together, their skills and teamwork create the core of professionalism that is needed for their mission,” said Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, North Dakota National Guard adjutant general. “They will be successful as the nation calls them to duty, and while away, the Soldiers can be assured that we will support their loved ones. Both the Families and our Soldiers deserve thanks as they continue to sacrifice to serve our nation.”

Company C, 2-285<sup>th</sup> Aviation Battalion is comprised of 10 helicopters and crews of which North Dakota has five. The other half of the company is from West Jordan, Utah. The company is primarily made up of pilots and crew chiefs, but also includes door gunners, mechanics, fuelers and flight operations personnel.

The unit was alerted for mobilization in June 2009. It is commanded by Capt. Douglas Larsen, of Granville, N.D., and 1st Sgt. Daniel Marquart, of Bismarck, serves as the unit’s senior enlisted Soldier.

### Military Teens Team Up at First Council Meeting

The N.D. National Guard Youth Program conducted its first ever “Teen Council” informational meeting Oct. 23 at the Bismarck Military Service Center.

Teens that are interested in being a voice for youth assembled a council in order to brainstorm ways to work together



Sgt. Jonathan Haugen

Soldiers of Company C, 2-285<sup>th</sup> Aviation Battalion gather in front of a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter Sept. 25 at the Bismarck Aviation Support Facility prior to departing on their yearlong mobilization to Iraq.

to help meet the needs of the state’s youth whose parents are current or former military service members.

The council is scheduled to meet quarterly during the school year as part of a service-based teen group to discuss the importance of serving the community, state and country. Also, discussion focused on how to give back to the community, and do service projects for Families with deployed Soldiers who need extra help around the house to include such things as: raking leaves, mowing the lawn and shoveling snow.

Some of the other items discussed included the yearly military camp, the youth program, the needs of the youth as voiced by the youth, and events that could be hosted around the state.

### VetTix Foundation Serves Veterans, Families

Guard Veterans and their Families are eligible to receive the “best seats in the house” at live events in their area. The best part is they’re free.

Thanks to the Veteran Tickets Foundation (Vet Tix or VTF), Veterans and current active duty military members have been able to receive donated tickets for nearly two years. The organization, founded by Michael Focareto, a disabled Navy Veteran, is committed to service member support through their unique program.

Vet Tix is a non-profit national organization based in Phoenix whose mission is simple: Give something to those who gave

by collecting tickets to amazing events and distributing them without prejudice to Veterans, Active Duty members and their Families as a way of saying “thank you.” And that mission stands behind everything Vet Tix has done since Michael Focareto came up with the idea at last year’s Super Bowl game in Arizona.

“The seat next to me went empty the entire game, and I thought, wouldn’t it be nice if someone would have donated that ticket to a Veteran so he or she could enjoy the game?” said Focareto, Veteran Tickets Foundation CEO.

In the past year alone, VTF has collected and distributed over 14,000 tickets at a value of over \$1.65 Million to nationwide sporting events, concerts and exhibitions including the Insight Bowl, Arizona Diamondbacks games, Milwaukee Brewers games, NASCAR and Barnum and Bailey’s circus.

“We believe the events that bring Americans together in the spirit of celebration, competition and camaraderie—those all-American moments are the times we need welcome and acknowledge our Veterans,”

Focareto said.”

As VTF looks to the future, the non-profit hopes to reach all 26 million Veterans through generous donations.

### Final Group of Kosovo-Bound Soldiers Leave for Peacekeeping Mission

The final group of North Dakota National Guard Soldiers participating in the Kosovo mission departed the state Oct. 17 en route to Fort Benning, Ga. This was



the first leg of their journey with eventual duty in Pristina, Kosovo and Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina. They will serve separately from the main N.D. National Guard KFOR 12 element that departed in August. These Soldiers will be assigned to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) headquarters as part of the Kosovo-wide multi-national operations responsible for logistical operations in support of KFOR.

The Soldiers trained at Fort Benning for about a week before traveling to their final mission destinations in Europe.

### **Buzick Named N.D. Army National Guard's Recruiting and Retention NCO of the Year**

Sgt. 1st Class Bobby Buzick has been named the N.D. Army National Guard's Strength Maintenance Non-Commissioned Officer (SMNCO) of the year.

The prestigious SMNCO of the Year award (formerly known as "Chief's 54" award) is presented every year to each state and territory's top recruiter. The award is based on the three tenets of strength maintenance: recruiting, retention and attrition management.

Achieving excellence in his profession is nothing new to Buzick. This is the fourth year in a row he has met his assigned mission. Buzick, recruiting out of the Grand Forks, N.D., area, enlisted 27 soldiers into the N.D. Army National Guard in 2009. He excelled beyond his goal this year, achieved nearly 130 percent of his assigned mission during one of the National Guard's most historically challenging years due to ongoing combat operations overseas.

"Winning the SMNCO of the year is something that has been my goal from the first day I started," Buzick said. "To be recognized as North Dakota's best is something that I'm very proud of and it's an attribute to the excellent community that I recruit for and the great support

system that I am surrounded with at work and at home."

Buzick represented North Dakota in Las Vegas, Nev., in the first phase of the National SMNCO of the Year Competition Oct. 6. He competed against other states in the Recruiting and Retention Area Command (RRAC) region. The RRAC includes seven other states: Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington and Wyoming.

"Sgt. 1st Class Buzick competed professionally and aggressively in the RRAC VI regional competition and we are excited to call him our best in North Dakota," said Maj. Daryl Roerick, Recruiting and Retention commander.

An official awards ceremony will be held mid-December in Washington, D.C. Buzick, accompanied by his wife, Amber, will receive his award and be recognized by Maj. Gen. Raymond W. Carpenter, director of the Army National Guard.

Sgt. 1st Class Buzick, son of Marilyn Buzick of Barnesville, Minn., and Duane Buzick of Gardner, N.D., lives in Grand Forks, N.D., with his wife, Amber, and son, Mason.



**Sgt. 1st Class Bobby Buzick of the Recruiting and Retention Battalion, N.D. Army National Guard.**

### **Last Hooligan Who Served in Vietnam Retiring This Month**

A retirement ceremony during the N.D. Air National Guard's November drill will honor the Hooligans' last currently serving Vietnam veteran.

Master Sgt. Curtis Knutson, with the 119th Services Flight, will ceremoniously end his career at 3:30 p.m. Nov. 14 at the N.D. Air National Guard base in Fargo. His official retirement date will be Nov. 28.

While Knutson is the last current Hooligan to have served in Vietnam, Chief Master Sgt. Jim Clemenson also served in Vietnam and as a Hooligan. He now works with the National Guard Bureau and is one of the last Vietnam Veterans in the entire Air Force.

### **4th Annual Day of the Deployed Honors N.D. Service Members and Their Families**

Gov. John Hoeven signed a proclamation declaring Oct. 26 the Day of the Deployed in North Dakota. A ceremony honoring deployed military members from all branches of service and their Families

was held at the North Dakota State Capitol to honor the event. The ceremony was arranged by Soldiers' Angels, a non-profit organization and featured representatives from the National Guard, Reserves and active duty Air Force as well as military Family members. Hoeven, gave the main address to the dozens of attendees which also included about 100 school children from Bismarck Centennial Elementary School.

"We have service members deployed today, and other service members ready to deploy anywhere and anytime their state and nation call," said Hoeven. "That level of commitment and selflessness also extends to their families, as they too, serve and sacrifice in the name of freedom and democracy. That is why today and every day, North Dakotans are encouraged to reaffirm their patriotism and to honor the brave men and women in uniform and their Families who put their lives on hold to protect and preserve our way of life."

Speaking on behalf of North Dakota's adjutant general, Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, was Col. Dale Adams who said, "We acknowledge the daily sacrifices of not only the deployed men and women of all branches of our military services, but their Families as well. The sons and daughters of North Dakota are proudly serving all across the world."

### **Academy Provides Volunteers With Resources, Support**

The N.D. National Guard's Service Member and Family Support office hosted a Volunteer Academy Oct. 23-25 in Minot. Training sessions are offered four times each year across the state to provide training for those interested in becoming involved with Family Readiness Groups.

The Academy began Friday evening with "Real Colors," a discussion of different personalities. It continued Saturday with sessions on holding effective meetings, the role of the Guard's family life consultants, Family Assistance Center information, youth volunteers, fundraising and incorporating fun activities for Families. A session titled "It's OK to Ask for Help" was provided by the Unit Ministry Team. The participants also were updated on N.D. National Guard activities. On Sunday, sessions covered Joint Services Support — the online connection to volunteering — as well as working with media, social media, Army OneSource and Military OneSource.

# Hitting the Lights: Energy Savings Goals Being Pursued

By Wesley Schmidt  
N.D. National Guard Energy Manager

Once again, "Old Man Winter" is just around the corner and you're probably wondering, how much energy does turning the thermostats down or up actually save? Or, how much energy does shutting off lights, monitors and printers save?



Wesley Schmidt

Well, surprisingly, adjusting the heating thermostats' set-point down by just one degree as well as raising cooling set-points by one degree can save up to ten percent of your overall heating and cooling energy costs. Even turning off computer monitors when you leave the office for the day could result in approximately \$15,000 annual savings.

A study comparing fiscal year 2008 and 2009 Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) and electrical costs was performed for the N.D. Army National

Guard and the results were very promising. Even though the average heating degree days were seven percent higher on average for the 2009 heating season, the organization still achieved a ten percent reduction in natural gas usage. Total cost savings due to the reduction in usage was approximately 11 percent or \$60,000.

Electrical usage and costs in our organization are being reduced as well due to new temperature setting standards, lighting upgrades and increased awareness. For fiscal year 2009, the N.D. National Guard was able to realize a savings of two percent in power consumption.

Total cost savings due to this reduction was seven percent or \$44,685.

The first major energy legislation passed by Congress in 13 years, the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAAct 2005) and Executive Order 13423 were signed into law by former President George W. Bush. The primary goal of this legislation is to reduce energy consumption in facilities by two to three percent per year beginning in 2006, and a cumulative reduction of 20 percent by

the end of 2015.

Due to present & future energy cost increases and reduced utility funding, we need to continue reducing energy consumption. For fiscal year 2010, the N.D. Army National Guard base account is short 36 percent (\$452,000) of actual requirements. Energy conservation allows our organization to stretch our utility dollars, which requires less funding from other accounts to make up the difference.

The most important step for the N.D. National Guard Energy program is to continue increasing energy awareness for all personnel. Daily practices such as limiting the use of portable electric heaters, unplugging cell phone chargers, turning off unnecessary lights and turning off monitors and printers at the end of the day will allow us to continue to reduce energy consumption.

With your continued cooperation, the N.D. National Guard can meet energy conservation directives, reduce this agency's energy consumption and cut utility bills while stretching N.D. National Guard limited energy resources and protecting the environment.

## Appreciating the Blessings of the Holiday Season

In July 2008, I spent two weeks working in a mission in Guatemala. As I think back on the poverty that is a daily part of their lives, I can't help but think how very blessed I am, in more ways than I can count.

Last winter, I went ice fishing a few times. I took with me, in addition to my fishing gear, a warm dry coat, flashlight, propane heater, radio, plenty of coffee and more food than I could possibly eat. Over half the people in the world live in houses that are not nearly as well equipped as my fish house.

The families I visited in Guatemala live in houses made of cornstalks and grass. They are cold and damp and crawling with insects and rodents. They have no electricity for radio or TV, or even lighting or heating. They may have to walk miles to collect fire wood to cook a meal, if they happen to have food to cook.

As Thanksgiving approaches, I thank God for the multitude of blessings He has so graciously lavished upon me and my loved ones. I am grateful not only for the material blessings, but even more for the intangible blessings — my faith in God, the rights and privileges that I enjoy as an American, the love of family and

## Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain (Maj.) Leo Moenkedick  
119th Wing



Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

Chaplain Maj. Leo Moenkedick, of the 119th Wing, right, provides words of encouragement and support to military members filling sandbags March 24 at the Fargodome, including Spc. Jeffrey Rodgers, of the 164th Engineer Battalion, during the historic flood fight of 2009.

friends, health and happiness and so much more.

As the Global War on Terrorism continues, we could grow weary of the endless struggle to defend our freedom, or we can thank God for the opportunity to do so. This Thanksgiving day, let us thank God for the blessing of liberty and the opportunity to defend that blessing.

# New Gold Star Family License Plate Honors Fallen Service Members

Contributed by the N.D. Department of Transportation

Gov. John Hoeven, the N.D. Department of Transportation and the N.D. National Guard were joined by legislators and the Families of service members who have fallen in the line of duty to unveil the state's new "Gold Star" family license plates Sept. 28 at the state capitol building. The plates, which were created in the last legislative session, are available to Families who have lost a member in a military conflict.

Bernadette Monroe (mother) and Jordan Monroe (grandfather) received plates in honor of Pfc. Anthony Monroe; Adeline Reis accepted plates to commemorate her son, Staff Sgt. Ken Hendrickson; and Paul Goodiron accepted plates to honor his son, Cpl. Nathan Goodiron.

"This plate symbolizes the sacrifice my son made for freedom and it's a way to ensure he and others are not forgotten," said Bernadette Monroe.

"These beautiful plates are a thoughtful and highly visible way for North Dakotans to honor the sacrifice these Soldiers and their families have made for our nation," Hoeven said. "In a larger sense, however, they are also a reminder to the rest of us that the price of freedom is truly high. We are grateful to all of our brave Soldiers who are willing to risk their lives and, sometimes, make the ultimate sacrifice."

The new plate is enhanced with a gold star emblem, the letters G.S. with the words courage and honor encircling the star. The



Lt. Col. Rick Smith

From left to right, Paul and Harriet Goodiron express their gratitude at the unveiling of the Gold Star Family license plates with Gov. John Hoeven Sept. 28 in Bismarck at the state capitol building. Their son, Nathan Goodiron, lost his life in Afghanistan serving with the 1-188th Air Defense Artillery in Afghanistan November 2006.

release of this new plate coincides with national Gold Star Mother's Day, which is observed on the fourth Sunday of September each year. It is a day for people to recognize and honor those who have lost a son or daughter while serving in the United States Armed Forces.

The concept of the Gold Star dates back to World War I when a grieving mother began wearing a gold star to honor her son after he was killed in combat.

The new Gold Star Family license plate is available to the family relatives of a member of the United States Armed Forces who died while serving on active duty during a time of military conflict. To determine eligibility and start the license

plate application process, family members should contact Gene Kouba of the North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs Office in Bismarck office at 701-328-5465 or visit their Web site at [www.nd.gov/veterans](http://www.nd.gov/veterans).

## Photocopying Military ID OK When Showing Eligibility for



By Shari Lopatin  
TriWest Healthcare Alliance

When the doctor's office asks for a military ID card and makes a copy, it's OK—and usually necessary.

To receive medical care, service members and their families need to show their eligibility for TRICARE. Although those who enroll in TRICARE Prime will receive a TRICARE Prime ID card, the key to showing eligibility is the valid military ID card.

Service members and their Families will need their military ID card for medical care, pharmacy benefits and dental care. Many times, the doctor may copy the military ID card for the patient's records

and to confirm TRICARE eligibility when submitting a claim.

Federal law prohibits photographing or making prints of military ID cards unless it is to receive medical treatment; a valid military ID card is proof of TRICARE eligibility and can be photocopied. Like everything else in a patient's record, it is protected by law.

If a patient is visiting a specialist, they may have additional forms to fill out, just as at any first-time doctor's visit. The patient should tell the receptionist they have TRICARE; the receptionist may ask for their military ID card, which is acceptable just as a doctor's office might photocopy a private insurance card. Usually, a beneficiary's primary care doctor won't need to

see a military ID card.

Service members should be aware, however, that copies of their military ID cards cannot be made for substitute cards, or for any other purpose than to show their TRICARE eligibility to receive medical treatment.

Patients on Prime and Prime Remote can request a TRICARE card via TRICARE's Beneficiary Web Enrollment site at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/bwe/index.jsp> or at [www.triwest.com/bwe](http://www.triwest.com/bwe). The card will be sent to the patient's mailing address listed in (DEERS). To replace a military ID card, service members should visit their nearest military ID card office, which can be found at [www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl).

# T

The future is now. The premises of science-fiction novels and films have suddenly become a reality in modern military technology. North Dakota Guardsmen can affirm this. They've seen it.

Soldiers of the 817<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company routinely used the Buffalo — a heavily armored truck with video cameras and a robotic arm during their mobilization to Iraq in 2007. These vehicles worked like scent hounds on trailblazer missions, sniffing out improvised explosive devices while performing route clearance.

Predator pilots from the 119<sup>th</sup> Wing fly drones over Iraq and Afghanistan from a stateside facility providing surveillance from the Air and possessing capabilities for attacks with hellfire laser-guided missiles.

Weapons systems and equipment are constantly being upgraded to confront shifting conditions in combat theatres. A number of Guardsmen, however, have developed and calibrated a more traditional weapons system to add to their arsenal — their own bodies. The enthusiasm among military members for mixed martial arts and Modern Army Combatives training has proven to not only be an invaluable Soldiering skill, but a fruitful pastime as well.

### Learning a New Trade

The Pre-Mobilization Training Assistance Element (PTAE) is spearheading a campaign to introduce more N.D. Air and Army National Guard members to the

Modern Army Combatives (MAC) program. Sgt. Jon Blazek, PTAE instructor, is leading the effort. Derived from Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, Combatives were developed by retired Army Ranger Matt Larsen who established the U.S. Army Combatives school at Fort Benning, Ga. He also helped author FM 3-25.150, the U.S. Army Field

Manual for Combatives in 2002. Blazek recently became a level-four certified MAC instructor after attending a month long course at Fort Benning. He insists the program is nothing short of infectious.

“The whole Combatives experience is fun.

Everyone that comes through it (the course) just wants more,” he said.

The opportunity to progress in MAC is afforded by the various levels involved in the program. The level-one course consists of 40-hours of training in basic ground fighting, which culminates in the perfection of 18 different moves. Level-two incorporates more than 40 ground fighting maneuvers and delves into stand-up fighting, or striking, in addition to knife-fighting and managing enemy prisoners of war. As a level-four certified instructor, Blazek is the only Guardsmen in the state qualified to certify level-one and two MAC participants. To date, he has certified nearly 200 North Dakota Soldiers in level-one MAC and 12 in level-two.

“That will help me with training,” he said referring to the ability of level-two certified Soldiers to assist in instructing level-one participants. “The more people that I can certify in level-two, the more students I will be able to instruct

“IT'S ALWAYS NICE TO TEST YOURSELF AND SEE HOW MUCH FURTHER YOU CAN GO AND SEE WHAT YOU ARE CAPABLE OF.”

# PRIMITIVE WARFARE

## Guardsmen Relish Close Quarters Combat

*Story by Sgt. Eric W. Jensen  
Joint Force Headquarters*

**Sgt. Jon Blazek monitors participants in the N.D. Army National Guard's "Best Warrior" competition during a Modern Army Combatives (MAC) tournament at Camp Grafton Training Center Sept. 20. Blazek and members of the Pre-Mobilization Training Assistance Element helped judge the MAC tournament to better prepare Soldiers for the regional and national competitions.**



Chief Warrant Officer Russ Zuraff





emphasize safety when instructing MAC courses.

"I don't want anyone to get hurt," he said. "If you start the course healthy, I want you to leave in the same shape. You might have a few bruises and scrapes, but you should leave the course the same way you came in."

Ultimately, Blazek aims to instill self-assuredness in his students by the time they exit the course.

"You can just see the confidence emerge more and more every day. That's what I love to see. That's why I love my job," he said.

His expertise has increasingly been in demand throughout the N.D. National Guard. Just recently, Blazek and members of the PTAE helped judge a MAC tournament during the N.D. Army National Guard's "Best Warrior" competition at the Camp Grafton Training Center. The request came from Command Sgt. Maj. Gerald Miller, N.D. Army National Guard state command sergeant major, after he recognized that having some level of MAC experience would better prepare Soldiers for the regional and national competitions.

The N.D. Air National Guard has not been left out of the fold, however. Blazek and the PTAE are developing a training calendar that will provide level one and level two MAC instruction to all N.D.

Air and Army Guard members at various facilities across North Dakota. The calendar will be distributed among the major commands of the N.D. National Guard.

### A Gentleman's Sport

Master Sgt. Dominic Cook, 219th Security Forces Squadron non-commissioned officer-in-charge of training, is no stranger to the finer aspects of hand-to-hand combat. A former professional mixed martial arts fighter, Cook has a professional record of 5-1. Like Blazek, he appreciates the fighting arts because of the confidence gained from competition.

"It's always nice to test yourself and see how much further you can go and see what you are capable of," he said. "When you're standing in a (fighting) cage with a 220-pound guy who is extremely skilled and his only goal is to punch your head off, you start to think that other things in your life might not be that bad and you have confidence to stare down tough situations."

Cook also cites mixed martial arts as a

platform for bonding fighters in the spirit of competition. His only loss in professional fighting was to local combatant Ethan Boyle who later helped train him for his final fight in May 2008 at Four Bears Casino in northwestern North Dakota where Cook decimated his opponent one minute and 20 seconds into the first round with an arm bar submission.

"The fighters that I know are a tight group," he said. "Pretty much all of us are friends. We may be fighting each other down the road, but it's nothing personal. You're testing yourself against another opponent."

Members of the 119<sup>th</sup> Wing have also been regular faces at his fights, Cook said. Staff Sgt. Aaron Giere, also of the 219<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron, trained with Cook for three of his fights. The two of them were the first N.D. Air National Guard members to receive the Air Force Combat Action Medal in recognition of actively participating in combat operations while serving in Iraq in 2003.

Cook has made it a point to stay sharp in mixed martial arts by training members of his squadron in his off time and even introducing active duty Airmen on Minot Air Force Base to the sport. Like Blazek, he views mixed martial arts as an essential skill for service members mobilizing to combat areas.

"When you're deployed, these skills, they can save your life, he said."

Blazek views MAC as a perishable skill and hopes that North Dakota can develop a fight house in Bismarck to keep Guardsmen involved in MAC in the future.

Currently, there are no MAC schools in the Midwest making Blazek's level of experience a hot commodity. Blazek maintains that MAC is essential training for confronting enemy combatants.

"It's a good way to take someone down and hold them in a position where they're not going to get up."

For years military members have preached that the winner of the hand-to-hand fight in combat is the one whose buddy shows up first with a gun. Knowing MAC just might give them a little extra time to get there.

N.D. Guardsmen interested in participating in MAC should contact their units to find out when and where the next training session will be conducted, and how they can register for the class. To learn more about the MAC program, contact Sgt. Jon Blazek at 701-333-3447.

Top, Master Sgt. Dominic Cook, right, and Staff Sgt. Aaron Giere, of the 219th Security Forces Squadron, regularly trained together for Cook's mixed martial arts bouts.

Above, Cook meets legendary American mixed martial artist and wrestler, Dan "The Beast" Severn. Severn was a prominent face in early Ultimate Fighting Championship tournaments.

at one time in a level-one course because there are more experts to make sure no one is being left behind."

The third and fourth-level courses are more advanced and require attendance at the MAC school at Benning for four weeks.

Blazek does emphasize that Guardsmen who sign up for the courses should have some level of physical skill.

"They need to be in decent physical condition," he said. "You can't be riding the desk for the last five years and expect to just go at it. It's a physical course."

Having a degree of conditioning helps prevent injury, Blazek said, but he does

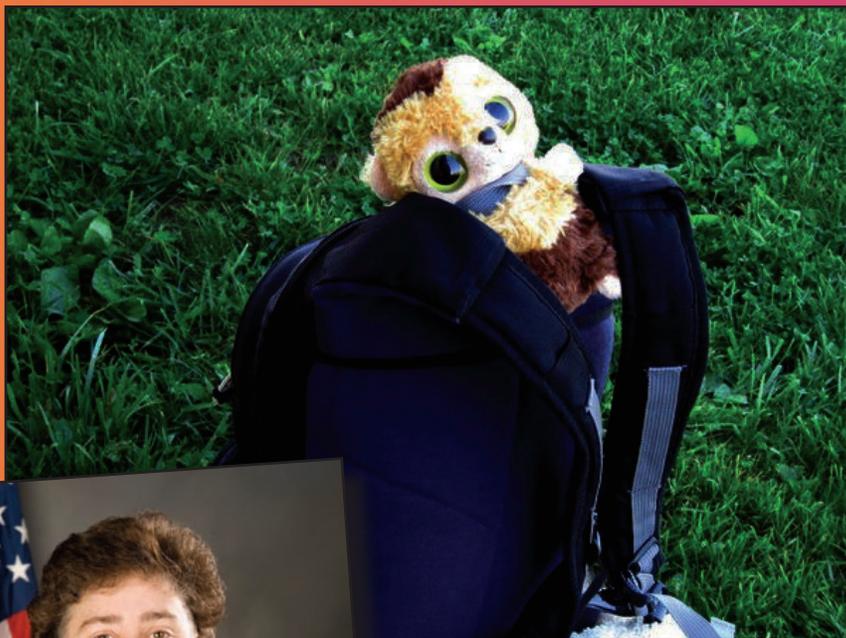
# Happy Trails

## 'Major Goof' Documents Deployment Through Fictional Eyes

Story by Spc. Chris Erickson  
116th Public Affairs Detachment



Courtesy Photos



Left, Maj. Davina French, of Kosovo Force (KFOR) 12, authors a blog documenting her mobilization through the eyes of her furry friend, Dobie. Followers of the blog include family and friends of KFOR 12 members.

Recently, Dobie discussed his experiences at Camp Atterbury where KFOR 12 completed their mobilization training before leaving for Kosovo. The photos to the right were taken during close range subject control training at Muscatatuck Urban Training Center in Ind., with Soldiers of the Liaison and Monitoring Team (LMT), 957th Engineer Company.

A fictional character has taken on the perspective of Soldiers deploying to Kosovo.

Dobie, a small stuffed animal with an Army uniform and drill sergeant hat, gives personality and provides insight on the ins-and-outs of how it feels and what it means to serve in a deployed environment with Kosovo Forces 12 Multi-National Task Force-East (MNTF-E).

The idea was brought up by Maj. Davina French, planner with MNTF-E. French writes a blog under the title "Major Goof," which seeks to keep its audience updated on the KFOR 12 mission.

The KFOR 12 mission is French's third deployment. She decided she wanted to write a blog that

## I'd like to take people on a yearlong journey through the emotions of a Soldier."

updated people at home more than a few times a year and less than the daily letters she had written her first deployment.

"I figured I'd try social media and start this blog. There are a lot of military people who are interested in what we are doing," she said.

That interest can easily be satisfied by the instant nature of information on the Internet. Social media has generally replaced the handwritten letters of yesterday, and now provides the writer a wider audience at a moment's notice. Operational security must be considered in everything published, but staying connected is encouraged.

French's first entry was written about mobilization station training at Camp Atterbury, Ind., and the stuffed animal has continued to Hohenfels, Germany. The blog now has hundreds of followers.

"I try and take people through how we get to mobilization station; some of the activities we do. I've used Dobie as the footprint of what a Soldier does during training: from taser training to pepper spray to running in formations.

"Part of the blog is: How does a Soldier feel? I've taken a look at some of the hard things, emotionally. We go through a range of emotions in a deployment, from feeling happy to excited to tired. I'd like to take people on a year-long journey through the emotions of a Soldier."

French said she wanted to provide not just a military perspective, but also a visual perspective to enable people at home to see some of what

the deployed troops are seeing.

"It really is through one Soldier's eyesight," French continued. "I'm hoping that I'm reaching all levels of Soldiers, from privates to colonels. But (the blog exists) mostly to showcase the spirit of the Soldier. It really is a significant unimaginable thing. They just keep going."

French said some challenges did present themselves. She said not mentioning specific names or numbers is a challenge. Maintaining operational security often means writing vaguely, but she tries to capture the spirit of the deployment and the Soldiers involved without giving away any sensitive information.

The challenges, however, can be balanced

by unexpected successes. Friends and families of deployed Soldiers can follow the blog and comment to "Davina and Dobie."

French recalled one quick anecdote about how one mother had posted a comment, writing "If you see my son, say hello!"

French's blog can be found at [www.travelblog.org/Bloggers/Major-Goof/](http://www.travelblog.org/Bloggers/Major-Goof/).

# Dobie's Camp Atterbury Scrapbook

Photos by Staff Sgt. Billie Jo Lorus  
Joint Force Headquarters



The instructions were simple. Stand in front of the instructor, hands down to your sides. The instructor would give you a blast of pepper spray directly to your face and then without wiping your eyes you had to run over to another instructor and do a few combat moves and try to maintain your composure until you could get to the face wash racks.



That looks like it hurts!!! Getting zapped with a taser puts a person on the ground real fast!



Gimme Water!!! Like this Soldier, I staggered to the face washing station and it seems like complete chaos. The instructor is yelling directions to us. We are groaning and rubbing his secret face and eye cleaning solution.



Chaplain (Maj.) Maury Millican gives a blessing before everyone leaves for Germany (where we will get even more training) during our send-off ceremony at Camp Atterbury.

# Lucky No. Thirteen

## 119th Wing Receives 13th Outstanding Unit Award

Story by Sgt. Amy Wieser Willson  
Joint Force Headquarters

In a feat rarely, if ever, seen before, the 119th Wing, N.D. Air National Guard, received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (AFOUA) for the 13th time — and the fourth year in a row. Each year, only four of 31 similar units across the nation receive the prestigious honor.

“I have done nothing here to contribute to this award other than hire good people, surround myself with capable people that are smarter than me and give them 100 percent support, and this is what happens,” said Col. Robert Becklund, 119th Wing commander, during the award’s formal presentation on Oct. 3.

During the ceremony, Brig. Gen. Al Palmer, assistant adjutant general — air, placed a streamer on the unit flag to signify the accomplishment, as Lt. Col. Al Albright, 119th Wing judge advocate general, read the award citation.

“The 119th Wing ... distinguished itself by exceptionally meritorious service from 1 October 2007 to 30 September 2008,” Albright said. “The Wing achieved a 98 percent overall compliance rating from the Air Combat Command’s 2008 Unit Compliance Inspection, an overall increase of 3 percent from the previous Unit Compliance Inspection. This increase is more significant considering the fundamental structural changes experienced by the Wing during the last three years during which it completed a dual conversion, replacing existing weapons systems and missions with not one, but two new aircraft missions.”

The Wing’s new, first-of-its-kind mission at the Minot Air Force Base, where it established the largest Air National Guard Security Forces Squadron, also con-

tributed to earning the award. Furthermore, the Wing extended its extraordinary flying record to more than 36 years, 163,193 hours and 102,177 sorties without a mishap, including 20,433 hours flying the MQ1-A Predator, an unmanned aerial system.

All unit members, who stood in formation throughout the ceremony, were awarded the Outstanding Unit Award ribbon to wear on their uniforms. In addition, the AFOUA ribbon will be displayed on the 119th Wing aircraft to signify the number of times the North Dakota Air National Guard has won this award as a unit.

Most units across the United States average only three to five awards. Thirteen awards places the 119th Wing in the top percent of the nation’s forces. The 119th Wing won the award in 1973, 1974, 1979, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1998, 1999, 2003, 2006, 2007 and 2008.

## Watch the Video

Missed the 119th Wing receiving its 13th Air Force Outstanding Unit Award? Watch video from the ceremony online at the North Dakota National Guard Facebook page or on YouTube at [www.youtube.com/ndnationalguard](http://www.youtube.com/ndnationalguard)



Techn. Sgt. Bradley A. Schneider

119th Wing Commander Col. Robert Becklund, middle, holds the unit guide-on as Brig. Gen. Al Palmer, assistant adjutant general — air, affixes the 13th Outstanding Unit Award banner while Brig. Gen. Pat Martin, deputy adjutant general, looks on Oct. 3 at the N.D. Air National Guard in Fargo.



**Quick Response:** Members of the N.D. National Guard's 81st Civil Support Team (CST) participate in an unannounced exercise Oct. 20 at the North Dakota State Capitol. The purpose of the exercise was to test the emergency response plans of the participating agencies and the coordination and the integration of the 81st CST with the Bismarck Fire Department. The mission of National Guard civil support teams is to support local and state authorities by identifying potentially hazardous agents and substances, assessing consequences, advising on response measures and assisting with requests for additional military support.



**Full House:** About 100 school children from Bismarck Centennial Elementary School sit quietly waiting for the "Day of the Deployed" ceremony to begin at the N.D. State Capitol's Memorial Hall. The ceremony, conducted on Oct. 26, honored and recognized all deployed military service members and their families.

**Guard Support:** From left to right, Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. National Guard adjutant general; Paulette and Bob Heringer, Bob's Fireworks City; Jody Mosbrucker, Veracity Motors; Vern Fetch, N.D. Retiree's Council and Steve LaFromboise, Dvorak Motors, stand next to the Global War on Terrorism Memorial outside Fraine Barracks, Bismarck Oct. 13. Sprynczynatyk extended his appreciation for each party's contribution to the N.D. Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) fund. N.D. TAPS supports N.D. Families of fallen service members by providing necessary transportation and housing so family members can attend national TAPS program events.



# RETIREMENTS • PROMOTIONS • NEW MEMBERS

June 2009 — September 2009

## Promotions • Army

### Major General

Maj. Gen. Dennis E. Jacobson

### Lieutenant Colonel

Lt. Col. Clark V. Johnson

Lt. Col. Warren L. Pauling

Lt. Col. Jackie A. Huber

Lt. Col. Edward M. Johnson

Lt. Col. Leo A. Ryan

### Captain

Capt. Dana L. Schagunn

Capt. Jerod E. Tufte

### First Lieutenant

1st Lt. Cory M. Schumacher

1st Lt. Steven C. Gallo

1st Lt. Alan J. Roehrich

1st Lt. John G. Blair

### Chief Warrant Officer

CW4 Travis R. Bridwell

CW4 Theresia M. Hersch

CW3 Dennis M. Voeller

CW2 Dale D. Kraft

CW2 Aaron D. Schuler

CW2 Kiley M. Kuntz

CW2 Paul D. Cervinski

### Sergeant Major

Sgt. Maj. Mark A. Nelson

Sgt. Maj. Alvin M. Zimmerman

Sgt. Maj. Eric A. Olerud

### Master Sergeant

Master Sgt. Alan C. Wimer

Master Sgt. Dean P. Richter

Master Sgt. David T. Hatten

Master Sgt. Pamela V. Anderson

### Sergeant First Class

Sgt. 1st Class Heather M. Heinen

Sgt. 1st Class David K. Kendall

Sgt. 1st Class Anthony A. Pfau

Sgt. 1st Class Gary D. Anderson

Sgt. 1st Class Christopher L. Hjelseth

Sgt. 1st Class Charles E. Todd

Sgt. 1st Class Brett A. Heinen

Sgt. 1st Class Arnold J. Gulka

Sgt. 1st Class Geoffrey R. Hoselton

### Staff Sergeant

Staff Sgt. Adam J. Baker

Staff Sgt. Christopher F. King

Staff Sgt. Gene A. Anderson

Staff Sgt. Brent A. Johnson

Staff Sgt. Daniel L. Uppgren

Staff Sgt. Matthew D. Nelson

Staff Sgt. Heather J. Kuntz

Staff Sgt. Eric B. Anton

Staff Sgt. Krystal E. Eberle

Staff Sgt. Nathan N. Johnson

Staff Sgt. Ryan L. Rossow

Staff Sgt. Jeremy W. Greenstein

Staff Sgt. Ryan J. Henningsen

Staff Sgt. Michael W. Emmons

Staff Sgt. Tyson A. Mattson

Staff Sgt. Jacob P. Bollinger

Staff Sgt. Cody J. Johnson

Staff Sgt. Raymond A. Bickford

Staff Sgt. Morrie W. Nelson

Staff Sgt. Corey J. Moen

Staff Sgt. Tyler J. Rupp

Staff Sgt. Jennifer R. Hesselting

Staff Sgt. Matthew J. Condry

### Sergeant

Sgt. Brock R. Klettke

Sgt. Wade A. Harr

Sgt. Melinda D. Schmit

Sgt. Kyle T. Nelson

Sgt. Justin B. Jacob

Sgt. Randy L. Wait

Sgt. Dana L. Keller

Sgt. Toren C. Mohs

Sgt. Derek T. Brandenburg

Sgt. Jon J. Rambow

Sgt. Michael R. Strom

Sgt. Emily F. Schmidt

Sgt. Elizabeth C. Feliciano

Sgt. Ryan M. Coghlan

Sgt. Corbin P. Hilfer

Sgt. Duane M. Score

Sgt. Brian C. Wollmuth

Sgt. Lucas J. Brown

Sgt. Thomas H. Ollenburger

Sgt. Clair B. Filbert

Sgt. Dustin W. Kirschenmann

Sgt. Mika L. Putz

Sgt. Joshua D. Santanen

Sgt. Matthew M. McKinney

Sgt. Raymond J. Cavanaugh

Sgt. David M. Tripp

Sgt. Aanders T. Nielsen

Sgt. Eric J. Bender

Sgt. Dustin G. Monette

Sgt. Thomas M. Lawler

Sgt. Joshua L. Zeis

### Specialist

Spc. Nicholas J. Folkedahl

Spc. Curtis A. Schestler

Spc. Andrew J. Sorum

Spc. Vyron A. Morkassel

Spc. David R. Hooge

Spc. Lucas R. Larson

Spc. Michael R. Milbrett

Spc. Eric V. Heldt

Spc. Michael J. Moore

Spc. Lucas K. Krueger

Spc. Derek B. Beechie

Spc. Daniel P. Carpenter

Spc. Lacey T. Marquardt

Spc. John R. Kelly

Spc. Mitchell E. Johnson

Spc. Chad A. Avdem

Spc. Brook N. Glatt

Spc. Aubriana M. Wolf

Spc. Dustin R. Suko

Spc. Benjamin E. Phelps

Spc. Daniel A. Byzewski

Spc. Justin J. L. Sandberg-Wieser

Spc. Amanda J. Melaas

Spc. Jarrod W. Cone

Spc. Ryan T. Dohman

Spc. Andrew C. Dozhier

Spc. Skyler S. Duffly

Spc. Jason A. Gregoryk

Spc. Sheena E. Leno

Spc. Andrew C. Huisman

Spc. Dillon A. Sivertson

Spc. Nicholas P. Maro

Spc. Mitchell G. Swenning

Spc. Derek B. Nelson

Spc. Christopher A. Hulm

Spc. Terry J. Bender

Spc. Samuel E. Liebel

Spc. Casey J. Formanek

Spc. Christopher J. Mckamey

Spc. Brent A. Miller

Spc. Dale B. Burdette

Spc. Marcus S. Kvernen

Spc. Richard M. Coughlin

Spc. Jared L. Sundby

### Private First Class

Pfc. Kurt B. Altenburg

Pfc. Jerry R. Velek

Pfc. Jenna C. Lee

Pfc. Brandon J. Kolstad

Pfc. Matthew D. Edinger

Pfc. Joseph E. Taborsky

Pfc. Christopher A. Stenvold

Pfc. William T. Case

Pfc. Devan A. Medhaug

Pfc. Mackenzie D. Petersen

Pfc. Christopher A. Touchtone

Pfc. Ashley R. King

Pfc. Laura L. Erickson

Pfc. Austyn L. Haider

Pfc. Stefanie L. Decker

Pfc. Nathan M. Selnes

Pfc. Evan R. Awes

Pfc. Marc T. Montplaisir

Pfc. Trevor D. Slominski

Pfc. Taylor S. Brown

Pfc. Derek H. Shimek

Pfc. Arthur J. Christiansen

Pfc. Cole L. Frank

Pfc. Colin M. Johnson

Pfc. Kelsey J. Wagendorf

Pfc. Jaime . Pruneda

Pfc. Ezra I. Koch

Pfc. Adrian J. Bartsch

Pfc. Travis J. Lutz

Pfc. Gary S. Mcdonald

Pfc. Lucas J. Gage

Pfc. Michael J. Mcgregor

Pfc. Elise G. Crider

Pfc. Tyler B. Schick

Pfc. Jarred J. Nygaard

Pfc. Clinton D. Wescott

Pfc. Douglas A. Waddle

Pfc. Timothy S. Mccullough

Pfc. David L. Huber

Pfc. Victoria K. Walery

Pfc. Todger D. Morrow

Pfc. Blake D. Lukach

Pfc. Kerry B. Thompson

Pfc. Matthew R. Rodriguez

Pfc. Ashley A. Porter

### Private

PV2 Reily G. Porter

PV2 Paul A. Rohrich

PV2 Justin R. Yanez

PV2 Mathew B. Dixon

PV2 Anthony J. Scheen

PV2 Caleb R. Genre

PV2 Justin A. Stenerson

PV2 Alfonso J. Wadholm

PV2 Justin J. Duke

PV2 Christopher R. Senff

PV2 Heidi M. Middleider

PV2 Thomas E. Zimmerman

PV2 Michael D. Knutson

PV2 Slade A. Ternes

PV2 Aaron M. Roll

PV2 Celina T. Mindt

PV2 McKenzie M. Ensrud

PV2 Joseph P. Scanlan

PV2 Joseph R. Paulus

PV2 Jaydan R. Bergenheier

PV2 Gilberto E. Herrera

PV2 Andrew J. Hilgemann

PV2 Alicia L. Pavilionis

PV2 Joshua D. Bucklin

PV2 Andrew J. Tanata

PV2 Tina R. Heth

PV2 Ethan C. Karch

PV2 Andrew B. Burkhardt

PV2 Jeffrey S. Diemert

PV2 Jacklyn S. Ust

PV2 Robert J. Andring

PV2 John A. Hillstad

PV2 Jessica L. Raasch

PV2 Jordan D. Yanish

## — Retirements • Army —

Lt. Col. James P. Wang

Maj. Cory W. Melland

CW4 Duane A. Jahner

CSM Francis S. Brager

Sgt. Maj. Roger B. Johnson

1st Sgt. Michael S. Allmer

Master Sgt. Glenn A. Mueller

Master Sgt. John P. Ites

SFC Steven H. Dombrowsky

SFC Michael E. Grafsgaard

SFC Darell D. Berg

SFC Kelly S. Johansen

Staff Sgt. Mark W. McMahon

Sgt. Delvin R. Deihl

Sgt. Bruce B. Herr

Sgt. Jody A. Honeyman

Sgt. Curtis W. Nygaard

# RETIREMENTS • PROMOTIONS • NEW MEMBERS

June 2009 — September 2009

## Promotions • Air

### Colonel

Col. Bradley M. Derrig

### Lieutenant Colonel

Lt.Col. Christopher G. Burke

Lt.Col. Chad A. Smith

Lt.Col. Alan R. Hull

Lt.Col. Allen K. Albright

Lt.Col. David S. Winjum

### Major

Maj. Matthew J. Fiechtner

Maj. Micaela R. Brancato

Maj. Steven W. Larson

Maj. Ryan VanBuren

Maj. Kyle D. Ness

Maj. Kyle C. Bakken

### Captain

Capt. Matthew W. Tronnes

Capt. Bobbette L. Bengs

### Chief Master Sergeant

Chief Master Sgt. Kevin L. Muehler

### Senior Master Sergeant

SMSgt. Jefry L. Curfman

SMSgt. Barbara J. Anderson

### Master Sergeant

Master Sgt. Nathan T. Anderson

Master Sgt. James E.P. Burmeister

Master Sgt. Patricia J. Walton

Master Sgt. Walter L. Waswick

### Technical Sergeant

Tech.Sgt. Brock J. Carlson

Tech.Sgt. Jason C. Meuchel

Tech.Sgt. Ryan P. Mugan

Tech.Sgt. Bradley D. Schenck

Tech.Sgt. Tamara N. Stavenes

Tech.Sgt. Kayla L. Bosch

### Staff Sergeant

Staff Sgt. Briana E. Baggett

Staff Sgt. Christopher J. Brewer

Staff Sgt. Felecia T. Gelvin

Staff Sgt. Shylah A. Hoff

Staff Sgt. Kellynn B. Johnston

Staff Sgt. Krista J. Tonn

Staff Sgt. Shareen S.N. Blas

Staff Sgt. Wayne W. Fawcett

Staff Sgt. Omar A. Arellano

Staff Sgt. Erica G. Olerud

Staff Sgt. Drew B. Conway

Staff Sgt. Joellen G. Ybarra

### Senior Airman

SA Andrew M. Blair

SA Kelli J. Eidem

SA Mason M. Krebsbach

SA Samuel J. Dibble

SA Andrew J. Frovarp

SA Ryan J. Klemisch

SA Christina N. Richards

SA Christopher L. Mann

SA Jeremiah S. Johnson

### Airman First Class

AFC Donald D. Drechsel

Maj. Roberta J. Solberg

Lt. Col. Wayne Tranby

SMSgt. Curtis D. Jorschumb

Master Sgt. Kenneth N. Abel

Master Sgt. Ronald P. Boe

Master Sgt. LeRoy L. Gnadt

Master Sgt. Albert C. Humphrey, Jr.

Master Sgt. Lester D. Sjoblom

Tech.Sgt. Ross A. DeSautel

## Appointments

2nd Lt. Justin L. Berger

2nd Lt. Stanley P. Brown

2nd Lt. Cory M. Cavett

2nd Lt. Robbie R. Hertz

2nd Lt. Patrick L. Joyce

2nd Lt. Jeremy R. Thorne

2nd Lt. Christopher J. Walker

WO Kelly S. Johansen

WO Jammy A. Ryckman

WO Adam R. Waldo

## New Members • Air

Maj. James W. Cheney

Maj. Don W. Gunhus

Maj. Kevin A. Cantera

Maj. Michael I. Mallory

Maj. Glenn J. Shamdas

Capt. William E. Fields

Capt. Cory Genelin

Tech.Sgt. Ritchie R. Heyne

Staff Sgt. Kevin S. Snelson

Staff Sgt. Brandon M. Balkowitsch

Staff Sgt. Jacob D. Ryun

SA Joshua A. Jordan

SA Rodney A. Burmeister

SA Marie L. Erman

SA Douglas J. Degier

AFC Trent J. O'Brien

AFC Cooper J. Holm

AFC Kimberly L. Zuroff

AFC Taylor J. Wolford

AFC Darrin J. Hook

AFC Alison R. Hest

AFC Nathan W. Giere

AFC Cody M. Jensen

AFC Krystle A. Parrill

AFC Alexander T. Frankl

AFC Zachary M. Sherritt

AFC Jenna L. Monge

AFC Lilisa M. Gannon

Airman Basic Chad J. Dehler

Airman Basic James M. Wright

## New Members • Army

Capt. Chad A. Lawler

Capt. Richard A. Szabo

1st Lt. Jacqueline M. Grunefelder

Sgt. 1st Class Sysavanh . Hansana

Sgt. 1st Class Matthew S. Hjelseth

Staff Sgt. John E. Pitsiladis

Sgt. Jeremy R. Allard

Sgt. Nathan J. Boerboom

Sgt. Jonathan J. Fankhanel

Sgt. Alan A. Hackman

Sgt. Melvin C. Lynn

Sgt. Brian J. Moritz

Sgt. Justin T. Peterson

Sgt. Steven G. Wolf

Spc. Kyle C. Allen

Spc. Kristopher A. Broe

Spc. Jacob W. Danduran

Spc. Ryan C. Fitts

Spc. Lucas J. Greff

Spc. Thomas C. Hansen

Spc. Emily R. Jefferson

Spc. Joey J. Jochim

Spc. Philip L. Malaterre

Spc. Kyle A. Masters

Spc. Bradley J. Mattson

Spc. Troy M. Olson

Spc. Ronald A. Schooler

Spc. Marshall . Smith

Spc. Christian L. Thorson

Pfc. Alexander J. Chyle

Pfc. Kathryn B. Duben

Pfc. Tyrone J. Farber

Pfc. Kenneth E. Griesbach

Pfc. Chad A. Helbling

Pfc. Jennifer E. Hulne

Pfc. Karlene N. Jackson

Pfc. Sean M. Johnson

Pfc. Ashley R. King

Pfc. Nicholas S. Knudson

Pfc. Ezra I. Koch

Pfc. Ashley M. Kramer

Pfc. Jonny M. Maley

Pfc. Gary S. Mcdonald

Pfc. Jarred J. Nygaard

Pfc. Nathan M. Selses

Pfc. James D. Sigl

PV2 Chad J. Good

PV2 Corey W. Hansen

PV2 Robert F. Hopp

PV2 Cole R. Lebrun

PV2 Celina T. Mindt

PV2 Dillion E. Music

PV2 Anthony J. Rohr

PV2 Jacques C. Rutledge

PV2 Taylor R. Stopplesworth

PV2 Adam J. Yoney

PV2 Thomas E. Zimmerman

Pvt. Morgan D. Axelson

Pvt. Jacob J. Baker

Pvt. Dylan J. Bjornson

Pvt. Taylor L. Broyles

Pvt. Samantha L. Crabbe

Pvt. Donovan D. Dobler

Pvt. Christopher A. Donis

Pvt. Nicholas A. Fossum

Pvt. Joseph S. Greff

Pvt. Cody A. Harter

Pvt. Kerry A. Knutson

Pvt. Kara S. Lepp

Pvt. Jacob D. Libke

Pvt. Thomas Q. Mills

Pvt. Gage C. Nelson

Pvt. Michael S. Newell

Pvt. Christopher M. Nygord

Pvt. Jesse R. Ronsberg

Pvt. Jeremy J. Shypkowski

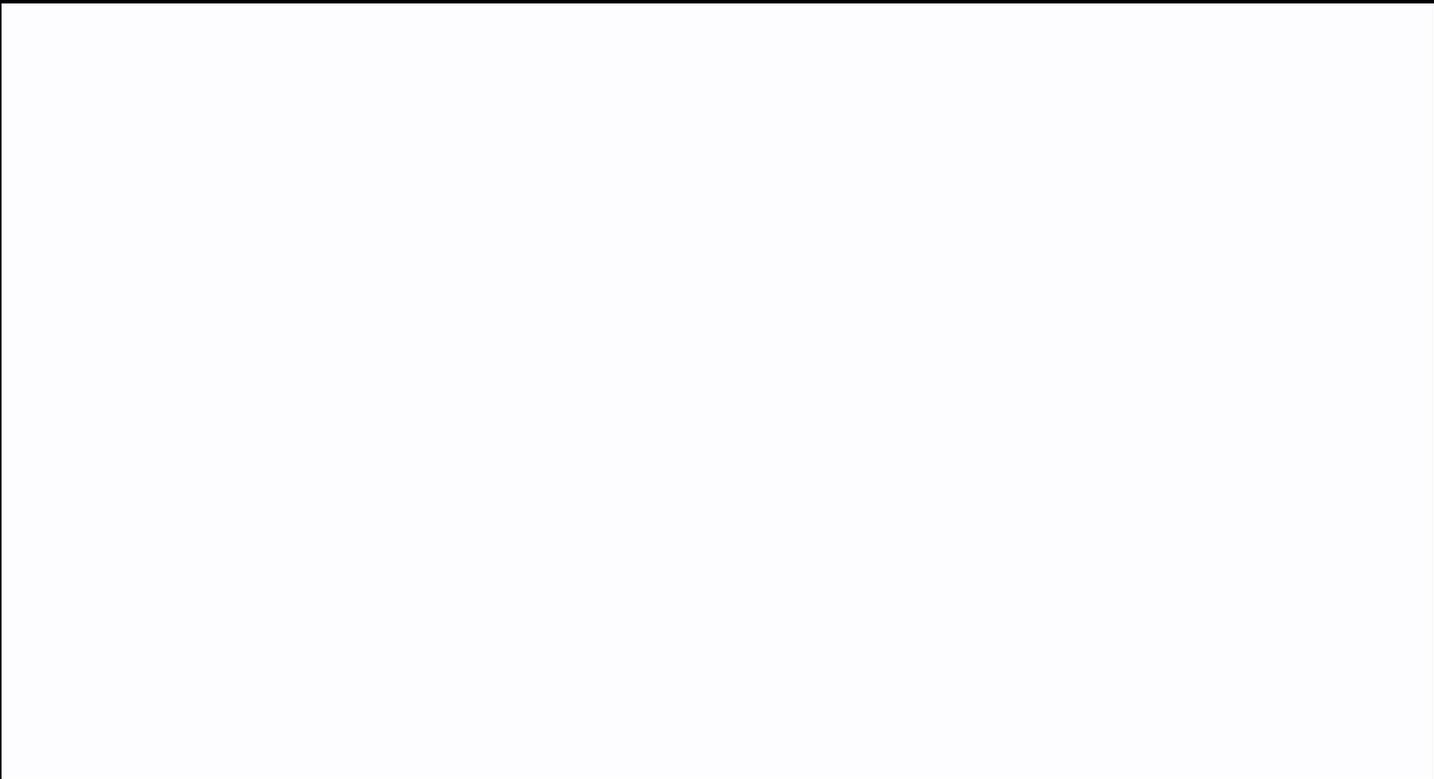
### Current Mobilizations

- 625 Soldiers to Kosovo
- 47 Soldiers of Company C, 2-285th Aviation Company to Iraq
- 8 Soldiers in the Horn of Africa
- 43 Soldiers of the 1-188th ADA (RAID) in Afghanistan
- 11 Airmen to various locations

### Total Mobilized

734 Soldiers and Airmen

**NATIONAL GUARD**   
*North Dakota*



Spc. Tiffany Heflin

**Down Range:** Pfc. Austyn Haider, of the 191st Military Police Company, concentrates on hitting his target, while firing the M2 .50 caliber machine gun at Camp Ripley, Minn., Sept. 20. The unit spent part of their drill weekend re-familiarizing themselves with a variety of crew-served weapons.