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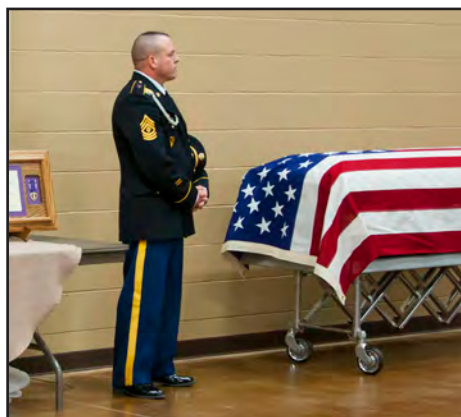
Exciting New Year for the Guard

2012 YEAR IN REVIEW



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Fallen Soldiers Honored at Home

While conducting route clearance operations, Sgt. 1st Class Darren M. Linde, 41, of Devils Lake, N.D., and Spc. Tyler J. Orgaard, 20, of Bismarck, were killed in action when an improvised explosive device struck their vehicle in southern Afghanistan. Both were honored by the N.D. community and laid to rest in December.



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2012: A Year to Remember

A look back at some of the missions, events and moments of 2012 for the Soldiers, Airmen and military families of the N.D. National Guard.



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Senior Leaders Visit for the Holidays

Throughout December, Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. adjutant general, Brig. Gen. Alan Dohrmann, deputy adjutant general, and other senior leaders from the N.D. National Guard traveled across the state to visit with N.D. Soldiers and Airmen, share information about the state of the Guard and provide an opportunity for Guard members to ask questions.

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ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

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Digital photos should be 300 dpi, if possible.

On the Cover



As 2012 comes to an end, the N.D. National Guard looks back at the service, missions, Soldiers, Airmen, families and employers who made everything possible. Guardsmen were busy in 2012 with training and missions both here and around the world in 2012. Two Guardsmen gave their lives in those missions this year, the first N.D. National Guard deaths in the Global War on Terrorism in six years.

Illustration by Staff Sgt. Eric Jungels
North Dakota National Guard Public Affairs

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GUARD POSTS

Dispatches from the N.D. Guard Family

RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR UNEMPLOYED, UNDEREMPLOYED GUARD MEMBERS

Please allow me to introduce myself to all N.D. National Guard personnel. My name is Paul Bonicelli, and I am the committee chairman for southwestern North Dakota's Region 8 of the Employee Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR).

I recently accepted the position of Employment Transition Coordinator (ETC) for North Dakota, through the ESGR's Employment Initiative Program (EIP). As the state's ETC, it will be my job to help connect reserve component service members, veterans and spouses with resources to find and qualify for employment. Working with leaders from the National Guard, ESGR and the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, I will be addressing unemployment and underemployment faced by the men and women in the Guard and Reserve.

The EIP has a high-tech and high-touch approach to combating unemployment among members of the Guard. The high-tech approach is comprised of the new

Hero 2 Hired (H2H) website, [H2H.jobs](#), which gives employers the ability to post available jobs and allows service members to post resumes and make job connections. The high-touch approach is executed through a series of employment-focused events like job fairs and other Yellow Ribbon forums.

H2H is a comprehensive employment program that includes a powerful job search site and online community and is 100 percent free for veterans, service members and employers. H2H's resources include the following:

- The [H2H.jobs](#) interactive website with job listings, career exploration tools, education and training resources, job search advice and networking opportunities
- A military skills translator that converts military experience to civilian career paths
- Job seeker profile builders
- Social networking
- Hiring Our Heroes events



PAUL BONICELLI

N.D. Employment Transition
Coordinator, Employment
Initiative Program

- Virtual career fairs
- Mobile phone apps
- Mobile job store at hundreds of events across the nation
- An innovative Facebook application

Overall, the goal of H2H is to simplify the job search while reducing the number of unemployed reserve component service members, while [H2H.jobs](#) also allows military-friendly companies to access the talented men and women in the military, post job openings, search for candidates and invite them to apply and participate in hiring events — all free of charge.

As the ETC, I am here to help service members find career employment opportunities. I will be available to coordinate employment preparation and job referral assistance (resume writing assistance and editing, interview preparation, etc.). Additionally, I will be working to connect N.D. businesses with qualified Soldiers, Airmen and veterans.

I wish to thank Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. adjutant general, for the opportunity to address all of you. If you would like more information or need my services, please don't hesitate to contact me at paul.bonicelli.ctr@us.army.mil or 701-290-5068.

Thank you,

Paul Bonicelli
ETC, EIP, ESGR



Representatives of the Employee Support of Guard and Reserve pictured here include (from left to right) Larry Anderson, E. John Carlson, Keli Berglund, Paul Bonicelli, Shirley Olgerson, Kevin Iverson, and Marlys Morgestrom.

2,400

BREATHING ROOM

HAPPY HOOLIGANS MARK BRIEF REPRIEVE FROM OVERSEAS MISSIONS

By Staff Sgt. Amy Wieser Willson,
Joint Force Headquarters

When one remaining Airman returns this month from serving in Afghanistan, the N.D. Air National Guard will be taking its first break from overseas missions in a long time — about 11 years.

While leaders expect the hiatus to be brief, it offers time to pause and reflect on what the numerous overlapping deployments have meant for the N.D. Airmen and their families.

“Our Happy Hooligans have been serving with pride and distinction in the Global War on Terrorism, starting with some of the first missions on 9/11 and continuing through today,” said Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. adjutant general. “Through it all, their families have served, too. While challenging for our Guard families, these missions have made a major impact on our state, nation and world.”



THE NATION KNOWS WHEN THEY NEED THE BEST, THAT N.D. WILL OUT-PERFORM ANY EXPECTATIONS.

**Col. Rick Gibney,
119th Wing commander**



Within hours of the terrorist attacks on America on Sept. 11, 2001, N.D. Air Guardsmen were in the skies over Washington, D.C., providing a damage assessment of the Pentagon and patrolling other areas along the East Coast in an effort to prevent any other potential attacks. The alert missions continued around the clock for months to come. Before long, overseas missions began in earnest, too.

That year, 688 N.D. Air National Guardsmen mobilized stateside for 30 days or longer. Firefighters with the unit, which was the 119th Fighter Wing at that time, were the first to deploy overseas after 9/11, leaving in January 2002 for Afghanistan. After six months there, they were sent to the Minot Air Force Base for another six months of active-duty service, rounding out a yearlong mobilization.

In the coming years, about 2,400 N.D. Air National Guard members have served



N.D. AIR NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS HAVE SERVED

IN THE
GLOBAL
WAR ON
TERRORISM

in the Global War on Terrorism. Their roles varied, from coordinating security for Iraq's prime minister to helping establish the Iraqi Air Force. Some brought medical aid to coalition forces while others helped process the remains of fallen warriors on their way home for the last time.

"We train our entire careers to practice in a combat setting, and there I was actually in a tent hospital," Capt. Karin Halverson recalled of her deployment to Iraq. "Our base took fire. We saw helicopters dropping off wounded all day long. And, I met a lot of amazing people."

Other missions have included diffusing bombs as explosive ordnance disposal technicians and providing fuel to the numerous aircraft in the area of operations.

"I was there during the surge, and we were constantly breaking fuel consumption records," Chief Master Sgt. John Nordquist recalled of his time in Iraq.

In 2009, the Guard's 177th Airlift Squadron deployed pilots, maintenance personnel and several of the unit's C-21 Lear jets to Qatar, marking the first time the N.D. Air National Guard deployed aircraft to a theater of war. Their experience and dedication came through, and after just two months of performing the mission, N.D. Airmen accepted the Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Unit of the Month Award in June 2009.

"Our Airmen's duties have been varied and distinct," said Col. Rick Gibney, 119th Wing commander. "The nation knows when they need the best, that N.D. will out-perform any expectations."

Some Airmen have served time and time again; 108 N.D. National Guard Airmen have served on five or more mobilizations exceeding 30 days since 9/11.

Even today, as a break in Airmen overseas is about to be observed, the missions

continue. Airmen fly MQ-1 Predator remotely piloted aircraft that operate in foreign countries even while here in N.D.. Others maintain security of the nation's nuclear arsenal near Minot, N.D., while serving with the Guard's 219th Security Forces Squadron. Air Guardsmen remain on duty 24/7 in Fargo, as well, for security as well as aircraft and maintenance missions. Even when stateside, some celebrate holidays while on duty, sharing meals with their military "family" in a dining facility on base rather than with their own families at home.

All Airmen know and expect the sacrifices that come with serving one's communities, state and nation. Of those serving today, 422 have enlisted since 9/11. The remaining members of the N.D. Air National Guard — a force that exceeds 1,000 Airmen — have chosen to remain in uniform since that fateful day by extending their service contracts. ■



108 N.D. NATIONAL
GUARD AIRMEN
HAVE SERVED ON **5** OR MORE
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EXCEEDING **30** DAYS
SINCE **9/11**

Senior Airman Zachery Bjerke, of the 119th Logistics Readiness Squadron, gets a big hug from his mother July 2, 2012, upon his return to Hector International Airport after a six-month deployment to Afghanistan.

Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp, 119th Wing



REFLECTING ON 2012

**YEAR MARKED BY DECREASED STATE CALL-UPS,
CONTINUED DEPLOYMENTS, GRIEF IN LOSS**

By Staff Sgt. Amy Wieser Willson,
Joint Force Headquarters



With 2012 in the history books, the N.D. National Guard looks back at the service, missions, Soldiers, Airmen, families and employers who made everything possible. While natural disaster response required less effort than in recent years due to the intense flooding of 2009-11, Guardsmen remained busy with training and missions both here and around the world in 2012. Two Guardsmen gave their lives in those missions this year, the first N.D. National Guard deaths in the Global War on Terrorism in six years.

“This past year, the Soldiers and Airmen of N.D.’s National Guard once again demonstrated why they are the best in the nation,” said Gov. Jack Dalrymple. “Whether defending this country overseas or protecting our communities here at home, the men and women of the Guard have served our state and our people with pride and distinction. Sadly, as this year came to a close, two of our Guardsmen made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation. We will always remember Sgt. 1st Class Darren Linde and Spc. Tyler Orgaard for their selfless acts of heroism and our thoughts and prayers will continue to be with their families as they mourn the loss of their loved ones.”

This year also marks the 150th anniversary of the Guard’s roots in the area. The Dakota Territorial Militia first organized on Jan. 27, 1862, and, upon statehood for North and South Dakota, evolved into the respective state’s National Guards.

“The N.D. National Guard has a long and proud history in the state,” said Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. adjutant general. “While many things have changed from the days when our service members relied on covered wagons for transportation and served as blacksmiths and farriers, many things have stayed the same, primarily the strong desire to serve our communities, state and nation.”

Today, N.D. leads the nation in service with more men and women serving in the Guard per capita than any other state. With 65 people serving in the National Guard for every 10,000 residents, the military commitment in the state is more than four times the national average. Furthermore, 71 percent of the force has joined

since 9/11, while the remaining 29 percent have all chose to extend their commitment to the Guard since then.

Here’s a recap of some of the key events, missions and moments of 2012 for the state’s Guard.

JANUARY

The year began with a change in senior leadership as State Command Chief Master Sgt. Paula Johnson stepped into retirement and Chief Master Sgt. Ben Bush took the helm as the state’s command chief.

The N.D. National Guard Biathlon Team again showcased its athleticism and marksmanship prowess — two key service member qualities — in January with a third straight win in regional competition.

The ninth year of N.D.’s participation in the Department of Defense-sponsored State Partnership Program also got off to a strong start with four missions in coordination with the state’s partner country of Ghana.

FEBRUARY

Soon after the new year began, crews of three Guardsmen along with an OH-58 Kiowa helicopter began one- to three-month missions supporting operations along the Southwest border of the United States. The mission will continue into 2013.

On the opposite end of the United States from the Arizona mission, members of the 219th Security Forces Squadron, who work in conjunction with active-duty Airmen at the Minot Air Force Base, received the highest possible rating on the Nuclear Surety Inspection there. The Airmen are responsible for the security of the missile sites in the area.

MARCH

With March came time to honor even more of the best throughout the Guard, including Soldiers, Airmen, families and volunteers. The plaques, trophies and accolades that came in during the month would likely fill a number of large boxes.

During the Outstanding Airmen of the Year banquet, 11 Airmen of the 1,100-strong force were feted as among the best for their accomplishments, and three were designated the tops within their ranks. The N.D. Army National Guard's "Best Warriors" were honored in March, as well.

Guard officers received honors, too. N.D.'s National Guard Association of the United States selected Officers of the Year and presented awards to both Army and Air Guardsmen.

During the Adjutant General's Family & Youth Symposium, volunteers and military families earned honors, as well.

The N.D. National Guard's Competitive Sports Program also experienced a rewarding month as the best shooters in the state competed, and excelled, at the U.S. Army Small Arms Championship in Fort Benning, Ga. The team earned second in Excellence in Competition after a series of marksmanship events that pitted them against the best 500 shooters across the entire Army, Army Reserve and Army National Guard. The Guard's Biathlon Team also excelled, taking third place in national competition.

The Guard's journalists received accolades in March, as well. The group's social media efforts were named the best in the entire U.S. Air Force, and stories, photos and videos from the men and women earned top rankings across the National Guard and U.S. Army.

The month also marked a change in the N.D. Army National Guard's senior enlisted leadership as Command Sgt. Maj. Gerald Miller retired and Command Sgt. Maj. Harley Schwind became the state command sergeant major. Leadership of the largest Army National Guard unit in the state, the Fargo-based 141st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, also changed enlisted leaders when Command Sgt. Maj. Brad Heim replaced Command Sgt. Maj. Guy Boschee as the senior enlisted Soldier.

March also brought an alert for possible mobilization for the Bismarck-based Detachment 42 Operational Support Airlift. As the year ended, the unit of eight Soldiers that operates a C-12 Huron fixed-wing aircraft continued to train in preparation for a mission in Afghanistan.

APRIL

April kicked off with even more awards for the frequently lauded Soldiers and Airmen from N.D.. Eleven current



AUGUST



and former Guard members were inducted into the Maj. Gen. Robert E. Schulte N.D. National Guard Marksmanship Hall of Fame in Bismarck, and two previous honorees were honored for accomplishments since their induction.

As April ended, the mission began for the 818th Engineer Company (Sapper) out of Williston and Hazen when the community gathered for a send-off ceremony in Bismarck April 29. About 100 Soldiers soon departed for a yearlong mission in Afghanistan.

MAY

As spring passed without major flooding in the state for the first time since 2008, the Guard remained attuned to other natural disasters that might require assistance. Soldiers and Airmen participated in wildland firefighter training in both Bismarck and Fargo with members of the N.D. Forest Service.

N.D. marksmen again proved their prowess in May as they took their sharpshooting skills to the Winston P. Wilson Competition in Arkansas. Three N.D.s received the Chief's 50 recognition, placing among the top 50 shooters at the event and advancing to the nationwide All-Guard Marksmanship Team, which designated them among the best in the entire Army and Air National Guard.

Two N.D. National Guard runners also earned a place on an All-Guard team in May when they placed among the top marathoners in the Army and Air National Guard during the 26.2-mile Lincoln National Guard Marathon in Nebraska.

JUNE

The official beginning of summer brought an influx of training hours as numerous N.D. Guard units began 15-day stretches of annual training. While many refined and perfected skills at Camp Grafton Training Center, near Devils Lake, one unit took on a special mission. The 815th Engineer Company (Horizontal), out of Lisbon, N.D., removed a flood-damaged footbridge in Fort Ransom, N.D., and replaced it with a modern, handicapped-accessible bridge,

restoring a long-missing access route in the small community.

In the meantime, an overseas mission ended for about 50 N.D. Airmen who had deployed more than six months prior to Southwest Asia. The members of the 119th Civil Engineer Squadron received a warm welcome back to the state June 14.

JULY

More Airmen returned in July, when eight members of the 119th Logistics Readiness Squadron arrived home after a six-month mission in Bagram, Afghanistan. Three members of the 119th Civil Engineer Squadron's explosive ordnance disposal team returned later in July from Afghanistan.

Through all of the missions and training that Guard members take part in, employer support remains vital. In July, one N.D. employer — Basin Electric Power Cooperative, of Bismarck — was named one of only 15 companies in the nation to receive the Employer Support of the Guard & Reserve's 2012 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award.

Community members also were thanked, as well as entertained, by the 188th Army Band as it spent two weeks touring the state and performing concerts. The concert series debuted the band's first commissioned piece ever, in celebration of its 150th anniversary; N.D. native Jocelyn Hagen crafted "Salute" especially for the military musicians.

AUGUST

The summer ended with a bevy of exciting news and developments for the N.D. National Guard. About 160 Soldiers from the 188th Engineer Company (Vertical), based in Wahpeton and Oakes, returned home from a yearlong mission in Kuwait, where they completed about 160 construction projects.

Army aviation in the state had a historic month in August when, for the first time ever, Army National Guard aviation assets found a permanent home on the eastern end of the state. A UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter is now stationed at a Fargo hangar.



SEPTEMBER

Soon after, more aviation news came to N.D. when a new helicopter arrived. The UH-72A Lakota was dedicated Sept. 4 in Bismarck and added to the fleet after tribes across N.D. came together to bestow blessings on the equipment.

Three days later, the Guard's assets grew again as a ribbon was cut to dedicate the new addition to the Camp Gilbert C. Grafton Readiness Center in Devils Lake. The original 11,500-square-foot center was altered and a 41,178-square-foot addition built.

Guardsmen from the 835th Asphalt Team and 897th Concrete Team, small Carrington-based units, refined their skills while helping improve another Guard facility. The Soldiers added a 25-by-85-foot concrete slab to the Dickinson motor pool to improve its operational capacity.

More Guardsmen returned home from overseas service in September while others were honored for deployments and still more were called up. About 55 Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 112th Aviation Regiment (Security & Support) returned home from a yearlong deployment on a NATO peacekeeping mission in Kosovo, and about 250 Airmen were honored in a Hometown Heroes event for having deployed between Jan. 1, 2009, and Dec. 31, 2010. Despite the celebrations, more Guardsmen were called to serve as about 30 Soldiers with the 191st Military Police Company received an alert order for a yearlong mobilization to Cuba.

OCTOBER

That mission, in support of Joint Task Force Guantanamo, kicked off soon after an Oct. 27 send-off ceremony in Fargo for the military police. Earlier in October, though, more Guardsmen came home, with Airmen arriving from missions in Afghanistan and elsewhere in Southwest Asia. Still more were called up, as the 1st Battalion, 188th Air Defense Artillery Regiment received notice of a mission protecting the nation's Capitol.

As the comings and goings of Guardsmen serving in the 11th year of the Global War on Terrorism continued, Gov. Jack Dalrymple signed a proclamation in a ceremony that commemorated Oct. 26 as the "Day of the Deployed" in the state.

Beyond overseas missions, state duties stepped up as, for the first time ever, N.D. Air National Guard members began

operating from the Grand Forks Air Force Base. After years of meetings, planning and set-up, the new Launch and Recovery Element had an opportunity to launch the first MQ-1 Predator from the base in October. The mission will offer greater training opportunities on remotely piloted aircraft in the future.

NOVEMBER

More Guardsmen left again in November as the small but highly specialized 1919th Contingency Contracting Team received a send-off in Bismarck for a yearlong mission overseas. A few weeks after the four-Soldier unit left, four Airmen returned home from a four-month mission in Southwest Asia, continuing the cycle of deployments.

With the continued overseas missions and stateside call-ups, training remains vital. Company A of the 231st Brigade Support Battalion spent two weeks in November conducting a series of specialized training in fueling procedures, convoy operations and supply functions at Camp Dodge, Iowa.

DECEMBER

The last month of 2012 brought devastating news to the N.D. National Guard family. On Dec. 3, two Soldiers with the 818th Engineer Company (Sapper) were killed in an attack in Afghanistan and another Soldier in their vehicle was injured. Sgt. 1st Class Darren Linde, of Devils Lake, and Spc. Tyler Orgaard, of Bismarck, died from an improvised explosive attack and Spc. Ian Placek, also of Bismarck, was wounded.

The state came together to support the families as the Soldiers' remains arrived on N.D. soil and again during the funerals for the men on Dec. 11 and 13. In the meantime, Placek and his family received support as he was treated first at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany and then moved to Fort Riley, Kan., for additional treatment.

Nearly 100 from the men's unit remained overseas as 2013 begins, as do about 30 other Soldiers and Airmen who are serving in Afghanistan, Cuba and Qatar.

"The N.D. National Guard truly is a family," Sprynczynatyk said. "We grieve together, we celebrate together, we train together, and we serve together. After 150 years of growing the Guard family, we look forward to not only all that 2013 has to offer, but all of the changes amidst the stability that the next 150 years will bring." ■



INTERACT WITH US!



Take a tour through "2012 in Pictures" at <http://bit.ly/2012inPix>.

See the 2012 Year in Review video at <http://bit.ly/2012NDNGvideo>.

NORTH DAKOTA HONORS TWO HEROES KILLED IN COMBAT



By Spc. Jennifer Joyce and
Sgt. 1st Class Billie Jo Lorus
116th Public Affairs Detachment

Sgt. 1st Class Darren Linde (left)
and Spc. Tyler Orgaard

During memorials and services, N.D. leaders, fellow Guardsmen, family and loved ones honored the lives of two N.D. National Guard Soldiers who were killed in action Dec. 3 during combat operations in Afghanistan. They were conducting route clearance operations when an improvised explosive device struck their vehicle in southern Afghanistan.

Sgt. 1st Class Darren M. Linde, 41, of Devils Lake, and Spc. Tyler J. Orgaard, 20, of Bismarck, both assigned to the 818th Engineer Company (Sapper), were the first two N.D. National Guard Soldiers killed in combat since Cpl. Christopher Kleinwachter was killed in 2006. The Memorial to the Fallen in the Global War on Terrorism in front of Fraire Barracks in Bismarck will forever memorialize the names of 26 service members with North Dakota ties who have given their lives.

Spc. Ian Placek, 23, of Bismarck, was wounded in the attack that killed Linde and Orgaard and is undergoing medical treatment at Fort Riley, Kan.

"We honor two of our Soldiers who were killed in combat and extend our most sincere condolences and prayers to their family and friends during this time of sorrow," said Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. adjutant general. "We also wish Spc. Placek a speedy recovery. We will always remember our brave Soldiers who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty."

REMEMBERING SGT. 1ST CLASS DARREN LINDE

Linde is survived by his wife, Adrienne, of Devils Lake, and four children, Celina, Kayla, Alexis and Eric. He also deployed to Iraq with the N.D. National Guard's 164th Engineer Battalion from August 2007 to April 2008.

Linde came from a military background. He spent much of his childhood watching and learning from his father, Dwight Linde, who retired as a major in the Montana National Guard

after several years of service in the U.S. Army. Darren went to college to become a teacher, but decided that he would rather be a Soldier like his father. Army life was the only life he knew, his family said.

Linde originally enlisted in the N.D. Army National Guard in 1990. He served in the U.S. Army and Montana Army National Guard before returning to the N.D. Guard in 2006. Since 2009, he served as a full-time instructor with the N.D. National Guard's 164th Regional Training Institute, Camp Grafton Training Center, Devils Lake, where he was able to serve as a teacher as he had always aspired to do.

Besides leaving behind his family, Linde left many memories among the Soldiers, friends, and coworkers who knew him. His 22 years of service gave him opportunities to connect with people from all over the state and nation. Friends and family shared many stories of his sly grin and practical jokes.

"He always had an unmistakable belly laugh and big grin," Celina, Linde's oldest daughter, said.

More than anything, though, Linde is remembered for his kindness and compassion. Despite being a practical jokester, he was somebody who could be trusted and counted on.

"He was everybody's best friend," Alexis, Linde's youngest daughter, said.

The relationships Linde held throughout his lifetime have become iconic. He is remembered as a strong and fair leader to his Soldiers, a hard worker to his peers, and a loving father and husband. The bond that Linde shared with his family was admired by many.

"We lived our lives with no regrets and loved each other like the first day we met," Adrienne said. "All of our friends wanted to have a love like ours."

During the funeral services in Sidney, Mont., Adrienne's father,

Stephen Magee, said he was always amazed by Linde's devotion to his family. He said that he could never have imagined that such a good man would have ended up with his daughter. He was proud to consider him a son.

Linde's children haven't hesitated to tell stories about their father. Through this difficult time, they continued to tell themselves and each other what Linde would have told them. "The glass is always half full!"

Eric Linde, the youngest child and only son, recently decided that he wants to follow in his dad's footsteps. He plans to join the U.S. Army as soon as he can to pursue a career similar to his father's, possibly even obtaining a Sapper tab — an achievement that made Linde proud.

REMEMBERING SPC. TYLER ORGAARD

Orgaard is survived by his parents, Josephine and Jesse Orgaard, and his older sister Kristy, all of Bismarck. He joined the N.D. Army National Guard shortly before his graduation from Bismarck's Century High School in 2011. This was his first overseas deployment.

Like Linde, Orgaard knew he wanted to be a Soldier from a young age, although he didn't share the same military upbringing.

"He told his mom when he was 7 years old that he wanted to join the military, and she said, 'Well, Tyler, you understand that you might have to go to war. You could be killed.' At 7 years old, he said, 'I know that, Mom; at least people will respect me for what I've done,'" Jesse Orgaard said.

Besides the dream of being a Soldier, Orgaard's passion was competing in mixed martial arts, and he trained at Bismarck Combat Sports as a teenager.

It was obvious that Orgaard enjoyed every minute of his service, even during deployment. His father, Jesse, said that he would call

home when he could from Afghanistan to tell him things that had happened. He seemed almost excited about the activity.

"A few weeks ago, he called and said, 'Hey, it's almost Christmas time! It's all downhill from here. I'll be home soon,'" Jesse recalled in mid-December. "He said, 'I miss you guys. I can't wait to see you, but just know that there is no place else in the world or nothing that I would rather be doing than what I'm doing right now,'" Jesse said about his son's service.

Though he was a young member of the unit, his peers recognized him as a reliable and capable Soldier. He was ready to perform any task that was asked of him and he made it a goal to always exceed expectations. He was a leader.

Orgaard's behavior didn't change much once he took off the uniform. He was allowed to train in mixed martial arts at a young age only because he was able to demonstrate his dedication to the trainers who initially thought he wasn't cut out for the sport because of his size. Orgaard didn't back down from a challenge.

Kristy, Tyler's sister, said that he often looked out for others and had a passion for playing music. He was friendly toward everybody, and he couldn't stand bullying. He always wanted to do what was right.

Though the family and community have been saddened by this tragedy, Orgaard's family has reminded people that this is how Tyler would have wanted it.

"He could have come home from deployment and died in a car accident a week later," Jesse said. "At least he died with honors the way he wanted to."

The family said that every day they pray for the safety of the rest of the unit and cannot wait to be part of the unit's return, though it may be bittersweet.

The 818th Engineer Company's yearlong mission is expected to end in April. ■



Members of the N.D. National Guard Military Funeral Honors rifle squad stand by to fire salute volleys at the N.D. Veterans Cemetery, south of Mandan, while family, friends, and fellow N.D. Guard members paid final respects to N.D. National Guard Soldier Spc. Tyler J. Orgaard as he was laid to rest, on Dec. 13, 2012. Flags were flown at half-staff throughout the state Dec. 13, 2012, as civilian members of the community, government leaders and fellow N.D. National Guard members mourned the deaths of Orgaard and Sgt. 1st Class Darren Linde. Orgaard, 20, of Bismarck, and Linde, 41, of Devils Lake, were killed in action while conducting route clearance operations in Afghanistan on Dec. 3, 2012, when an improvised explosive device struck their vehicle. They were serving with the N.D. National Guard's 818th Engineer Company (Sapper) out of Williston and Hazen.

GUARDIAN

Snapshots



Photo by Spc. Jennifer Joyce, 116th Public Affairs Detachment



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Billie Jo Lorius, N.D. National Guard Public Affairs



Photo by Spc. Jennifer Joyce, 116th Public Affairs Detachment

ULTIMATE SACRIFICE

Sgt 1st Class Darren M. Linde, 41, of Devils Lake, and Spc. Tyler J. Orgaard, 20, of Bismarck, were killed in action while conducting route clearance operations in Afghanistan on Dec. 3, when an improvised explosive device struck their vehicle in southern Afghanistan. (Top left) Staff Sgt. Josh Haugen, an instructor at the N.D. National Guard's 164th Regional Training Institute, renders his final salute to Linde at the graveside service following the funeral in Sidney, Mont., Dec. 11. (Top right) Flags fly at half-staff over the Liberty Memorial Bridge, between Bismarck and Mandan, on Dec. 13, 2012, along the route of Orgaard's funeral procession. (Above) The N.D. National Guard Military Funeral Honor Team prepares to render honors at Linde's graveside service. (Right) Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. adjutant general, presents the U.S. Flag to the family of Spc. Tyler J. Orgaard at his funeral on Dec. 13, 2012 at the N.D. Veterans Cemetery south of Mandan, N.D. The flag was draped across the casket bearing Orgaard's remains.



Photo by Chief Warrant Officer Kiel Skager, N.D. National Guard Visual Information



Photo by Bill Prokopyk, N.D. National Guard Public Affairs



Photo by Bill Prokopyk, N.D. National Guard Public Affairs



Photo by Spc. Jennifer Joyce, 116th Public Affairs Detachment

WREATHS AT REST

Nearly 1,500 volunteers participated in the 2012 Wreaths Across America (WAA) program at the N.D. Veterans Cemetery, south of Mandan, on Dec. 15. Over 4,100 wreaths were placed on the graves at the cemetery at this annual event sponsored by the N.D. Civil Air Patrol. (Top) The sun rises over the N.D. Veterans Cemetery as volunteers begin to gather for the WAA event. (Above) Airman JulieAnn Bischof, of the 119th Wing's student flight squadron, places a wreath on a grave at the N.D. Veterans Cemetery. (Left) Gold Star Mother Adi Reis touches her son Staff Sgt. Ken Hendrickson's headstone after placing a wreath during the 2012 WAA program.

Holiday Visits



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brett Miller, 116th Public Affairs Detachment



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brett Miller, 116th PAD



Senior leaders from the N.D. National Guard traveled across the state visiting N.D. Soldiers and Airmen throughout the month of December. The purpose of the leadership holiday visits are to spread holiday cheer, talk about the state of the Guard and provide an opportunity for Guardsmen to ask questions. (Top) Brig. Gen. Alan Dohrmann, N.D. deputy adjutant general, visits with Sgt. Scott Becknell and other Soldiers during a visit at the Raymond J. Bohn Armory in Bismarck on Nov. 30. (Middle, from left to right) Chief Master Sgt. Jim Gibson, Brig. Gen. David Anderson, N.D. National Guard land component commander, Connie Sprynczynatyk, North Dakota's Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Job, senior enlisted leader for the N.D. National Guard, share information and visit with N.D. Soldiers and Airmen at various N.D. armories and training centers throughout the December. (Bottom, from left to right) Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, the N.D. adjutant general, addresses Guardsmen with the 164th Regional Training Institute on Dec. 8, 2012, at Camp Grafton Training Center, in Devils Lake; Sprynczynatyk shakes hands and presents a recognition coin to Spc. Jennifer Joyce, of the 116th Public Affairs Detachment, at Bohn Armory; and Sprynczynatyk shakes hands and presents a recognition coin to Master Sgt. William Kennedy, of the 119th Civil Engineer Squadron, Dec. 2 at the N.D. Air National Guard, in Fargo. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Amy Wieser Willson)

Thanking the Troops



Photos by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp, 119th Wing

VETERAN CHEER

N.D. Air and Army National Guard Airmen and Soldiers visit the Lisbon Veterans Home on Dec. 19 in Lisbon to deliver Christmas gifts during an annual Veterans Appreciation Day event in an effort to show their appreciation for the resident veterans' military service and to spread holiday cheer. (Top) Staff Sgt. Amy Wieser Willson, of the N.D. National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters, embraces World War II veteran of the Nurse Air Corps (Capt.) Elizabeth "Betty" Frye-Graham. Wieser Willson is thanking Graham for her contribution to the WWII war effort and for helping to blaze the trail for females in the military. (Above Left) Lt. Col. Bruce Krogstad, 119th Wing chaplain, interviews World War II veteran Cecil Messer, while Public Affairs personnel Staff Sgt. Nathanael Baardson, of the 119th Wing, videotapes and Wieser Willson contributes to the interview. The trio of National Guard members are taking the opportunity to record memories of veterans during the annual visit. (Above Right) Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. adjutant general, right, visits with former Pfc. Kenneth Wallner, who served with the N.D. National Guard's 164 Infantry Regiment. (Left) Sgt. Laura Fajardo, of the N.D. National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters, gives an affectionate embrace to resident Velma Martin at the Lisbon Veterans Home.



AIMING HIGH

The N.D. National Guard marksmanship team trains at the Law Enforcement Center shooting range in Fargo on Dec. 8. The team has qualified to compete at the All-Army Marksmanship Competition, which will take place the first week of February at Fort Benning, Ga. (Right) N.D. National Guard marksmanship team member Spc. Christopher Lundberg, of the 817th Engineer Company, fires a pistol at the shooting range. (Below left) Marksmanship team member Tech. Sgt. Joshua VonBank, of the 119th Maintenance Group, takes aim at a target. (Below right) Marksmanship team member Spc. Bryce Solie, of the 817th Engineer Company, finishes assessing his target.



Photos by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp, 119th Wing



SUPPORT

Tim Hennessey, representing US Bank, presented a check for \$3,250 to Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. adjutant general, at US Bank in Bismarck on Dec. 17. With the donation included, the bank has donated a total of \$21,250 to the nonprofit N.D. National Guard Foundation. Present at the check presentation were (from left to right) Lt. Col. Davina French, N.D. National Guard government affairs officer, Keith Ulmer, US Bank vice president of business banking, Kimberly Grube, Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, Dana Petersen, US Bank vice president of business banking, Shanna Johnson, Deb Schmidt, US Bank district manager, Tim Hennessey, US Bank regional president, Jeannette Ehli, Desiree Hilborn, Sharon Clausnitzer, Kathy Mertz, US Bank branch manager, Mimi Smith and Maj. Brock Larson, N.D. National Guard State Partnership Program manager.

The N.D. National Guard Foundation supports two causes set-up to help North Dakota's military families during times of greatest need: the N.D. National Guard Emergency Relief Fund and the N.D. National Guard Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, or TAPS.



Photo by Spc. Jennifer Joyce, 116th Public Affairs Detachment

BLANKET OF SUPPORT

The Family Support Group (FSG) for Detachment 1, 815th Engineer Company (Horizontal), out of Wishek, N.D., recently made fleece tie blankets for all of the children of recently deployed Soldiers of the 191st Military Police Company. This is just one example of how family members and volunteers continue to go above and beyond, as they step up and serve. The FSG completed 46 blankets in early December, with the help of fabric and cash donations.

Members of the FSG are pictured here. Front row, from left to right: Jolette Scheen, Pauline Strom, Stephanie Rutledge, Kala Anderson, Angela Worrel. Back row, from left to right: Chelsey Horner, Ashley Finley, Jody Odegaard, Beth Hazelton, Danielle Dickover, Heather Wallner, Amanda Hammer.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Neil Horner, Detachment 1, 815th Engineer Company (Horizontal)



Photos by Spc. Jennifer Joyce, 116th Public Affairs Detachment



LIGHT FIGHT!

N.D. National Guard members design and invest time and money into an incredible holiday light show for the enjoyment of Bismarck and Mandan residents. Col. (Ret.) Greg Wilz, with his wife Sharon, Col. Gigi Wilz (Greg's sister) and Lt. Col. Davina French engage in a friendly competition to out-do each other in decorating their homes with festive holiday lights on Chestnut Drive in Bismarck. Even with a good dose of competitive spirit, "Lights on Chestnut" is a quite the collaborative undertwaking, as the current and former Guard members begin months before the holiday season to set up and program the lights, which run off of one computer and are synchronized to flicker and move with music. The displays are made up of more than 195,000 lights and have attracted thousands of visitors.

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Visit <http://www.flickr.com/photos/ndguard/>.

GUARDIAN
Snapshots

Guardsmen Show Appreciation at N.D. Veterans Home

Soldiers and Airmen with the N.D. National Guard delivered gifts and visited with veterans at the N.D. Veterans Home in Lisbon on Dec. 19.

It's a way for the Guardsmen "to be able to give you something back for what you've done for your country," Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. adjutant general, told the residents.

He was one of nearly 20 Guardsmen who visited the veterans. "For us to be here and spend a little time means a lot to us," he said. ■



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp, 119th Wing
Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Muehler, the 119th Wing command chief, presents gifts to residents at the North Dakota Veterans Home, Lisbon, N.D., Dec. 19, during an annual Veterans Appreciation Day event at the home. Muehler is one of about two dozen N.D. Army and Air National Guard members visiting the Veterans Home in an effort to express thanks to the veterans for their service and spread holiday cheer.

Find More Guard News Online!



Researchers want to help Soldiers, veterans get good night's sleep

Researchers from academia and the private sector are teaming up to study and improve the sleep quality of Soldiers through an online survey.

The survey is now available to active and reserve-component Soldiers, other service members, as well as veterans.

Soldiers taking the 10-minute survey will describe their own sleep patterns and habits, according to Dan Frank, chief executive officer of VetAdvisor, the company that is partnering with Johns Hopkins University. Information provided is kept confidential.

Those who take the survey are helping researchers determine which kinds of sleep aids and coaching might be most useful to Soldiers, he said. The survey can be taken online at www.vetsleep.org. ■



Photo by Sgt. Christopher Harper, U.S. Army

Included with this month's issue of the N.D. Guardian:



Dear Reader,

The N.D. National Guard Family Program 2013 Calendar is included with this edition of the Guardian. Each month features a family program within the Service Member and Family Support. Check out the last page for a complete listing of telephone numbers to reach all the services we have to offer. The calendar has pictures of N.D. National Guard Airmen, Soldiers and Families, and it includes a map showing the location of our six Family Assistance Centers. Now you can plan ahead for all your drill dates, as we have even included "drill" stickers to affix to the dates each month when your drill will take place.

Sincerely,

Rob Keller
Director
Service Member and Family Support

Chaplain's Corner:

Moving Through Life's DOORWAYS

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Bruce Krogstad, 119th Wing Chaplain

The month of January is named after the Roman deity Janus, who was understood to be the “god of the doorway.” As the first month of the new year, January is marked by optimism and hope. Consider New Year’s resolutions or the common phrases we hear of “out with the old, in with the new,” or “with every ending comes a new beginning.”

Those who go through terrible loss, such as death or a break up, may take some comfort in doorways. It is a good thing to be able to close the door on those chapters of our lives that are marked by death or humiliation and to move into a new and hopefully life-giving phase.

For some, this move to “the new” happens with great difficulty and only after a lot of prayer, sweat and tears. Others may remain stuck in “the old” as life moves like a revolving door, spinning faster and faster as the individual speeds across thresholds, such as relationships, at an amazing rate until they are left disoriented and desperate. The old and the new, disconcertingly, end up looking the same.

We have a number of people in our state who experienced great loss the end of this past year. Within a matter of days, the N.D.

National Guard family suffered four tragic deaths. The impact rippled through our Guard community and will continue to impact many lives for years to come.

Nothing can remove the pain of grief. Attempts to ignore or deaden the pain usually create even more heartache further down the road, whether as a result of self-medication or a succession of intimate relationships.

If there is no end-run around grief, how can we go through it in the most helpful way possible? Start with eating a healthy diet and getting adequate sleep and exercise. Confide in a trusted friend or family member. Engage in meaningful spiritual exercise: prayer or meditation, reading scripture or inspirational literature and worship. Seek help from a chaplain or counselor if you feel like your life is meaningless, hopeless or no longer worth living. Have the strength to ask for assistance if you continue to blame yourself for the loss or if you persist in feeling emotionally numb and/or disconnected from those who have been closest to you.

May God bless you this new year, as some doors shut and others open. As members of the N.D. Guard, you do not journey through those doorways alone. ■



RENDERING HONORS



Soldiers assigned to the 818th Engineer Company, Task Force Warhammer, conduct a memorial ceremony to honor Sgt. 1st Class Darren M. Linde and Spc. Tyler J. Orgaard on Camp Dwyer, in Helmand province, Afghanistan, on Dec. 9. Linde and Orgaard were killed in action, when an improvised explosive device struck their vehicle in southern Afghanistan. N.D. Soldiers of the 818th Engineer Co. are in the midst of a yearlong route clearance mission, which is critical to the safety of coalition forces and the citizens of Afghanistan. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Staff Sgt. Ezekiel R. Kitandwe)