



# NORTH DAKOTA GUARDIAN

Volume 6, Issue 3

March/April 2013

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# NORTH DAKOTA GUARDIAN

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Phone: 701-333-2195 Fax: 701-333-2017  
Digital photos should be 300 dpi, if possible.

## On the Cover



Col. Frederic Ndjonkep (foreground), Cameroon Army exercise planner, briefs Col. Giselle Wilz (to his right), Task Force Central commander, on the airfield at the Cameroon Air Force Base in Douala, Cameroon, Africa. The Cameroonian and American military leaders are conducting a site visit in preparation for the start of Central Accord 13, a U.S. Army Africa exercise focused on aerial delivery and medical treatment and evacuation.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Amy Wieser Willson, Joint Force Headquarters

# GUARD POSTS

Dispatches from the N.D. Guard Family

## SEQUESTRATION & ITS EFFECTS ON OUR NATIONAL GUARD

As you know, the federal budget crisis facing our nation is directly impacting our N.D. National Guard. The Department of Defense was ordered to cut \$46 billion from its budget, and the National Guard Bureau is to cut \$574 million between now and the end of this fiscal year (Sept. 30) in a process called sequestration. The N.D. National Guard's share of this includes funding for operations, maintenance, construction and salaries. While salaries for our traditional and Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) Soldiers and Airmen, as well as our state employees, will not be affected, our federal technician force is facing possible furloughs between now and the end of the fiscal year if Congress and the administration don't reach a budget agreement.

Our leadership will continue to work with the governor and congressional delegation to mitigate the impact of these budget cuts. However, if sequestration continues on its current path, we have been ordered to furlough our more than 600 federal military technicians for both the Army and Air components. Our federal military technicians are instrumental in

the daily operations and readiness of our organization, and their absence is a serious concern. We will continue to be proactive in sharing the latest information on any sequester developments that will affect our organization.

However, just as our military Federal Tuition Assistance program was recently suspended and then reinstated through the end of this fiscal year, we remain optimistic that a similar solution can be reached that will eliminate the need for any military technician furloughs. We are thankful that DoD has reinstated the valuable Federal Tuition Assistance benefit, which helps more than 500 of our Guard Soldiers in continuing their education. The reinstatement of the Federal Tuition Assistance program will allow the State Tuition Assistance program to continue to benefit all N.D. Soldiers and Airmen.

On a related topic, the budget cuts have caused the U.S. Air Force to reconsider and reduce its number of aircraft. The Secretary of the Air Force recently announced the results of the Intra-theater Airlift Working Group and the news was not good for the Happy Hooligans. The C-27J Spartan



MAJ. GEN. DAVID  
SPRYNCZYNATYK

N.D. Adjutant General

aircraft will not be fielded to the 119th Wing, or any other Air Force unit; we will continue to work diligently for a manned flying mission.

The good news is that we are one of the few Air National Guard units in the nation that will not lose positions; as a matter of fact, we will realize a slight increase in our manpower structure. The addition of our cyber targeting group is on track and will ensure that we retain our current personnel strength. However, this means that some Airmen will have to retrain in new skills required with this new mission.

We all understand that the strength of our organization is the N.D. National Guard Family: our Soldiers, Airmen, loved ones, civilian employees and the employers of our traditional Guard members. I understand how much these cuts will impact our extended military family. We will continue to work hard to diminish the effect on our force. The one thing that will not change is my No. 1 priority to take care of people. I know that, together, we will overcome these fiscal challenges and remain the best National Guard in the nation.

Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. adjutant general, speaks to Soldiers with the N.D. Army National Guard's 818th Engineer Company (Sapper) in Fort Bliss, Texas, March 12. The Soldiers served as combat engineers in Afghanistan, where they cleared routes of improvised explosive devices to protect coalition forces, ensuring safe movement and mission accomplishment.





# REPRESENTING THE ENLISTED FORCE

## GIBSON REPLACES JOB AS GUARD'S TOP SENIOR ENLISTED LEADER

Photos by Sgt. Jonathan Haugen, Joint Force Headquarters

By Sgt. 1st Class Billie Jo Lorus  
N.D. National Guard Public Affairs



(Opposite page) Chief Master Sgt. James Gibson, the N.D. National Guard's new senior enlisted leader, accepts the N.D. National Guard colors Feb. 9 from Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. adjutant general, during a change of responsibility ceremony at Raymond J. Bohn Armory in Bismarck. (Left) Sprynczynatyk presents Command Sgt. Maj. Dan Job the N.D. National Guard Distinguished Service Medal as Job's wife, Claudette, looks on during his retirement ceremony at the armory. Job retired after more than 40 years of service in the National Guard. (Below) Command Sgt. Maj. Dan Job passes the N.D. National Guard's colors to Sprynczynatyk during the change of responsibility ceremony.



An Iraq War veteran with more than 40 years of military experience relinquished his duties as the N.D. National Guard's senior enlisted leader to Chief Master Sgt. James Gibson during a change of responsibility ceremony at the Raymond J. Bohn Armory in Bismarck Feb. 9. Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Job retired and was honored for his military service as part of the ceremony.

Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. adjutant general, presided over the change of responsibility ceremony.

"Command Sgt. Maj. Dan Job set a high bar in his tenure as our senior enlisted leader and advisor. I can't thank him enough for his positive impact on our people as well as his commitment to excellence, the organization and all of our enlisted Guard members," he said. "As Chief Master Sgt. Gibson assumes the duties of senior enlisted leader, his experience and dedication to service will be vital to ensuring good communication and overall welfare among our enlisted Soldiers and Airmen."

The change of responsibility ceremony is an important military tradition that formally and visually demonstrates the transfer of duties, responsibilities and authority between incoming and outgoing senior enlisted members of the unit.

As the senior enlisted leader, Gibson will serve as the chief enlisted advisor to the adjutant general, responsible for morale, welfare, discipline, performance, training, awards, recruiting, retention, equal opportunity, promotions and assignments for the Soldiers and Airmen of the N.D. National Guard.

"I'm honored to be your new senior enlisted leader," Gibson said. "I would like to wish Command Sgt. Maj. Dan Job well in his retirement and thank him for his more than 40 years of service to the N.D. National Guard. He was the first senior enlisted leader in the N.D. National Guard, and he blazed the trail for this position within the state. His dedication to the Guard was very evident during the transition time, and when I had the opportunity to work with him."

Gibson, who lives in West Fargo, enlisted in the N.D. Air National Guard in 1980. He has served 32 years as a member of the 119th Security Forces Squadron and has participated in multiple operations and deployments. As a full-time Guardsman, he is the chief of information protection and serves as the Wing information protection program manager, enforcing all operational and mission assurance aspects of the program.

During the ceremony, Job was awarded the federal and state Legion of Merit for exceptionally meritorious service and selfless service.

A native of Linton, N.D., Job enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1972 before joining the N.D. Army National Guard in 1975. He served in key enlisted leadership positions with the 141st Engineer Battalion and the 164th Engineer Group. From 2003-04, he served as the command sergeant major for the 142nd Engineer Battalion during the unit deployment to Iraq. He has served as the senior enlisted leader for the N.D. National Guard since 2004. Job's full-time job is with Basic Electric Power Cooperative in Bismarck.

"In closing the final chapter of my 40 years of military service, I challenge our leaders to continue to work hard to support and meet the needs of those who are responsible for our success in our federal and state missions," Job said. "Our Soldiers, Airmen, military families and employers all play an important part in ensuring that the N.D. National Guard remains the best military organization in the world. I thank all of those responsible for our organization's success as well as those who have supported me and my efforts during my career." ■

# BACK



Photo by Spc. Jennifer Joyce, 141 Maneuver Enhancement Brigade

Staff Sgt. Kenyon Opp, Glen Ullin, of the 818th Engineer Company (Sapper), shakes hands with Brig. Gen. Alan Dohrmann, N.D. National Guard deputy adjutant general, after deplaning a chartered flight at the Guard's Army Aviation Support Facility near the Bismarck Airport March 22. More than 90 Soldiers with the 818th Engineers were reunited with family and friends after their deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as part of Task Force War Hammer from June 2012 to March 2013.

## 818th Engineers Welcomed Home After Deployment to Afghanistan

*Story by Sgt. 1st Class Billie Jo Lorus*

Almost a year after the community hosted a send-off in their honor, more than 90 Soldiers with the N.D. National Guard's 818th Engineer Company (Sapper) were united with family and friends when they arrived home to North Dakota March 22.

The Soldiers deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as part of Task Force War Hammer from June 2012 to March 2013. They served as combat engineers, clearing routes of improvised explosive devices to protect coalition forces, ensuring safe movement and mission accomplishment.



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

**A Soldier embraces his family after returning home from a deployment to Afghanistan at the N.D. National Guard's Army Aviation Support Facility, near the Bismarck Airport March 22. His combat engineer unit, the 818th Engineer Company, operated as part of Task Force War Hammer, clearing routes of improvised explosive devices to protect coalition forces and Afghan citizens.**

"Today, we proudly welcome the members of the 818th Engineer Company back home to the state they have so honorably represented and served this past year in Afghanistan," said Gov. Jack Dalrymple, who greeted the Soldiers home as they stepped off of the plane. "They and their families have sacrificed so much on our behalf, and we will always be grateful for their outstanding service."

"Sadly, two members of the 818th did not return today. We will never forget Sgt. 1st Class Darren Linde and Spc. Tyler Orgaard for their incredible service and ultimate sacrifice, or their families who continue to mourn the loss of their loved ones."

Linde and Orgaard were killed in action during a mission on Dec. 3, and Spc. Ian Placek was wounded in the attack and recently returned to Bismarck to continue his recovery.

"I am honored to welcome you back to North Dakota and proud of the accomplishments you've made during your deployment. Each of you shares a bond that will unite you through the experiences and memories you've shared," said Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. adjutant general, who met the Soldiers as they landed in Fort Bliss, Texas, and nearly two weeks later when they returned to Bismarck. "I know today comes with mixed emotions, as

you feel the absence of two of your brothers. Just as you did on your missions, continue to carry their memory and legacy with you. Honor their service and sacrifice with how you continue to live your lives."

While deployed, the 818th supported three U.S. Marine Corps battalions, conducted route clearance operations across three regional commands, took part in 201 patrols, cleared 7,559 miles of road, and neutralized 30 improvised explosive devices, ensuring safe passage for Coalition Forces and local nationals. In addition, the Soldiers were called upon numerous times by the Marine Corps Commands operating in Helmand Province to be their primary route clearance element over any other company.

Capt. Robert Bohl, of Flasher, commands the unit, which is based in Williston with a detachment in Hazen.

"I am most proud of our Soldiers and leadership. Their hard work and dedication made my job easy. I'm very happy to see my Soldiers reunite with their family members," he said.

Nearly half of the Soldiers in the unit had previously deployed. A third volunteered to join the unit specifically to serve on the Afghanistan deployment.

"I am really excited to be home. I am proud of all our Soldiers, especially our leaders," said Sgt. Maj. Rashad Schaffner, of

Dawson, the unit's senior enlisted leader.

As the 818th returned home, more Guardsmen deployed to Afghanistan. Watch next month's issue for a story and photos on the 119th Security Forces Squadron deployment.

A formal welcome home ceremony, called a Freedom Salute, will take place in about three months to honor returning Guardsmen and their families.



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

**Sgt 1st Class Christopher Peterson, Culbertson, Mont., of the 818th Engineer Company (Sapper), kisses his daughter Belle, just after returning from a deployment to Afghanistan, at the N.D. National Guard's Army Aviation Support Facility near the Bismarck Airport on March 22.**

# AFRICA ASSISTANCE

## NORTH DAKOTA'S FIRST MISSION IN CAMEROON HELPS CENTRAL AFRICAN COUNTERPARTS ENHANCE CAPABILITIES

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Amy Wieser Willson, Joint Force Headquarters

When heavy flooding hit northern Cameroon in September 2012, the Cameroon Defense Forces did their best to save the lives and property of their neighbors, just as the N.D. National Guard did in the state in recent years. The challenges faced by the African military, though, exceeded those experienced in Minot, Bismarck and the Red River Valley.

Varying terrain — from coastal plains to mountains — and barely navigable roadways in some areas added to the mission response time, said Col. Bede Benoit Eba Eba, deputy chief of the Cameroon Air Force staff, who wished he and his comrades could have done more and done it faster.

Now, the Defense Forces feel better equipped to address such challenges and more. They learned new skills and techniques for using their existing equipment during Central Accord 13, a U.S. Army Africa exercise that focused on aerial delivery as well as medical readiness and evacuation.

Col. Giselle Wilz, 141st Maneuver



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Amy Wieser Willson, Joint Force Headquarters

Firefighters, soldiers, airmen and sailors with the Cameroon Defense Forces stand in formation near a C-130 transport plane during the closing ceremony to Central Accord 13 on March 1 at the Cameroon Air Force Base, in Douala. Nearly 40 N.D. Army National Guard Soldiers provided command and control for the U.S. Army Africa exercise that brought together about 750 U.S. and Central African military members to focus on aerial delivery and medical treatment and evacuation.

Enhancement Brigade commander, served as Task Force Central commander, working with her Cameroon military counterparts to lead the exercise. Nearly 40 N.D. National Guard members provided command and control for about 120 other Soldiers, Airmen and Sailors from across the United States. They partnered with about 600 Cameroon military members as well as Central African partners from the Gabonese Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Sao Tome and Principe and Burundi.

“It was rewarding to see our Central African partners acquire new skills to enhance their operational capacity for responding to not only natural disasters but to ensuring peace and stability as they work together in their region,” Wilz said. “It was also great to see how our N.D. Guardsmen came together to provide all of the logistical, administrative, security and communications support needed for an exercise of this scope. Not only did they do a fantastic job, but the lessons learned in planning and conducting an exercise such as this will benefit our state during future missions.”

## PREPARING FOR SUCCESS

While the actual mission spanned just 10 days, planning for an exercise of this scope and size in a location where N.D. Guardsmen had never before served took considerably more time.

“The first challenge is organizing the event. It wasn’t easy,” said Cameroon Army Col. Frederic Ndjonkep, exercise planner, who worked closely with his Cameroon and American counterparts for nearly a year before the exercise commenced.

Soldiers with the 231st Brigade Support Battalion embraced the challenge of the fluid mission, riding the changing waves typical of a mission that involves so many different entities.

“We had been planning for this mission for about a year. It was extremely rewarding to see all of hard work the staff did leading up to the exercise pay off,” said Maj. Anna Wittrock, officer-in-charge of the 231st Brigade Support Battalion and Task Force Central executive officer. “Planning and preparing for an exercise can be challenging at times when you’re working solely in North Dakota. The coordination challenge escalates when you add in multiple states, service components and multinational partners. The key to success is to remain flexible.”

With as much long-distance planning



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Amy Wieser Willson, Joint Force Headquarters  
 (Left) Spc. Donovan Dobler, a communication specialist with the N.D. Army National Guard’s 231st Brigade Support Battalion, helps to move a Satellite Transportable Terminal in to place at the Cameroon Air Force Base Feb. 16, 2013, in Douala, Cameroon, Africa. (Right) Sgt. Lovett Egbe (foreground), mobile security and translator for the Cameroon Army, discusses locations on a map of the Cameroon Army Engineer Base with Capt. Andrew Denno (center), antiterrorism/force protection officer for the 231st Brigade Support Battalion, and Sgt. 1st Class Walter Joslin, antiterrorism planner with U.S. Army Africa, Feb. 15, at the Engineer Base in Douala, Cameroon, Africa. The Soldiers are working together on final preparations for Central Accord 13.

as possible accomplished, preparations shifted to the exercise site early this year. Capt. Travis Hackey and 1st Sgt. Bruce Newland, who serve with the 231st, arrived in Cameroon Jan. 10 to start paving the way for the U.S. military’s arrival. Three dozen other North Dakotans arrived more than a week before the exercise’s start as preparations peaked.

1st Lt. Robbie Hertz, operations officer, busied with exercise coordination plans

and schedules as Capt. Andrew Denno, antiterrorism/force protection officer, accompanied a small team of security forces around operational areas, ensuring security for participants. Capt. Gary Ripplinger, intelligence and safety officer, gathered information from Denno and other sources. Sgt. Mike Bauder coordinated with shipping companies to receive supplies sent from the U.S., such as MREs, water and a Satellite Transportable Terminal.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Amy Wieser Willson, Joint Force Headquarters  
 Cameroon Army 1st Lt. Eseye E. Sako discusses Central Accord 2013 with U.S. Army Capt. Gary Ripplinger, 231st Brigade Support Battalion, N.D. Army National Guard, in the joint operations center Feb. 23 at Cameroon Air Force Base, in Douala, Cameroon.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Whitney Hughes  
114th Public Affairs Detachment  
New Hampshire Army National Guard

Lt. Col. James Fitzgerald, the battalion commander of Headquarters Headquarters Company, 158th Aviation Regiment, gives the thumbs up to Cameroon pilots flying a Eurocopter Puma helicopter during a casualty evacuation exercise at the Douala Air Force Base Feb. 24. Fitzgerald, the Cameroon pilots, and the Gabonese Republic and Republic of Congo soldiers next to him were participating in exercise Central Accord 2013, a joint exercise in which U.S., Cameroon and neighboring Central African militaries partner to promote regional cooperation while increasing aerial resupply and medical readiness capacity.



Then, Sgt. 1st Class Larry Fontaine and the communications section set up the satellite and established secure and unsecure communication assets for the exercise. Capt. Luke Malheim, field ordering officer, and Sgt. 1st Class James Speidel, pay agent, began a scavenger-hunt-styled mission of finding and purchasing additional supplies from the local markets. Sgt. 1st Class Kristel Amundson, personnel noncommissioned officer, worked with New York National Guard members to prepare for receiving and tracking the service members from 18 different active, Reserve and Guard units. Capt. Jacquelyn Flemmer, transportation officer, and Master Sgt. Nancy Pranke began coordinating a fleet of local SUVs, vans and buses that would ensure those participants could get to and from the work locations on time.

“Considering the many possible obstacles to the mission — including multiple nations, working in a foreign country, language barriers, austere environment and a diverse U.S. force of Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors and civilians — it was amazing how quickly our Soldiers came together on the ground to provide first-rate logistical, administrative, communications and operational support to the task force,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Eric Olerud, senior enlisted leader for the 231st and Task Force Central.

## PARTNERING TO LEARN

By the time the bulk of the participants arrived on Feb. 19, operations were ready to roll. A Pathfinder unit provided drop zone instruction while riggers taught techniques for packaging aerial deliveries. An aviation unit showed the Cameroonians ways to use their aircraft for patient evacuation as U.S. Soldiers with a combat support hospital helped with medical training.

After a week, the Cameroon military made its first-ever aerial delivery from a C-130 transport plane. Its military repertoire took flight in other areas, too.

“American medics are very aware of the capabilities of the aircraft,” Eba Eba said of both the fixed wing asset and the military’s two rotary wing aircraft, the Eurocopter Puma and Bell

206. They also were learning a “wider scope” of use for the fleet, from search-and-rescue operations to maintaining peace, he said.

That scope grew quickly during the relatively short exercise.

Cameroon Army Lt. Col. Egbe Ado, chief of staff at the Cameroon Army Engineer Base, commended the U.S. military’s “pedagogic way of transmitting knowledge,” which enabled a significant amount of training to be conducted in just 10 days.

“It was very rewarding personally to see the enthusiasm displayed by all participants throughout the exercise,” said Lt. Col. Ed Johnson, Task Force Central deputy commander and 231st battalion commander. “The transformation of the Cameroon Defense Forces from the beginning of the academics phase to the final day of the FTX was simply incredible. With only a few days of academics, the Cameroon Defense Forces applied their newly acquired skills during the field training exercise and performed their tasks flawlessly.”

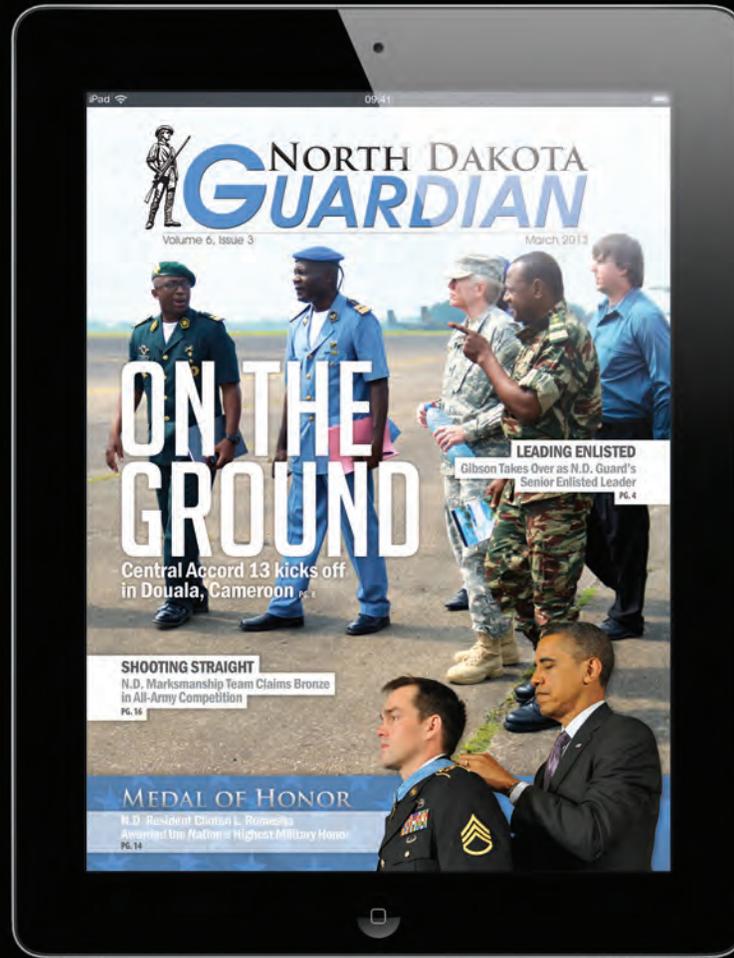
Similar exercises in Uganda in 2011 and in Mali in 2012 led to the nations being self-sufficient and conducting their own operations within 30 days and 30 hours, respectively, of the exercise’s conclusion, said Jerry Madden, U.S. Army Africa’s lead exercise planner. The Cameroon Defense Forces expressed eagerness to achieve the same both at home and in working across Africa and abroad with the partners whom they have now forged working relationships.

“With the continental conflicts, we need to intervene,” Ado said. “We are not only soldiers for Cameroon, but we are soldiers for Africa and the world.”

That interoperability theme remained key through all aspects of the exercise and across all partners, as U.S. and Central African military members learned together from the experience and established grounds for enhanced working relationships in the future.

“It’s a pleasure to be working internationally because we know there is no efficiency if you need to carry out some issues alone,” Eba Eba said. ■

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# GUARDIAN

*Snapshots*



Staff Sgt. Donald Clarke, of the 119th Maintenance Squadron, works with sheet metal during a recent unit training assembly at the N.D. Air National Guard in Fargo. (Photo by Tech Sgt. Brady Schneider, 119th Wing Public Affairs)



Staff Sgt. Heather Mattson, of the 119th Services Flight, uses hand sanitizer as she performs her duties during a recent unit training assembly at the N.D. Air National Guard in Fargo. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Nathanael Beardson, 119th Wing Public Affairs)



Members of the 119th Wing prepare for departure from the Air National Guard base at Hector International Air Field in Fargo, Feb. 2. The Guard members are being transported to Kadena, Japan, on a C-130 from the Nevada Air National Guard's 152nd Airlift Wing. (Photo by Tech Sgt. Brady Schneider, 119th Wing Public Affairs)

# THE WING AT WORK



Staff Sgt. Donald Clarke, of the 119th Maintenance Squadron, welds during a recent unit training assembly at the N.D. Air National Guard in Fargo. (Photo by Tech Sgt. Bradly Schneider, 119th Wing Public Affairs)



Tech. Sgt. Lisa Reich, an aerospace medical technician training manager for the 119th Wing's Medical Squadron, right, draws blood from a unit member during a recent unit training assembly at the N.D. Air National Guard in Fargo. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Bradly Schneider, 119th Wing Public Affairs)



Tech. Sgt. Cody Chick, of the 219th Security Forces Squadron, looks through a scope during a recent unit training assembly at the N.D. Air National Guard in Fargo. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Nathanael Beardson, 119th Wing Public Affairs)



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



## CHAMPS

(Above left) Spc. Conrad Roberts, of the N.D. Army National Guard, takes aim on the 50-meter target range Feb. 28 during his leg of the four-person 7.5-kilometer biathlon relay race at the Chief of the National Guard Bureau Biathlon Championships at Camp Ripley, Minn., Feb. 22-28. North Dakota placed first in the team competition among more than 20 states. (Above) National Guard biathletes Maj. Eric Nordgren, of North Dakota, No. 3 in the lead, Maj. Paul Peterson, of Minnesota, No. 2, and Capt. Ernst Vischer, of Montana, No. 4, ski into the shooting range portion of the four-person 7.5-kilometer biathlon relay race. The three biathletes pictured are about to fire their .22 caliber rifles on the 50-meter range. (Left) Sgt. Jordan Becker, N.D. National Guard biathlon coach, shouts encouragement while watching shooters on the 50-meter range during the Chief of the National Guard Bureau Biathlon Championships.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Brett Miller, N.D. National Guard Visual Information



## RECOGNITION

(Above left) Maj. Kyle Ness, 119th Operations Support Squadron, accepts the N.D. Air National Guard Field Grade Officer of the Year Award during the N.D. National Guard Association's State Combined Conference Feb. 23 in Bismarck. Capt. Nathan Lagred, 119th Wing Medical Group, was named the N.D. Air National Guard Company Grade Officer of the Year. (Above middle) Staff Sgt. Matthew McKinney, Headquarters Company of the 164th Engineer Battalion, holds his award for winning the noncommissioned officer category of the N.D. Best Warrior Competition. Spc. Steven Trautman, Company A of the 231st Brigade Support Battalion, won the junior enlisted category of the competition. (Above right) Capt. Lucas Klettke, Headquarters Company of the 141st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, accepts the N.D. Army National Guard Company Grade Officer of the Year Award from Brig. Gen. Alan Dohrmann, N.D. National Guard deputy adjutant general. Maj. Jodee Aubol, 1st Battalion, 188th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, was named N.D. Army National Guard Field Grade Officer of the Year during the Feb. 23 banquet. (Below) Master Sgt. William Kennedy (from left), named Outstanding Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, Senior Airman Zachary Bjerke, Outstanding Airman of the Year, and Tech. Sgt. Heather Mattson, Outstanding Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, hold their awards following the annual Outstanding Airmen of the Year banquet March 2 in Moorhead, Minn.

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



# GUARDIAN

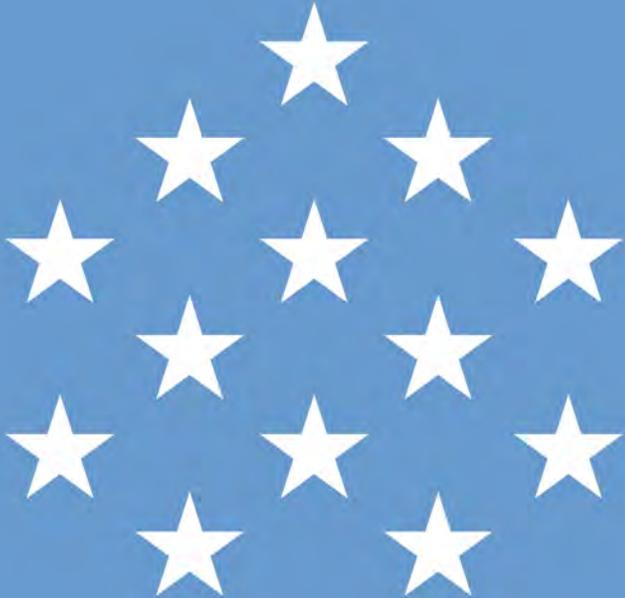
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- 119th Security Forces Squadron deployment activities
- Recruiters teaming up with Bismarck High School
- STARBASE Students touring the Wing
- And more!

# MEDAL OF HONOR



**Clinton L. Romesha**  
Photo by Staff Sgt. Brett Miller, N.D. National Guard Visual Information

FOR CONSPICUOUS GALLANTRY  
AND INTREPIDITY  
AT THE RISK OF HIS LIFE  
ABOVE AND BEYOND  
THE CALL OF DUTY

## N.D. Medal of Honor Recipients by conflict and date of action

### *Spanish American War*

Blacksmith Joseph E. Carter (U.S. Navy), May 11, 1898

### *Philippine Insurrection*

Pvt. Thomas Sletteland (N.D. National Guard), April 12, 1899

Cpl. Frank L. Anders (N.D. National Guard), May 13, 1899

Pvt. Willis H. Downs (N.D. National Guard), May 13, 1899

Pvt. Gotfred Jensen (N.D. National Guard), May 13, 1899

Pvt. Otto Boehler (N.D. National Guard), May 16, 1899

Pvt. Charles P. Davis (N.D. National Guard), May 16, 1899

Pvt. John Baxter Kinne (N.D. National Guard), May 16, 1899

Pvt. Richard M. Longfellow (N.D. National Guard), May 16, 1899

Pvt. Frank Fulton Ross (N.D. National Guard), May 16, 1899

### *World War I*

Cmdr. Willis W. Bradley, Jr. (U.S. Navy), July 23, 1917

Pvt. Nels Wold (U.S. Army), Sept. 26, 1918

Lt. Col. Fred E. Smith (U.S. Army), Sept. 29, 1918

### *World War II*

Pfc. Henry Gurke (U.S. Marine Corps), Nov. 9, 1943

1st Lt. Orville E. Bloch (U.S. Army), Sept. 22, 1944

Staff Sgt. Jack J. Pendleton (U.S. Army), Oct. 12, 1944\*

### *Korea*

Master Sgt. Woodrow W. Keeble (U.S. Army), Oct. 20, 1951

### *Vietnam*

Spec. Michael J. Fitzmaurice (U.S. Army), March 23, 1971\*

1st Lt. Loren D. Hagan (U.S. Army), Aug. 7, 1971

### *Global War on Terrorism*

Staff Sgt. **Clinton L. Romesha** (U.S. Army), Oct. 3, 2009\*

\*While Pendleton, Fitzmaurice and Romesha all have strong ties to North Dakota (through birth and/or residency), their awards have been officially accredited to the states of Washington, South Dakota and California, respectively.

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## N.D. Resident, Former Army Staff Sgt. Clinton L. Romesha Awarded the Medal of Honor

By Bill Prokopyk, N.D. National Guard Public Affairs

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Gov. Jack and First Lady Betsy Dalrymple, along with congressional and state officials, hosted a reception Feb. 21 in honor of N.D. resident and former U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Clinton L. Romesha, a recent Medal of Honor recipient.

Romesha received the award from President Barack Obama during a ceremony at the White House Feb. 11. A day later, he was formally inducted into the Pentagon's "Hall of Heroes," where his name and legacy will live on among the names of other recipients of the Medal of Honor.

Romesha, his wife, Tammy, their three children and other family members attended both ceremonies.

He earned the nation's highest military award for his valorous actions during a 12-hour battle for Combat Outpost Keating in the Kamdesh District of Nuristan Province, Afghanistan, on Oct. 3, 2009. His actions and the actions of his comrades, while stationed at the small outpost near the mountainous Pakistan border, were featured in a book titled "The Outpost: An Untold Story of American Valor" by Jake Tapper.

So far, the Romeshas have appeared on CBS-TV's "Today Show" and the "David Letterman" and "Rachael Ray" programs, among others. Romesha also was honored at two NHL games in New York.

Capt. Dan Murphy, public information officer for the N.D. National Guard, has been assisting Romesha with all of his public engagements.

"Offers for Clint to appear at events, functions and television programs have poured in since the announcement of his award," Murphy said. "One of the most notable invitations is to throw out the first pitch of the season opener for the Washington Nationals baseball team. It's fantastic. He and his family certainly deserve to be honored."

Romesha is scheduled to be the keynote speaker at the N.D. Veterans Cemetery's annual Memorial Day ceremony in May.

After 11 years of service and deployments to Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan, Romesha and his family moved to Minot. He works for KS Industries in Tioga as a field safety specialist. ■

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Contributed photo



U.S. Army photo by Leroy Council

(Top) Staff Sgt. Clinton L. Romesha patrols near Combat Outpost Keating in 2009. (Bottom) President Barack Obama and U.S. Army veteran Staff Sgt. Clinton L. Romesha stand at attention during the reading of the citation for the Medal of Honor. Romesha was honored at the White House on Feb. 11 for his heroic actions during a deadly fire fight at ComKeating in Afghanistan.

Visit the U.S. Army's official Medal of Honor website for Clinton L. Romesha. The site contains his Medal of Honor citation, profiles, news and other resources.  
<http://bit.ly/Romesha-MOH>



**INTERACT WITH US!**



See pictures in the N.D. National Guard flickr set "Romesha – Medal of Honor" at <http://bit.ly/TW5GsE>.

# STRAIGHT SHOOTERS

## N.D. MARKSMANSHIP TEAM CLAIMS BRONZE IN ALL-ARMY MATCHES

By Sgt. 1st Class Amy Wieser Willson  
Joint Force Headquarters

N.D. Guardsmen shot their way to be named the third best team in the entire U.S. Army during the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit's U.S. Small Arms Championship, or "All-Army" competition, in Fort Benning, Ga., Jan. 28-Feb. 8.

After months of training, they felt ready to prove themselves against the best across the nation, including U.S. Army's Special Operations Command and numerous other active-duty units as well as several National Guard and Army Reserve teams.

The advanced combat live-fire training event began with individual and team rifle matches, followed by a combined arms competition. N.D. fared best in the rifle matches, although the combined performance of the team in all areas propelled them to the third-place title overall. The team also ranked second overall in the rifle competition and fifth in the pistol competition.

"Marksmanship is a key skill to being a Soldier and Airman, and the Guardsmen on our marksmanship team have taken that skill to a professional level," said Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. adjutant general. "Coming home with so many awards at such a high level of competition is a testament to their dedication, commitment and skill."

Part of the rifle team match included a 1.5-mile run while wearing complete uniform, gear and a full load of ammunition while carrying a rifle. Sgt. Evan Messer completed the run in 11 minutes, 3 seconds, and the rest of the team wasn't far behind. All of North Dakota's shooters completed the run in less than 14 minutes, said Tech. Sgt. Joshua Von Bank, who serves with the N.D. Air National Guard's 119th Wing and helps coach the team.

"(Master Sgt.) Brian Rook ended up finishing in 13 minutes, 48 seconds, but has the dubious distinction of being the oldest competitor (he turns 51 in July) and the only Air Force



Sgt. Evan Messer, who serves with the N.D. National Guard's 817th Engineer Company (Sapper), displays several of the awards he won during the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit's U.S. Small Arms Championship, or "All-Army" competition, in Fort Benning, Ga., Jan. 28-Feb. 8. He shot in the "Pro" class, which is reserved for shooters who have earned the Distinguished Badge in rifle or pistol. Messer was named the fifth best overall individual shooter out of all classes during the lengthy competition. He also earned first place among all Pro class rifle shooters, won Match 8 (which included a 1.5-mile run) as an individual competitor and took silver out of all individuals competing in Match 7.



Contributed photo

N.D. National Guardsmen fire in Match 4 at the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit's U.S. Small Arms Championship, or "All-Army" competition, in Fort Benning, Ga., Jan. 28-Feb. 8. The team was named the third best in the entire U.S. Army at the end of the series of matches.

competitor shooting all of the events," Von Bank said.

Besides the team awards, North Dakota's four shooters excelled in individual competition.

Messer and Spc. Tyrel Hoppe, who serve with the N.D. Army National Guard's Jamestown-based 817th Engineer Company (Sapper), shot in the "Pro" class, which is reserved for shooters who have earned the Distinguished Badge in rifle or pistol. Messer was named the fifth best overall individual shooter out of all classes during the lengthy competition. He also earned first place among all Pro class rifle shooters, won Match 8 (which included the 1.5-mile run) as an individual competitor and took the silver out of all individuals competing in Match 7 (which used paper targets). Hoppe earned the highest score of all non-distinguished rifle shooters and was ranked the fourth Pro-class rifle shooter overall. He was named the 15th best shooter overall at the competition.

Rook, who serves with the 119th Wing, and Spc. Christopher Lundberg, who serves in the 817th, shot in the Novice class since they were new to the competition. Both finished in the top 25 of all Novice class rifle shooters. Rook placed 25th out of all shooters – Pro, Open and Novice classes – in the competition and Lundberg came in 42nd.

They rounded out the team of four, which was coached by Von Bank and Sgt. 1st Class Gary Varberg, a Distinguished class shooter in both rifle and pistol who has brought home numerous shooting awards from around the world during his military service.

Marksmanship is one of several competitive sports within the N.D. National Guard that encourage teamwork and precision while enhancing key areas of military performance, such as shooting, combatives and physical fitness. ■



Contributed photo



Contributed photo

(Above) Sgt. 1st Class Gary Varberg (foreground), with the 817th Engineer Company (Sapper), calls wind as he coaches the N.D. National Guard Marksmanship Team during the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit's U.S. Small Arms Championship, or "All-Army" competition, in Fort Benning, Ga., Jan. 28-Feb. 8. The team was named the third best in the entire U.S. Army at the end of the series of matches. Varberg is a distinguished class shooter in both rifle and pistol who has won numerous marksmanship awards from around the world during his military career. (Below) The N.D. National Guard's Marksmanship Team poses with its third-place plaque. Pictured from left are Sgt. 1st Class Gary Varberg, coach, Master Sgt. Brian Rook, Sgt. Evan Messer, Spc. Tyrel Hoppe, Spc. Christopher Lundberg and Tech. Sgt. Joshua Von Bank, coach. Rook and Von Bank serve in the N.D. Air National Guard's 119th Wing, Fargo, and the remaining shooters are members of the N.D. Army National Guard's 817th Engineer Company (Sapper), Jamestown.



Contributed photo by Master Sgt. Daniel Solberg, 119th Wing

Senior Airman Adam Haskins directs Tech. Sgt. Monte Gehrtz as he lines up a 60K Tunnor loader with the dock during a recent training mission at Kadena Air Force Base, Japan.

## 119th Wing Aerial Port Develops Skills in Japan

After island hopping in a C-130 Hercules from Fargo to San Diego to Hawaii to Wake Island to Guam, 31 members of the 119th Wing Aerial Port — including a few from the 119th Medical Services Flight, 119th Civil Engineer Squadron and 119th Services Flight — arrived at Kadena Air Force Base, Japan. We spent our two weeks of annual training in Okinawa in February.

As Aerial Porters, our job involves everything that would be done at a civilian airport, but with a greater emphasis on cargo movement. We upload and download aircraft, palletize cargo, service aircraft, and provide passenger services. We are fairly limited in Fargo as far as the equipment necessary for this career field, and we don't get a lot of transient aircraft that require our services either. We are all hoping for a flying mission that would change all of that, but for now we are doing what we can on base while taking advantage of any opportunities to deploy and get some experience at busier aerial ports.

In Okinawa, we were afforded the opportunity to train on equipment that we don't have access to in Fargo, at a base

that typically has a pretty high operations tempo. We were able to receive some great training and help out at a base that often sees quite a few transient aircraft. Several of our Airmen have deployed to Bagram for six-month missions, so those Airmen know the job well. Even for them, it was great to get some refresher training on some of the big equipment that we don't have on base.

For me, this deployment was an eye-opener. I recently transferred into this career field, so it was a great opportunity to see a large Aerial Port from top to bottom. I saw a lot of equipment that I had read about but never seen, and I got to see how the system works from the personnel side also, as well as how everything has to fit together in order for the whole operation to run smoothly.

Overall, this was a great deployment. Our Aerial Porters got some great training, I gained a much better understanding of the Aerial Port system, and we all got to know each other better. ■

— By Master Sgt. Daniel Solberg  
119th Wing

Read a full account of  
the training mission online at  
<http://bit.ly/KadenaAFB>

## 769th Engineers Conduct Hands-on Concrete Training

The 769th Engineer Detachment (Survey and Design Team), Minot, conducted technical engineer, or 12T, training with Staff Sgt. Bradley Benton Jr. in February. The Soldiers made a concrete mixture with a mobile mixer, adding Portland cement, fine and coarse aggregates and water.

After mixing the concrete, the Soldiers tested it using the air entrainment meter and conducted a slump test. The slump test checks the concrete for consistency and workability while the air entrainment meter tests the concrete for the percentage of trapped air. Incorrect air and water amounts negatively impact the concrete.

Next, Soldiers placed the concrete into cylinder and beam molds for 24 hours. The hardened samples were then placed into a lime water solution to cure for four weeks until March's drill. Lime water speeds the hydration process for compressive strength testing.

In March, the training continued as Soldiers broke the molds to determine the compressive and flexural strength of the concrete. Testing concrete samples determines how the concrete may be used according to its strengths.

Guardsmen said they appreciated the hands-on experience coupled with the refresher training on mixing and testing concrete according to Army standards. ■

— By Staff Sgt. Bradley Benton  
769th Engineer Detachment (Survey and Design)



Contributed photo

Soldiers of the 769th Engineer Detachment (Survey and Design Team), Minot, mix concrete with a mobile mixer while conducting technical engineer training. The mixture contains Portland cement, fine and coarse aggregates and water.

## N.D. Soldiers Support Flintlock in Mauritania

The 136th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Camp Grafton Training Center in Devils Lake, recently participated in Flintlock 2013. Hosted each year by a different government in Western Africa, Flintlock is an African-led military exercise focused on security, counter-terrorism and military humanitarian support to outlying areas. In February, Mauritania hosted the exercise, which has taken place every year since 2005.

Twenty-six N.D. Soldiers provided logistic and administrative support for the exercise. This year, U.S. and Western partner-nation military members shared techniques on shooting tactics, medical response, rigger operations and more with African partner-nation soldiers. The U.S. also provided mentorship on effectively managing day-to-day support and operation centers.

Flintlock 2013 commenced Feb. 20, with opening ceremonies on a parade field in Nema, a small village in southeast Mauritania. About 1,000 personnel were involved in the exercise, including participants from Burkina Faso, Canada, Chad, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Spain, the United Kingdom and the U.S.



Contributed photo by Spc. Devin Greywater, 136th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion

**Commanding officers of Flintlock, an African-led military exercise focused on security, counter-terrorism and humanitarian support, kick off the multinational exercise as U.S. and Mauritanian Soldiers look on during an opening ceremony on a parade field in Nema, Mauritania, on Feb. 20.**

Additionally, representatives from Algeria, Australia, Morocco and Tunisia observed the training. Representatives from the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force supported the training.

“The exercise has gone very well,” Lt. Col. James Olson, 136th commander, said. “It’s been an incredible opportunity for us to work with the partner nations. It’s also a dynamic training opportunity for us to work with aerial resupply and establishing base camp operations in support of all the participants.

“Mauritanians have proven to be very professional, skilled soldiers. It was a

pleasure for us to have worked with them.”

The Mauritanian Army provided security, transportation and equipment for the exercise. The Government of Mauritania provided support for non-military functions such as camp maintenance and garbage disposal.

“It’s been a pleasure to have worked with the Mauritanian people,” said Sgt. Brad Gardner, with the 136th. “They are very dedicated to their duties and very hard workers. This has been a great opportunity and experience to have been a part of.” ■

— By Capt. Karl R. Altenburg and Spc. Devin Greywater  
136th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion

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## Combat Medics Train with Rugby Ambulance Service

Combat medics in the 164th Engineer Battalion, Minot, conducted CPR recertification and engaged in hands-on training in conjunction with the Rugby Ambulance Service in February.

Sgt. Colton Belmore, of the 814th Medical Detachment, who is employed as a civilian paramedic by the ambulance service, traveled to Minot to conduct the CPR portion of the training, then invited the 164th Engineer medics to the ambulance service’s home base to use the extensive training aids.

Medics had the opportunity to perform intubations and read 12-lead electrocardiograms on simulation-enhanced mannequins. The training gave the medics



Contributed photo by Spc. Whitney Montoney, 164th Engineer Battalion  
**Spc. Ethan Johnson, left, and Pfc. Mick Wehrman, both medics in the 164th Engineer Battalion, perform CPR on a simulated heart attack patient during training facilitated by the Rugby Ambulance Service, in Rugby, Feb. 13.**

an opportunity to see new and progressive equipment being used by today’s civilian emergency medical service providers. ■

— By Spc. Whitney Montoney  
164th Engineer Battalion

## Olson Takes Command of Happy Hooligans

The N.D. Air National Guard welcomed a new commander last month. Col. Kent Olson will lead the 119th Wing as Col. Rick Gibney steps down and prepares to deploy.

Gibney’s military career began in the active-duty Army and Army National Guard. He was commissioned an officer in 1982 and advanced to be named 119th Wing commander three years ago.

Olson, vice wing commander since 2008, enlisted in the Air National Guard in 1981.

Both Air Guard leaders flew numerous missions around the nation and over Washington, D.C., following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. ■

— By Sgt. 1st Class Amy Wieser Willson  
Joint Force Headquarters

# IMPRESSIVE N.D. GUARD JOURNALISTS WIN NATIONAL AWARDS

**N**.D. National Guard journalists recently garnered numerous awards in competitions that pitted their stories and photos against the best across the nation. Both full-time and part-time journalists earned awards in the National Guard Bureau Media Contest, which consists of entries encompassing Army National Guard Soldiers and Air National Guard Airmen from 54 states and territories.

Those winning entries advanced to the Maj. Gen. Keith L. Ware Public Affairs Competition, which judges the best from major U.S. Army commands across the globe.

“When you look at the level of competition in these contests, it’s incredible that our small team from the N.D. National Guard earned so many awards,” said Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. adjutant general. “What’s even more striking, though, is that they consistently win at this level, year after year. Their efforts to tell the story of our Soldiers, Airmen and greater military family keep our communities connected with the many aspects of service to our state and nation.”

Sgt. 1st Class Amy Wieser Willson, of West Fargo, placed at both levels of competition. She took top honors in three National Guard Bureau categories: Personality Feature, Sports Article and Story Series. Two of the feature stories went on to win at the U.S. Army-wide level, and a series of features on the N.D. Air National Guard’s “First Commanders” placed second in the Keith L. Ware Competition. The two first-place winners will now advance to the Department of Defense-level Thomas Jefferson Awards competition. Wieser Willson, deputy public information officer for the N.D. National Guard, has previously received four first-place awards at the Keith L. Ware competition for feature stories she’s written.

Oft-awarded photographer Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp, of Fargo, also earned two third-place finishes at the National Guard Bureau level: one in Photojournalism and one for a Sports

Photograph. During just 11 years of entering these contests during his photojournalism career, Lipp has won 50 top three finishes in national competitions as well as an honorable mention in the prestigious MILPHOG contest that encompasses the entire Department of Defense.

The N.D. Guardian took top honors at the National Guard level in the magazine-format publication category.

The N.D. Public Affairs Office also took third place across the National Guard in Outstanding Initiatives in New Media, which recognized the team’s social media efforts.

Two other Guardsmen serving as unit public affairs representatives also placed nationally. Spc. Kristin Berg, of Fargo, won the Contribution by a Stringer-Writer category and Spc. Michael Hagburg, of Bismarck, placed second in the National Guard Bureau-level competition. Their entries advanced to the Army-wide competition, where Hagburg placed second. Both Soldiers serve in other military occupational specialties outside of public affairs, which is what designates them as “stringers.” Hagburg recently retired after serving more than 20 years in the military, primarily with the 188th Army Band.

“It’s invigorating to see how our Guardsmen working in the field as unit public affairs representatives continue to earn awards at a national level,” said Capt. Dan Murphy, N.D. National Guard public information officer. “Their efforts help us tell the N.D. National Guard story, and these awards show the quality of work that’s being done by these part-time journalists in addition to their assigned job duties.”

“We have an impressive level of talent in our public affairs community, evident by the quality of the 588 total individual entries submitted this year” for the Keith L. Ware competition, said Brig. Gen. Gary Volesky, U.S. Army chief of public affairs. “Their outstanding efforts helped their commanders and supervisors tell the Army story.”



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

A fiery muzzle blast can be seen at the end of the pistol barrel of N.D. National Guard marksmanship team member Sgt. Evan Messer, of the 817th Engineer Company, as he trains Dec. 8, 2012, at the Fargo Law Enforcement Center shooting range. Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp won third place in the Sports Photo category of the National Guard Bureau Media Contest with this picture. It was the 50th time he placed in the top three in a nationwide military photo competition during his career.



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

Spc. Kristin (Proell) Berg (center) listens and takes notes as Maj. Lila Teunissen interviews with local television stations Aug. 22. Berg won the Contribution by a Stringer-Writer category of the National Guard Bureau Media Contest for a feature she wrote.

# Chaplain's Corner:

## The Sage and the Great Problem Trade

By Chaplain Candidate (1st Lt.) Yacob Makonnen, Joint Force Headquarters

There once was a sage who was charged with the duty of monitoring and tackling the most significant personal problem of each and every person in the land. To do this, he categorized and processed each problem one at a time. He assigned each person a helper who would assist the individual in working through their problems.

For many years, people across the land were able to rely on the sage and his helpers to overcome their personal problems. Eventually, however, the population grew too large and the sage and his team were unable to help each individual. Overwhelmed, the sage devised a new plan to tackle the population's problems. Confident he would be able to expedite his services and help everyone once again, he presented his plan to the people.

From now on, each individual would have three options:

1) One could send the sage additional information about the problem, including what he or she had tried in the past to solve the problem and how other people

had solved similar problems. The sage and his helpers would use this new information to offer possible solutions and help more quickly.

2) One could be assigned to a small group comprised of people with similar issues. Each group would be led by one of the sage's helpers who, with the support of all of the group members, would assist in tackling each individual's problems.

3) One could give his or her problem away. To do this, each individual would need to trade the problem for another person's problem. While each person would still be required to have and overcome a problem, they would have access to an open market to about and trade for each other's problems.

Thinking the unconventional third option would be avoided by the people, the sage was surprised when nearly everyone chose to trade their problems, with the hope of having to deal with their neighbors' problems instead of their own. Regardless, the population had embraced the new plan, and each person was now

able to face problems with a renewed sense of confidence. The people seemed pleased, and the sage and his helpers were relieved that the plan had worked.

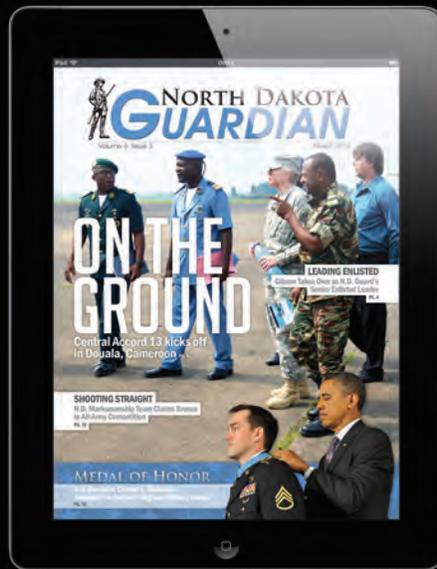
For the first two days, everything was going well as people were becoming familiar with their new problems. Then, on the third day, the sage began to notice a troubling trend. People began to return to him, frustrated with their new problems. Within another few days, the sage was inundated with requests from individuals who desperately wanted their old problems back. Eventually, the people organized town hall meetings and demanded that the sage close the problem trading market. Nobody wanted to be stuck with somebody else's problem!

*Working through personal challenges can be grueling! Each of us faces problems that are unique to us, and it is important that we claim our own tailor-made challenges. Although we should seek and use all of the resources available to us, working through our own personal problems can be worth more than gold — because they are critical in helping us to build faith and unlock power. Find faith and live powerfully!*



Contributed photo

Staff Sgt. Laton Lohmann, left, and 1st Lt. Yacob Makonnen on state active duty near Fargo during flooding in 2011.



# THE NORTH DAKOTA **GUARDIAN** IS AVAILABLE **ONLINE.**

SEE PAGE 11 FOR DETAILS.