



# NORTH DAKOTA GUARDIAN

Volume 6, Issue 6

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### 21 Guard Welcomes New Pastor

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) David Johnson (right) administers the oath of office to 1st Lt. Scott E. Noyes June 12 at the Raymond J. Bohn Armory in Bismarck. Noyes is now the newest chaplain in the N.D. National Guard.

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# NORTH DAKOTA GUARDIAN

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Digital photos should be 300 dpi, if possible.

## On the Cover



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. John Bonebreak, of the 91st Security Forces Group, takes a defensive posture at a missile launch facility during an intense but routine exercise May 22 in the Minot Air Force Base missile field complex. The exercise is significant because it is a final step in the complete integration of the U.S. Air Force active-duty forces of the 91st Missile Security Forces Group and the Air National Guard's 219th Security Forces Squadron.

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

# GUARD POSTS

Dispatches from the N.D. Guard Family



CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 4  
BRAD HOINES

N.D. National Guard  
State Safety Officer

## MAKE THE MOST OF SUMMER BY REDUCING RISKS

As the weather warms and N.D. National Guard families take to roads and waterways for some well-deserved down time, they may experience more risk than realized. It's critically important to prepare now for what lies ahead.

### BOATS

The U.S. Coast Guard ranks operator inattention, improper lookout, operator inexperience, excessive speed and machinery failure as the top five contributing factors in recreational boating accidents. However, alcohol use is the leading contributing factor in fatal boating accidents. Be aware that boating under the influence is just as illegal and dangerous as DUI on a roadway.

What are some strategies for a safe trip on the water? Take a Coast Guard-approved boating safety course, review local laws and policies, ensure that everyone uses life jackets, and make sure the boat operator doesn't consume alcohol. Before boating, make a float plan — an itinerary of when and where your water travels will take you — and give it to somebody who can notify a rescue organization if you don't check in as planned.

### GRILLS

Stay safe during your summer cookouts by ensuring you always grill outdoors and never in an enclosed space, such as a

tent, where the risk of fire, toxic gases and potential asphyxiation exist. Once coals or kindling have ignited, never add charcoal starter fluid.

Periodically, clean the trays below the grill so the heat doesn't ignite debris, and check the gas cylinder hose for leaks by using a light soap and water solution and watching for bubbles from escaping propane.

### MOTORCYCLES

Riding a motorcycle requires training and skill. Even those who have been riding for years may need a refresher on what it takes. Safety courses help riders sharpen their skills and, in turn, save lives and prevent accidents.

ABATE (American Bikers Aiming Toward Education) of N.D. sponsors basic and experienced motorcycle rider courses that are free to Guard members. Request a free registration code from the N.D. National Guard State Safety Office (701-333-2281/2280) and then register for a class in your community at [www.ndmsp.com](http://www.ndmsp.com). No permit or license is needed for the basic course, while the experienced course trains licensed riders on their own motorcycles.

In the meantime, remember to wear personal protective clothing and to check T-CLOCS (tires, controls, lights, oil, chassis and stands) before riding.

### MOTORIZED VEHICLES

Some of you have experienced the loss of a loved one in an automobile or motorcycle accident. Think about how that loss affected you and others. The next time you get the urge to take an unnecessary risk while operating a vehicle, motorcycle or recreational vehicle, think about those you would leave behind.

If you see someone exhibiting risky behavior, have the personal courage to intervene; that person's life could depend on it.

### WEATHER

An emergency can happen at any place or time. Make sure you know the threats that can occur in your area, such as tornadoes, fires and floods. Stay up-to-date on the weather forecast, practice drills with your family, and prepare an emergency kit to keep you and your loved ones safe.

*Have a safe, enjoyable summer!*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brad Hoines".





# SECURITY

## 219TH MAKES HISTORY

### AS FIRST GUARD UNIT TO EVER PROVIDE COMPLETE SECURITY OF A MISSILE FIELD SECTOR

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

About six years after being born, they graduated.

“Birth” and “graduation” were two of the recurring analogies used as members of the N.D. Air National Guard’s 219th Security Forces Squadron made history. For the first time ever, anywhere, Guard forces assumed complete control of missile field security.

In May 2007, the Guard’s security forces began a partnership with the Minot Air Force Base, supplementing their active-duty counterparts to provide security for one of the nation’s three missile fields. Side-by-side, active and reserve forces protect 150 launch facilities and corresponding missile alert facilities for the Minuteman III Weapons System across an area in northwestern N.D. that’s about the size of New Jersey.

In late May, the Guard assumed control of the entire northern sector. As they did so, a complex scenario full of surprises — from suicide bombers to launch facility breaches — played out to test what the Airmen have learned throughout years of intensive training and tests.

“This is a major exercise that culminates a five-year process of having the 219th seamlessly integrate day to day into the missile field with the active forces, so a huge milestone, major success for the Guard and active-duty integration,” said Col. Robert Vercher, 91st Missile Wing commander, after the exercise. “... This is a historic event. This has actually never occurred before. Traditionally, we integrate Guard members ... (in) small squads with the active duty. In this case, this was a total force integration in which the unit has pretty much taken over the entire security for the northern sector. A historic event but in true Guard and active-duty integration, unremarkable in that it was pulled off effortlessly without any seams.”

U.S. Air Force security members of the 91st Missile Security Forces Squadron and the 219th Security Forces Squadron advance to prevent a simulated assault on a missile launch facility during an intense but routine exercise May 22, in the Minot Air Force Base missile field complex near Minot. The exercise is significant because it is a final step in the complete integration of the U.S. Air Force active-duty forces of the 91st and the N.D. Air National Guard’s 219th. The missile field complex covers 8,500 square miles in North Dakota, and the Air National Guard members are interchangeable with the active-duty personnel in the security mission throughout the complex.

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



# BLANKET

**“WHAT YOU DO DAY IN AND DAY OUT IS CRITICAL TO THE DEFENSE OF THE NATION,  
AND FROM WHAT I SAW THIS MORNING, WE’RE CLEARLY IN GOOD HANDS.”**

— MAJ. GEN. DAVID SPRYNCZYNYTYK, N.D. ADJUTANT GENERAL

Capt. Greg Goodman, who works as the 219th operations officer, served as the on-scene commander for the exercise, directing both active-duty and Guard forces across more than 4,000 square miles of mission area.

“That’s an amazing event. That’s something that happens nowhere else in the Air Force,” Master Sgt. William Truitt, who served as an exercise evaluator from the 91st Missile Wing, said of the Guard’s integration. “... As a career enlisted man, I’m blown away.”

Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. adjutant general, observed the peak of the weeklong exercise, calling the performance “an awesome response to a complex situation.”

“We have some of the most incredible Airmen anywhere in the world right here in North Dakota,” he told the group of National Guard and active-duty Airmen assembled near the N-8 launch facility outside of Mohall, N.D., after the exercise. “... What you do day in and day out is critical to the defense of the nation, and from what I saw this morning, we’re clearly in good hands.”

Beyond taking control of the northern sector and completing the complex exercise, the 219th is making history in other ways. Maj. Kit Allen, a N.D. National Guard Airman, is serving full-time as the 91st Security Support Squadron commander, overseeing active-duty forces while there’s a gap between the outgoing and incoming Air Force commanders. During the exercise, he directed forces from the main operating base.

Additionally, Tech. Sgt. Kelly Gonzalez is about to become the first traditional or “part-time” Guardsman ever to become certified in performing duties as a flight security controller in the missile fields. The certification does not come easy — there’s extremely detailed and extensive verbal and written testing over a long period of time coupled with weapons proficiency, scenario-based training and tests, and on-the-job training. According to 1st Sgt. Larry Torres, an enlisted leader for the 219th, only “the cream of the crop” are even selected to begin such training.

Lt. Col. Tad Schauer, 219th Security Forces Squadron commander, said that despite meeting the new milestones, there’s still room for the mission to grow at the Minot Air Force Base.

When he took command of the new unit a half-dozen years ago, naysayers said that it “was a bridge too far for the Air National Guard to perform nuclear security. We all know in the National Guard that we sat on nuclear alert at the 119th Wing in Fargo (in the 1960s and 1970s), so we knew this could be accomplished.”

During May’s exercise, the 219th Squadron’s “graduation day,” the Guardsmen proved their ability to successfully secure the nation’s missile fields while integrating seamlessly with their active-duty counterparts. ■

**Next month:** Find out more about Gonzalez’s history-making certification in the second part of this series on the 219th Security Forces Squadron.



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Cody Jensen, of the 219th Security Forces Squadron, N.D. Air National Guard, stands among missile field security personnel as they are briefed at the beginning of their shift at Minot Air Force Base, May 21. Jensen is one of many N.D. National Guard Airmen who will be supplementing active-duty counterparts to provide security for one of the nation’s three missile fields.

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



# WE AIM'S

# TO

# INSPIRE

## Mandan Student Honored by N.D. National Guard and USA Today

By Staff Sgt. Eric W. Jensen  
Joint Force Headquarters

Photos by Staff Sgt. Brett Miller  
116th Public Affairs Detachment



(Top) Students at Mandan High School give classmate Michael Kaip a standing ovation May 22 after he is announced the recipient of the National Guard and USA Today Inspiration Award. The award honors high school students whose personal courage have allowed them to overcome insurmountable odds and whose loyalty has encouraged those around them to make the most out of every opportunity. Kaip, who has cerebral palsy, helped establish Dreams in Motion, a nonprofit group that helps provide sports activities for individuals with mobility challenges. (Above) Kaip and his parents, Annette and Dino, after Kaip received the award May 22 at Mandan High School in Mandan. (Opposite page, top) Brig. Gen. Al Dohrmann, N.D. National Guard deputy adjutant general, presents the National Guard and USA Today Inspiration Award to Kaip. (Opposite page, bottom) Kaip thanks attendees for their support May 22 at Mandan High School in Mandan.

Michael Kaip joined his classmates on the sneaker-scuffed, pop-out bleachers lining the north wall of Mandan High School's gymnasium on May 22, his last day of school. His cap and gown draped off a clothes hanger in a closet somewhere waiting to be donned during his graduation ceremony in just a few days. All that stood between the MHS senior and his diploma was one last school assembly, an unexpected one.

A pack of uniformed National Guard Soldiers visited with Kaip's principal, Mike Andresen, as the school's pep band ushered attendees into the gym with a set list of cadence-laden refrains. One of the Soldiers took to the podium and introduced himself as Brig. Gen. Al Dohrmann, N.D. Army National Guard deputy adjutant general.

"The reason I'm here today ... is because of a partnership between USA Today High School Sports and the National Guard, which honors high school students who define leadership," Dohrmann said. "We honor a student whose personal courage has allowed him to overcome insurmountable odds and whose loyalty has encouraged those around him. Today, we honor Michael Kaip ..."

Before Dohrmann could further explain, Kaip's peers flooded the gymnasium with shouts and applause, signaling approval for the nod of praise to their friend. They already knew their classmate had accomplished special things.

"OK. That confirms we all like Mike," Dohrmann said.

Those who could see Kaip's face saw the honoree's astonishment. While attendees came to their feet for a standing ovation, Kaip sat fixed to the bleachers, absorbing the adulation, wide-eyed and, admittedly, speechless.

"I don't really know what to say right now," he said as he addressed the crowd. "This is incredible ... I'm shaking right now. Thank you to whoever made this possible. This is a great moment for me."

Kaip is one of 13 students across the nation to receive an Inspiration Award through the National Guard and USA Today partnership. The award program recognizes high school students who are involved in athletics and have persevered and triumphed through adversity. Kaip's story came under USA Today's radar after the organization farmed through hundreds of high school sports articles from local news organizations.

Matthew Wade, a representative from USA Today who attended Kaip's award ceremony, said that his team parses through the stories specifically to find students of strong character and values.

"We've had University of Notre Dame prospects (going to play



football there), and they'll tell you that helping out groups like tornado victims comes first. They'll go and miss games and practices to go and volunteer in their communities because that's what's more important to them," Wade said.

Kaip's story also is an exceptional one. He has been a hockey enthusiast since the third grade. Born with cerebral palsy, he never was able to play, but has been the student manager for the Mandan Braves varsity hockey team over multiple seasons at MHS. A couple of years ago, he participated in a sled hockey event through Hope Inc., an organization that specializes in improving the lives of children with mobility challenges in Fargo, N.D. During that trip, the Mandan Braves team, which had a game in town, joined Kaip on the ice. The result of that special moment was a spark of inspiration Kaip used to make opportunities available in Mandan for other athletes with disabilities. He helped found Dreams in Motion, a nonprofit organization modeled after the Hope concept.

"It just makes me proud," Kaip's father, Dino, said. "His cerebral palsy has taken us to places we would never have been. He channeled everything into a different direction, and he's touched a lot of people."

Dreams in Motion has hosted a number of sporting activities including basketball, dance, curling, indoor wheelchair soccer and the same sled hockey game that Kaip experienced in Fargo. Participants, who range from age two to 25, can be joined by their families and friends. Kaip is intimately involved as a member of the organization's board of directors. His mother, Annette, serves as president. During the Inspiration Award ceremony, Kaip thanked those who helped make his vision for Dreams in Motion a reality.

"I'd just like to say 'thank you.' I couldn't have accomplished these things without help," he said. "I wasn't the only one (who) founded Dreams in Motion. It was a big group effort."

Dohrmann also addressed the connection between Kaip's achievements and military service. Kaip had probably never heard of the seven Army values before receiving the Inspiration Award, yet he embodies and is a perfect representative of the warrior ethos. His values mirror a Soldier's core principles: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage.

"Michael, as a founder of Dreams in

Motion, you live the value of service before self," Dohrmann said. "Selfless service is not done for recognition, but to make our community a better place to live. These values are not limited to the Army. They are present throughout our communities and very evident in the young man we honor today."

Annette said that the award was a great way to cap off her son's senior year and that being able to see Kaip's classmates stand and applaud him was a powerful moment.

"I don't know how it (the award presentation) happened, and it was just really exciting," Annette said. "It is an amazing finish to the year. I don't know how you can top it. Graduation is going to be

great, but I think this is better."

Not only has Kaip provided more opportunities in his community, but he's left a lasting impression on his classmates and faculty at Mandan High School.

"The award is an award for inspiration. As a teacher, and as an administrator now, I and our staff have had the opportunity to teach you," Andresen said to Kaip during the award ceremony. "But, I want to say 'thank you' for teaching us." ■

To learn more about **Dreams in Motion**, go to [www.dreamsinmotioninc.com](http://www.dreamsinmotioninc.com).

You also can see video from Kaip's sled hockey experience in Fargo at <http://bit.ly/kaip-hockey>.







Alexis Fleener and Kristy Orgaard attend a Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) event together in Washington, D.C. and take part in Rolling Thunder 2013, an annual rally that honors veterans and fallen service members. Fleener's father, Sgt. 1st Class Darren Linde, and Orgaard's brother, Spc. Tyler Orgaard, were killed in action on Dec. 3, 2012, while serving in Afghanistan with the 818th Engineer Company. TAPS is intended for families of the fallen to come together for grief seminars and networking with other families to create a journey of healing.

# BONDED NOT BY GRIEF, BUT BY LOVE

*Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Billie Jo Lorius, 116th Public Affairs Detachment*

Looking out across a sea of more than 2,000 red T-shirts that are emblazoned with the TAPS emblem and the words, "Remember the love, celebrate the life, share the journey," it becomes sobering to know that each and every one of those red T-shirts, toddler size to adult, have been deeply affected by tragedy and loss and are forever scarred by life's circumstances because they all loved someone in the military who died. Now, they are joined together by these horrible circumstances to share memories of their loved ones, talk about the pain of their loss, and connect to the only other people in the nation who can understand what it is that they go through every day of their lives.

TAPS, or Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, hosted its annual national event Memorial Day weekend in Washington, D.C.. The event offers grief seminars, national speakers and the opportunity to network and talk with family members from across the nation who have been impacted by the death of a military

family member. TAPS offers comfort and care to anyone grieving the death of someone who served in the military, regardless of where or how they died.

"It's not how they died; it's how they lived. That's what brings us together," said survivor Ellen Andrews, who lost her fiancée to a military aviation crash, as she opened the event with words of encouragement and expectations for families getting ready for the weekend. "We grieve the absence of our loved ones and each journey is different, but we can all come together in the shared experience. Treasuring the memories is sharing their legacy," she said.

## **RECORD N.D. ATTENDANCE**

North Dakota sent more than 50 people, including a record of more than 30 family members as well as mentors, who participated in the Good Grief Camp for children, a chaplain, a social worker and staff. This is the largest number of North Dakotans ever to



attend the national event.

This year, Father Dave Zimmer, one of the North Dakota staff members, was the founding organizer of 50 Mentors, a charitable organization focused on giving back to those families who have given all. The organization is aimed at getting mentors from North Dakota to participate in the Good Grief Camp. More than 200 N.D. families have attended the TAPS national event since 2004.

“We are here for each other. We are North Dakota,” said Lt. Col. Davina French, who helps organize the North Dakota participants during the event. She has attended seven times and has become a connecting point to help families through the process.

“Everyone is in such a different place emotionally, but they come here and it’s a sacred place where people feel safe with their feelings, whatever they are,” she said.

North Dakota is the only state that specifically sends staff to help support families that are attending.

The families say that the help provided by the staff — who do things from arranging hotel accommodations, logistics and transportation to coordinating congressional delegation meetings with family members to providing counsel through the on-site chaplain and social worker — are beneficial.

“Having the North Dakota staffers take care of the little things — those are the big things. It allows us to be able to participate in TAPS fully and connect while we are here,” said Larry Fettig, who attended the event in 2013, along with his wife, son, daughter-in-law and granddaughter on the 10-year anniversary year of his son Spc. Jon Fettig’s death. Jon died on July 22, 2003, while serving with the N.D. National Guard’s 957th Multi-Role Bridge Company in Iraq.

## 10 YEARS OF GRIEVING

“Lots of people in the world have lost loved ones. To lose a child is something no one else can explain. It’s the hardest thing I’ve ever had to do in my entire life. This 10-year anniversary year of Jon’s death is tough for all of us.”

Fettig said that’s why TAPS is such an integral part of the healing process, whether the death occurred this year or 10 years ago. Relating with other people and keeping that connection is the key to everyone’s grieving journey.

“Each year I go to the seminars, I always find something different. I almost feel kind of lost when I leave,” said Fettig, who has now



Brandon Wallace (center) works on a craft project with Good Grief Camp mentors Megan and Javier. The camp is intended for military child survivors of tragedy to work through grief of an immediate family member as part of the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors in Washington, D.C. Wallace’s mother, Brittany Wallace, deployed with the N.D. National Guard’s 957th Multi-Role Bridge Company to Iraq in 2003. Brittany died a year ago by suicide in Bismarck.



During the TAPS Good Grief Camp, Allen McKenna talks with his mentor, Kayla Passaro, who deployed with the N.D. National Guard’s 957th Multi-Role Bridge Company in 2003 and now teaches special education. Passaro said that being a mentor during the 2013 Good Grief Camp was one of the most amazing experiences of her entire life.

attended TAPS for the eighth time. “It’s the people. Knowing they’ve been through the same thing; we can relate to each other. I don’t have to stay strong for anyone else. I can just be me. Here we can all be ourselves.” In the beginning, the Fettigs had a hard time getting their son Craig to talk about the death of his brother.

“We finally got Craig to open up, and that was here. I’m not sure we could have gotten that done anywhere else. It’s a feeling of safeness here,” Fettig said.

When Jon Fettig first told his father he was deploying, his father was awestruck with his patriotism. He told his son, “Jon, this is not for the weekend; this is real. This is something you might not come back from.”

His son replied, “Dad, I have to go. I’ve trained for this for 12 years. It’s my duty.”

North Dakota TAPS attendee Sheila Richter also was proud yet resistant to the idea of her son joining the military. Her son, Sgt. Travis Van Zoest, came to her at 17 and said, “Mom, it’s my job. There’s people that can’t do it, and I want to do it for my country.”

He joined after Sept. 11, 2001, because he wanted to make a difference in the world. The last photo she got from him was him posing with two Afghani boys. Van Zoest called home three days before he was killed in action by an improvised explosive device on June 6, 2006, and told her he was enjoying his deployment.

“He joined because he wanted to be part of the military and part of something greater,” Richter said. “He loved his job. All I can do is be proud.”



She said that since the first time she came, she realized it's about people and understanding you're not alone.

"The first year is overwhelming. Then you become part of the North Dakota family," Richter said.

This was her fifth year attending the national TAPS event.

"I look at all the family I have gained throughout the loss. I look at the military family, Gold Star families, the Patriot Guard and all those I've met; they've now become part of my family," she said.

"It's almost like a family reunion, especially with the North Dakota people. When I come here, I don't have to put a mask on. At home I feel like I need to do that to be a mom, a wife and with all outside relationships and even when I go out to the grocery store."

She said her advice to others is to just listen.

"There's no certain way to do it. Hugs and just knowing you are there for someone else. If it comes from your heart, and it can be as simple as a look that says that you care. You can always feel that love."

### THERE FOR THE KIDS

Being there for someone is the epitome of what mentors are tasked to do as they become a role model and mentor for the children and young adults going through the Good Grief Camp. This year, a large portion of the North Dakota mentor group was from the same unit that deployed with Jon Fettig.

"I have been able to visit with the mentors from Jon's unit, and it's been a great experience," said Larry Fettig. "They were there with him when I couldn't be."

North Dakota sent more than 10 mentors this year to participate in the Good Grief Camp, which is intended for children directly impacted by the death of a military family member. Mentors connect

one-on-one with their mentees and must either be a military member or directly impacted by the death of a service member.

Amber Myhre, a former Guard member who also deployed in 2003 with the 957th Multi-Role Bridge Company, volunteered her time as a mentor in D.C.

"It was physically draining and, for many of the mentors, also emotionally draining. I think it is so great that these kids have some place to go and talk about what's going on. It's hard to find people to relate to, and these kids can all relate," she said.

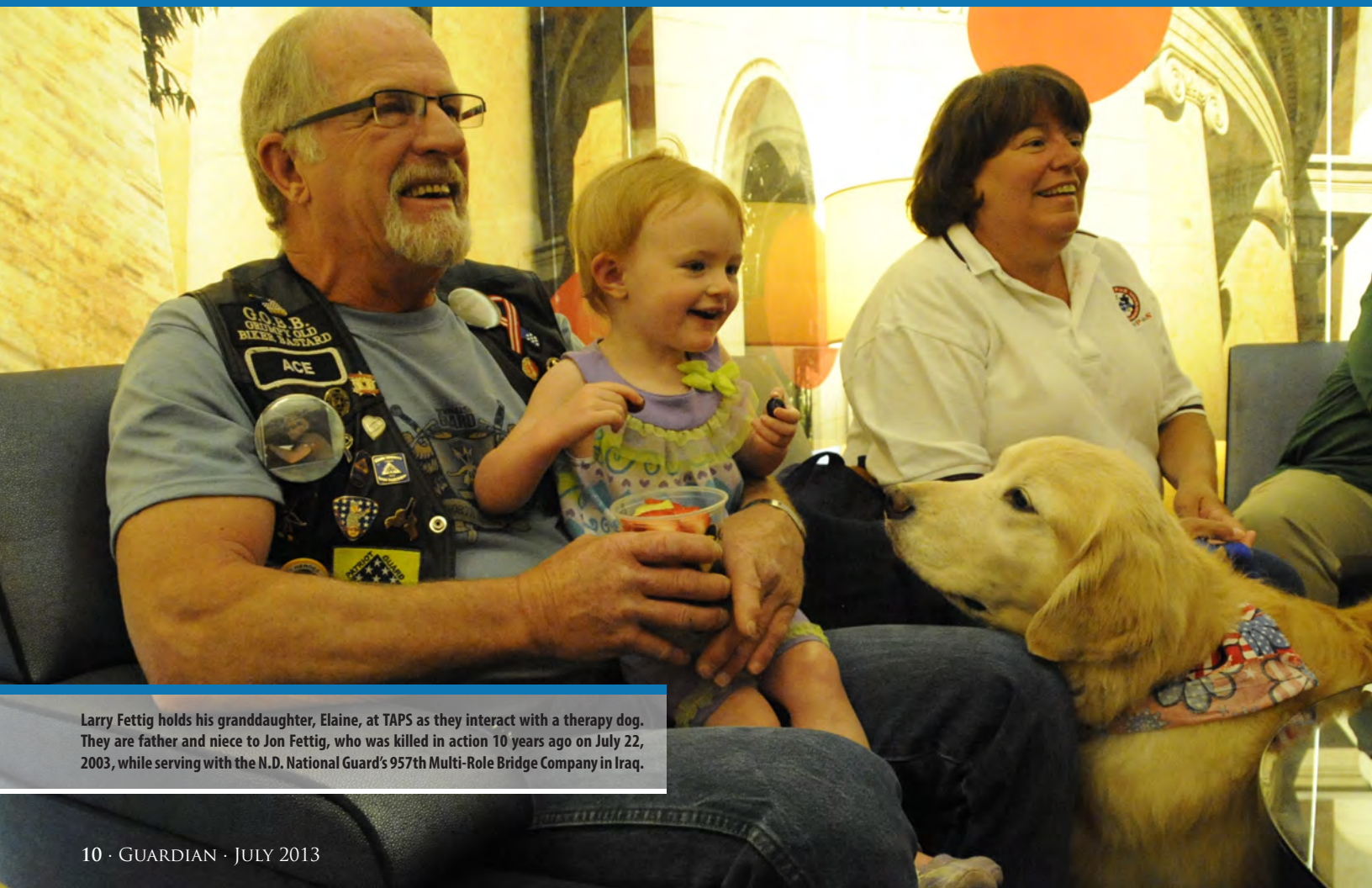
One of Myhre's best friends whom she deployed with in 2003, Brittany Wallace, died by suicide in May 2012 and Wallace's father, husband and four children attended TAPS and Good Grief Camp for the first time this year. Myhre mentored Ryker, 4, Brittany and DJ Wallace's youngest son.

"It was great to be able to bond with Brittany's kids and find out what TAPS is about," she said.

Her favorite event was when Ryker was able to write a letter to his mom that said, "I love you. I miss you." And then he drew a picture of the two of them playing. All of the Good Grief participants put their messages to their loved ones inside balloons and released them into the sky. Ryker and his brother Brandon were able to send their messages off together.

Myhre said she was happy to be able to play and interact with Ryker through the weekend and then will be able to keep that connection after returning to Bismarck and throughout his whole life. It was inspiring to see him open up and talk with other children during the event.

During the Good Grief Camps, children can share information about their parents and talk about their emotions as much or as



Larry Fettig holds his granddaughter, Elaine, at TAPS as they interact with a therapy dog. They are father and niece to Jon Fettig, who was killed in action 10 years ago on July 22, 2003, while serving with the N.D. National Guard's 957th Multi-Role Bridge Company in Iraq.



little as they want.

Capt. Michelle Thompson, who deployed in 2003 with the 957th Multi-Role Bridge Company, also was a Good Grief mentor for the first time this year. She said that sharing depends on age and where the children are at in the grieving process. Expressions vary: “Hi, my name is Davie. My dad died from copper in his back,” or “My daddy’s heart stopped beating, and now he’s in heaven,” or even “My daddy died by suicide.”

“I’m surprised at how much they know and are able to express, but it’s different for all of them,” Thompson said.

She said that the mentor/mentee relationship and experience was very rewarding and she hopes to be able to participate again.

Kayla Passaro was another 957th deployer who has since left the military and now teaches special education. Her mentee, Allen McKenna, has autism and used a framed group photo with a voice message to thank her. “Out of all the mentors I could have gotten, I got the best one. You gave me the best weekend of my life,” he said.

Passaro carries the frame around with her and prizes the meaning behind those words.

“I will never be able to put into words what this trip has done for my soul. I didn’t know how badly I needed this. I love this N.D. Guard family!”

She left a lasting impression on her mentee, and she knows they will keep in touch. Allen’s mom, Lindsey Jones McKenna, posted to Passaro’s Facebook page, “Thank you, Kayla. You brought such happiness to my boy this weekend that I haven’t seen since his dad died. He went to sleep with a smile on his face the other night. How I have missed that! I’m just so happy to see Allen at peace. I am eternally grateful we could be ourselves together again.”

## PART OF THE FAMILY

At both TAPS and Good Grief Camp, whether it’s a participant or a counselor or a family member, it’s apparent that together, it’s one big family, each with their own story to share, their own memory to tell, and their own journey to walk.

During TAPS, Gen. Martin Dempsey, joint chiefs of staff chairman, said, “I appreciate the fact that you come here not just to get something, but to give something. Unfortunately, this family keeps growing. You’re the ones who have sacrificed so we can play the national anthem. No one appreciates and knows the meaning of those words more than you do.”

The national anthem, the stars and the stripes and the red in the flag that matches the sea of T-shirts representing TAPS — all of them are connected; connected to one another and to the flag with their heart and soul. As one TAPS shirt read, “Some people only dream of angels. I held one in my arms.”

“I want people to remember we are still a nation at war. I think about our troops serving all the time. Let’s support them. I’m so proud of what Travis did, and I want people to remember,” Richter said.

That’s what TAPS does. It binds people together through memories and love, as well as loss and heartbreak. What will always endure is that people will remember, and through the shared memories and stories, their love will endure forever. ■

If you’re interested in being a Good Grief mentor, contact Lt. Col. Davina French at 701-333-2268 or [davina.r.french.mil@mail.mil](mailto:davina.r.french.mil@mail.mil).



Amber Myhre (right) serves as a mentor to Ryker Wallace at the 2013 Good Grief Camp for military child survivors as part of a TAPS event in Washington, D.C. Myhre deployed with Wallace’s mother, Brittany Wallace, in 2003 with the N.D. National Guard’s 957th Multi-Role Bridge Company to Iraq. Brittany died a year ago by suicide in Bismarck.



# GUARDIAN

*Snapshots*

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U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Kathleen Stenger kicks a security fence to test it, as Senior Airman Jennifer Marshik, both of the 219th Security Forces Squadron, N.D. Air National Guard, looks on during an exercise in the Minot Air Force Base missile field complex near Minot May 22.

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



A U.S. Air Force UH-1N helicopter, of the 54th Helicopter Squadron, leads members of the 91st Missile Security Forces Squadron and the 219th Security Forces Squadron as they advance to prevent a simulated assault on a missile launch facility during an intense but routine exercise May 22 in the Minot Air Force Base missile field complex near Minot. The exercise is significant because it is a final step in the complete integration of the U.S. Air Force active-duty forces of the 91st Missile Security Forces Group and the Air National Guard's 219th Security Forces Squadron. The missile field complex covers 8,500 square miles in North Dakota, and the Air National Guard members are interchangeable with the active-duty personnel in the security mission throughout the complex.

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



Senior Airman Jennifer Marshik, of the 219th Security Forces Squadron, opens a controlled launch facility access gate.

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



U.S. Air Force security members of the 91st Missile Security Forces Squadron and the 219th Security Forces Squadron advance to prevent a simulated assault on a missile launch facility during the May 22 exercise.

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





**Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. adjutant general, left, and Lt. Col. Tad Schauer, 219th Security Forces Squadron commander, N.D. Air National Guard, view and discuss the ongoing missile field complex exercise May 22 at Minot Air Force Base.**

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



**Staff Sgt. Joshua Showers, of the 791st Missile Security Forces Squadron, takes a defensive posture at a missile launch facility during the ongoing missile field complex exercise May 22 at Minot Air Force Base.**

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



**U.S. Air Force security members of the 91st Missile Security Forces Squadron and the 219th Security Forces Squadron advance to prevent a simulated assault on a missile launch facility during the May 22 exercise.**

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



**Staff Sgt. Kelly Schmidt, of Fargo, conducts a class on improvised explosive devices for his fellow Soldiers in the N.D. Army National Guard's 191st Military Police Company June 11 at Camp Grafton Training Center, Devils Lake.**

Photo by Spc. Kimberly Stensaker, 191st Military Police Company



**Spc. Tanner Stubstad, of Bismarck, calls out directions June 5 at Camp Grafton Training Center while taking part in 15 days of annual training with the N.D. Army National Guard's 191st Military Police Company.**

Photo by Spc. Lucas Zabka, 191st Military Police Company





Sgt. 1st Class Duane Rubbelke, of Devils Lake, drives a MW24C Loader across a Dry Support Bridge as Staff Sgt. Joshua Haugen, of Crary, guides him June 20. The N.D. Army National Guard Soldiers are helping to expand Camp Grafton Training Center's bridge park, which is used to train engineers from across the United States.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Paul Deegan, 164th Regional Training Institute



Brig. Gen. David Anderson (left), N.D. National Guard Army Component commander, congratulates Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp after presenting him with an Army Achievement Medal on June 21 at the U.S. Bank Plaza in downtown Fargo.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Amy Wieser Willson, N.D. National Guard Public Affairs



The N.D. National Guard 188th Army Band's Clarion of Freedom ensemble plays for community members during a June 21 lunchtime concert in downtown Fargo. The Soldiers — as part of their two-week annual training — shared musical talents with community members in three public concerts in June. The group performs a variety of patriotic pieces, traditional songs and marches.

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



Blake Murphy (right) is sworn in as a member of the N.D. Army National Guard June 27 by his dad, Capt. Dan Murphy, at the Fargo Military Entrance Processing Station. Capt. Murphy serves as the N.D. National Guard's public information officer.

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

# GUARDIAN Snapshots



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# THE GUARD FAMILY

Story and photo by Sgt. 1st Class Billie Jo Lorius  
N.D. National Guard Public Affairs

Imagine sitting down to a big family meal and you look around to be faced with not only family members, but your military family as well. The family you grew up with has many of the same family members that you acquired through warrior training, military schools and your job. Knowing these families are one in the same is what it's like for a Beck in the military.

Master Sgt. David Beck recently retired from his full-time military career after 26 years of service. The crowd that gathered to pay honor to his service knew full well what the military is all about.

"We know the Guard is a family. Here you have a family that is the Guard," said Brig. Gen. David Anderson, Army component commander for the N.D. National Guard. "Master Sgt. Beck has done an outstanding job as a recruiter for the organization as well as leading a team of excellent recruiters. All of the years he has given to the N.D. National Guard, as well as the rest of his family, has made us a better organization"

Beck's brother, Dennis, served 24 years in the military and retired a few years ago. Another brother, Jerome, served 20 years before retiring. A fourth brother, Master Sgt. Marvin Beck, works full time for the N.D. Guard's Recruiting office. Marvin has served 19 years and his wife, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Kerry Beck, has spent 18 years in the N.D. National Guard.

All of the Beck brothers spent the majority of their military service recruiting for the Guard.

David has a list of extended family members who also served or still serve. His father-in-law, Ralph Messmer, spent six years in the Guard. Two of David's brothers-in-law, Sgt. 1st Class Brian Messmer and Staff Sgt. William Miller, have 19 and 11 years of military service, respectively, and both work full time with the Guard's Civil Support Team. Brian's wife, Angela Messmer, spent six years in the Air Force, as well. Beck's niece, Maari, recently decided to join the Guard family, too.

All of this time totaled, Beck's family is one year shy of 150 years of military service.

During his tenure with recruiting, David brought more than 350 people into the Guard.

"I'll never stop recruiting for the Guard. It's something that's in me," he said. "It's about giving young men and women the chance to become part of a great organization and build a solid foundation for their future." ■



Brig. Gen. David Anderson (right), N.D. National Guard chief of staff, congratulates Master Sgt. Dennis Beck upon his retirement from the Guard after 24 years of service. Looking on is Beck's wife, Jane.

# FISHING WITH FRIENDS

Story and photo by Sgt. Sara Marchus  
116th Public Affairs Detachment

The N.D. National Guard Child and Youth Program hosted its second Fish Camp at Camp of the Cross, just outside of Garrison, June 10-14.

This year, 24 military youths attended, which was an increase from last year. Others taking part were staff from the N.D. Game and Fish Department, Lure 'Em for Life volunteers and Dee LaMay, owner of Innovative Teambuilding.

"The National Guard Fish Camp is unique because the campers are exposed to learning life skills with multi-generational leadership in a beautiful setting, while the major emphasis is developing strong values to be better individuals, friends and citizens," LaMay said.

Game and Fish staff and Lure 'Em for Life volunteers educated young campers on a variety of topics, including water safety, proper life jacket wear and fishing and boating regulations. Campers also were taught how to catch, identify, and clean fish.

In addition, children were able to enjoy projects, such as fish painting and making lures, spinners, leaders, jigs and even "lure earrings." This year, the Game and Fish staff also incorporated archery into the curriculum.

Lure 'Em for Life is a nonprofit organization made up of N.D. Game and Fish volunteers with the mission to provide fishing and aquatic education. This year, Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. adjutant general, awarded Lure 'Em for Life the Community Purple award — an award given to a community group or organization that best exemplifies the true meaning of the purple concept, by working with both Air and Army Guard activities.

Myles Zacher caught the biggest walleye at 26.5 inches and nearly 8 pounds. The catch earned him a membership into the Game and Fish Department's "Whopper Club." Hannah Miller took home the "Fish Award" for her energetic and enthusiastic fishing involvement, and Hunter Baer earned the "Best Camper Award" for his overall effort and attitude during camp.

"This year's fish camp went awesome. It appeared that all of the kids fully enjoyed themselves and are already eager for next year's camp," said Nicole Cook, N.D. National Guard Child and Youth Coordinator.

For information about next year's camp or other military Youth Program activities, contact Beth Sandeen or Nicole Cook, child and youth program coordinators at 701-451-6109 or 701-333-4822. ■



Madeline Miller shows off her catch June 12 on Lake Sakakawea during the 2013 Military Youth Fish Camp. This year, 24 youths attended the event at Camp of the Cross, just outside of Garrison.



# FROM AFGHANISTAN, WITH THANKS

## Airman Skypes with Supportive Preschoolers

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

Even adults sleep in bunk beds when they deploy to Afghanistan.

That's one of the connections that the preschool class at A Child's World, in Fargo, made when visiting via Skype with Master Sgt. Joshua Clarke.

"I'm Josh. I'm Wyatt's dad," he said to the room full of preschoolers dressed in red, white and blue — including a waving Wyatt, 3, in the front row. "I'm calling from Bagram, Afghanistan, and that's halfway around the world from North Dakota."

Clarke, who deployed in March with nearly 30 other members of the 119th Security Forces Squadron, thanked the YWCA Cass Clay class from the laptop screen.

The preschoolers have been supporting the deployed Airmen as well as the Clarke family, which also includes mom, Rachel, who works at the YWCA, and big sister Aubrey, who has been writing

letters to her dad and the other Airmen along with her elementary school-aged classmates.

"Because Wyatt has talked so much about his dad being gone in the military, they really support us," Rachel said.

Earlier this year, the class colored flags. Wyatt's made its way over to Afghanistan and soon was the center of a re-enlistment ceremony when no other flag was available for the oath.

The class also sent care packages to the deployed Airmen. They giggled excitedly as Clarke mentioned that the Airmen's favorite treat from the boxes was the fruit roll-ups.

"One of my big jobs here is to make sure that all of the Airmen I'm here with are taken care of," Clarke told the kids as he thanked them for their help.

He also talked about life in Afghanistan, from the weather to the time difference to the meals.

"I can get breakfast anytime of the day I want — Cheerios, stuff like that — any time of the day," Clarke said to the kids.

Clarke and his fellow Airmen are expected to give up the bunk beds and return home this fall. ■



“I’M CALLING FROM BAGRAM,  
AFGHANISTAN, AND THAT’S  
HALFWAY AROUND THE WORLD  
FROM NORTH DAKOTA.”

— Master Sgt. Joshua Clarke, of the 119th Security Forces Squadron, speaking with preschoolers via Skype.

(Left, top) Rachel Clarke, associate executive director of the Fargo YWCA, adjusts a laptop computer so her son, Wyatt (in hat) and his class of fellow preschoolers at the YWCA Cass Clay can see Master Sgt. Josh Clarke, of the 119th Security Forces Squadron, N.D. Air National Guard, at his deployed location in Afghanistan via Skype May 23. Master Sgt. Clarke is the husband of Rachel Clarke and the father of Wyatt. (Left, bottom) N.D. Air National Guard members serving in Afghanistan with the 119th Security Forces Squadron show their excitement at receiving a care package from children at A Child's World by the YWCA Cass Clay. Expressing their appreciation to the kids are (from left) Senior Airman Cody Rahlf, Senior Airman Dan Kelly, Staff Sgt. Kellynn Johnston and Master Sgt. Grant Lonski.





# SECURING AFGHANISTAN

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



(Top) Wyatt Clarke, son of Master Sgt. Josh and Rachel Clarke, points to the flag he made along with his class at A Child's World. The flag was used during a re-enlistment ceremony in Afghanistan. (Bottom) Master Sgt. Josh Clarke displays the flag his son, Wyatt, colored for him. Clarke is one of about 30 N.D. Air National Guard security forces members who deployed to Afghanistan in March.

Since leaving in March for Afghanistan, 28 members of the 119th Security Forces Squadron have been busy providing a variety of security details across the country.

The flyaway security team, for example, ensures security for the C-130 cargo aircraft, crews and passengers.

"We are conducting missions all over Afghanistan and neighboring countries at public airports in some locations, while other locations are out in the middle of nowhere at little FOBs (forward operating bases) next to a village," said Staff Sgt. Andrew Frovarp, assistant noncommissioned officer in charge of the team.

Master Sgt. Grant Lonski leads the team, which works 24/7 to respond to everything from routine missions to emergencies, such as a 747 plane crash earlier this year.

A second team from the 119th, which is led by Tech. Sgt. Michael Bittner, provides base-area security, while Master Sgt. Joshua Clarke heads up the Headquarters Squad and oversees the Fargo-based group.

The 119th Security Forces Squadron members are expected to be home by October. ■



# HOUSE RULES

By Staff Sgt. Eric Jungels  
N.D. National Guard Public Affairs

NORTH DAKOTA'S 2013 LEGISLATIVE SESSION IS IN THE BOOKS.  
WHICH LAW CHANGES MAY AFFECT YOU?

"We set out to ensure our Airmen, Soldiers and all veterans and families continue to receive the support of our state government, and our community more generally," Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. adjutant general, said.

N.D. National Guard leaders were active in the first half of 2013, sharing information and concerns with N.D. lawmakers who convened for a busy legislative session at the Capitol in Bismarck, Jan. 8 through May 4.

"We're grateful that N.D. lawmakers understand the important role the N.D. National Guard plays in supporting and protecting the citizens, property and interests of our great state," Sprynczynatyk said. "Likewise, the recent session proves that our civilian leaders are dedicated to making changes to the law that protect and support Guardsmen in return."

Sprynczynatyk provided key testimony for a number of bills that have an impact on the sustainment, readiness and wellness of the N.D. National Guard and its members. The most critical bill for which Sprynczynatyk testified during the session — an appropriations bill that covers National Guard and Department of Emergency Services expenses — provides funding for tuition assistance, military service centers in Fargo and Bismarck, a veterans' bonus program, and a military outreach team.

Maj. Michelle Hagel, N.D. National Guard judge advocate, and Lt. Col. Davina French, N.D. National Guard government affairs officer, spent countless hours providing lawmakers and leaders with critical information as bills were crafted, refined and ultimately passed during the last year. Hagel, who wrote more than a dozen bills in the past year, said lawmakers were interested in hearing input from National Guard members.

"We're pleased with the outcome of the busy and successful legislative session," Hagel said. "We hope to continue making progress on quality of life issues for service members and their families during the next session." ■

**Hagel recently sat down to discuss a number of bills that were passed in 2013. For each bill, she shared a little bit about how the bill will affect current and former Guard members and their families.**



# BILL

# HOW DOES THIS BILL AFFECT YOU?

## **State Active Duty Pay Enhancement**

*House Bill 1056*

<http://bit.ly/HB-1056>

Hagel: "Each member of the N.D. National Guard will receive a 'pay enhancement' of \$100 for every 14 consecutive days spent on State Active Duty. If you spend 30 days on flood duty, expect an extra \$200 in pay."

## **Job Protection of Emergency Responders**

*Senate Bill 2062*

<http://bit.ly/SB-2062>

Hagel: "An employer may not terminate or demote an employee who performs State Active Duty in support of a disaster or emergency. Your job needs to be waiting for you when you return from fighting floods."

## **Resident Tuition for Dependents**

*House Bill 1104*

<http://bit.ly/HB-1104>

Hagel: "Spouses and dependents of N.D. National Guard members, who live outside of North Dakota, may qualify for resident tuition at N.D. state schools."

## **Gold Star, POW and DAV License Plates**

*House Bill 1205 and Senate Bill 2120*

<http://bit.ly/HB-1205-SB-2120>

Hagel: "The \$25 fee for specialized Gold Star and POW license plates are now waived. Those who have DAV license plates are now allowed to park in handicapped designated parking spaces."

## **UCMJ Updates\***

*Senate Bill 2073*

<http://bit.ly/SB-2073>

Hagel: "Guardsmen no longer have the option to demand a courts-martial upon receiving a state Article 15." (See below for more information.)

## **National Guard License Plates for Motorcycles**

*Senate Bill 2073*

<http://bit.ly/SB-2073>

Hagel: "Those who are eligible for a N.D. National Guard license plate will soon be able to obtain National Guard license plates for motorcycles."

## **Identification of Agent Orange**

*House Bill 1405*

<http://bit.ly/HB-1405>

Hagel: "Funding was provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs to assist in the identification of N.D. veterans exposed to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War."

## **Fishing License Fees for Disabled**

*House Bill 1434*

<http://bit.ly/HB-1434>

Hagel: "Resident disabled veterans who have a 50 percent or higher service-connected disability are eligible to obtain a resident fishing license for \$5."

## **Disabled Veterans' Hunting Fees**

*Senate Bill 2242 and House Bill 1161*

<http://bit.ly/SB-2242>

Hagel: "Resident disabled veterans who have a 100 percent service-connected disability are eligible to purchase combined general game, habitat stamp, small game and fur-bearer hunting licenses for \$3."

## **Uniform Deployed Parents Visitation & Custody Act**

*Senate Bill 2122*

<http://bit.ly/SB-2122>

Hagel: "This act provides a process through the court system to establish or transfer visitation rights during the time frame of a deployment. Courts may not consider past, current or future deployments when determining visitation rights."

## **Workforce Safety**

*House Bill 1080*

<http://bit.ly/HB-1080>

Hagel: "This bill closed a gap in Workforce Safety and Insurance coverage and authorizes payment of lost wages when a federal employee is injured on State Active Duty."

\*The N.D. National Guard does not have the resources to conduct a courts-martial for minor offenses, therefore this disciplinary tool was not available to commanders. Since commanders' only options for discipline were minor administrative tools, such as counseling and reprimands, or the most severe action, separation, this Article 15 authority will ensure Soldiers and Airmen are treated fairly by providing the commander with a full range of progressive discipline options.

*Continued on next page...*





## BILL

## HOW DOES THIS BILL AFFECT YOU?

### **Book of N.D. Veterans**

*Senate Bill 2210*

<http://bit.ly/SB-2210>

The adjutant general's office shall initiate and coordinate the writing, publishing and distribution of a record of all N.D. veterans, including a record of all North Dakotans killed or missing in action since statehood.

### **Veterans Upward Bound**

*House Bill 1289 Bill 20*

<http://bit.ly/HB-1289-B-20>

Eligible veterans, who are enrolled at or in the process of enrolling at N.D. institutions of higher education, may receive additional assistance (including grants) from the N.D. Department of Veterans Affairs.

### **Military Children Compact**

*House Bill 1293*

<http://bit.ly/HB-1293>

Children of Title 10 military families will face fewer barriers to educational success due to frequent moves and deployments of their parents. Timely enrollment, flexible scheduling and on-time graduation will be facilitated.

### **Veterans Homestead Tax Credit**

*House Bill 1306*

<http://bit.ly/HB-1306-B-3>

Effective for most homes Dec. 31, 2012, the property tax exception limit for disabled veterans is increased from \$120,000 full and true (\$5,400 taxable value) to \$150,000 (\$6,750 taxable value).

### **Professional Licensure of Military Spouses**

*House Bill 1246*

<http://bit.ly/HB-1246>

Spouses of military personnel stationed in North Dakota may be eligible to obtain temporary or provisional professional licences to practice in the state.

### **Free Tuition for Surviving Dependents**

*House Bill 1219 Bill 6 & 12*

<http://bit.ly/HB-1219-B-6-12>

Eligible dependents are allowed to obtain a bachelor's degree or certificate of completion through N.D. state schools free of charge if a veteran with 100% service-connected disability dies before the dependent enrolls in school.

### **PTSD Service Dogs and Alternative Treatments**

*House Bill 1424 Bill 19 & Senate Bill 2344*

<http://bit.ly/HB-1424> and <http://bit.ly/SB-2344>

Funds are available to cover the costs incurred by the N.D. Department of Veterans Affairs in training service dogs to assist N.D. veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder. Nontraditional treatments for PTSD will be studied, and the need for a comprehensive care system for individuals with traumatic brain injury will be assessed.



# FROM MECHANIC TO CHAPLAIN

Story by Spc. Nicole Frohlich, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 112th Aviation Regiment

The N.D. Army National Guard recently welcomed 1st Lt. Scott E. Noyes, of Ulen, Minn., as its newest chaplain. Noyes — who serves with Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 1st Battalion, 112th Aviation Battalion (Security and Support) — officially joined the Chaplain Corps during a June 12 ceremony at the Raymond J. Bohn Armory in Bismarck.

Noyes' sons, Andrew and Dawson, had the honor of pinning the cross on their dad's dress uniform as Noyes'

daughter, Kaylee, and wife, Donna, watched. They were joined by several other friends and family members, including Noyes' parents, Bob and Judy Possen, of West Fargo, N.D.; brother Rob Noyes, of Moorhead, Minn.; Pastor Bryan Ornquist; and Allen Russell, Noyes' endorser, and Russell's wife, Carol.

"I am very excited to welcome Chaplain Noyes into the Chaplaincy Corps. He has worked long and hard to get this point, and I have no doubt that he will serve the men and women of the N.D. National Guard very well," said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) David Johnson, N.D. National Guard staff chaplain.

Noyes completed a graduate degree in Christian ministries from Liberty University, Va., in December 2012.

"It means many things to receive my cross," he said. "It's a confirmation of completion as I move forward after being a chaplain candidate for so long. It's also a great reflection of all the people that helped and lent support to get to this accomplishment."

Noyes enlisted in the Guard in 2000 and served as a light-wheel vehicle mechanic in Devils Lake, N.D., prior to serving as a chaplain candidate.

"It was a calling. I did not choose to become a chaplain, I was called," he said. "I look forward to what the future holds."

Noyes will assume his religious leadership role with the 136th Combat Service Support Battalion in August.

"I am excited about what God's got planned. I will miss aviation, as that has been my family since 2008, but God has great plans," he said. ■



Photo by Spc. Nicole Frohlich  
Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 112th Aviation Regiment

**Andrew and Dawson Noyes pin a cross on the uniform of their father, 1st Lt. Scott E. Noyes, June 12 at the Raymond J. Bohn Armory in Bismarck. Noyes, of Ulen, Minn., was welcomed as the newest chaplain in the N.D. National Guard during a ceremony there.**

**SUBMISSION  
UPAR  
OF THE MONTH**

Are you a Unit Public Affairs Representative (UPAR)? Submit your stories and photos to the N.D. Guardian! Email Microsoft Word documents or PDFs and high-resolution photos to Staff Sgt. Eric Jungels at [eric.p.jungels.mil@mail.mil](mailto:eric.p.jungels.mil@mail.mil).

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## Annual Fundraiser Provides \$20,000 for Military Families

The tenth year of an annual fundraising event to support families of those serving in the military turned into the biggest yet. The Remember Our Serving Soldiers, or R.O.S.S. fundraiser, hosted by VFW Post 7564 in West Fargo brought in nearly \$20,000.

The money from the event — which included a steak fry, silent auction, lunch and raffle — will be divided amongst the family readiness groups connected to local military units, including the 119th Wing of the N.D. Air National Guard, the U.S. Navy Reserve and a number

of N.D. Army National Guard units: Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 141st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade; Company A, 231st Brigade Support Battalion; Company B, 231st Brigade Support Battalion; Battery C, 1st Battalion, 188th Air Defense Artillery Regiment; 188th Army Band, 191st Military Police Company; and 426th Signal Network Support Company.

Since the R.O.S.S. event began 10 years ago, the fundraiser has brought in more than \$100,000. ■

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



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class David Dodds, 141st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade  
Joyce and Charlie Weible, Mike Wersma, and Bill Tuff, all of whom serve with the West Fargo VFW and its auxiliary, present a check for nearly \$20,000 to Col. Giselle Wilz, 141st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade commander. The money was raised in an annual fundraiser called R.O.S.S. (Remember Our Serving Soldiers) that benefits local family readiness groups for the N.D. (Army and Air) National Guard and U.S. Naval Reserve.

## Guardsmen Support Cavalier During Brief Flood Mission

Within 12 hours of getting a call from their N.D. National Guard units, as many as 70 Guardsmen from communities across eastern N.D. were on duty in Cavalier in late May. They worked rotating 12-hour shifts to support the community, which had evacuated the night before after significant rainfall threatened the stability of the Renwick Dam on the Tongue River.

At five entrance points to the city, N.D. Guardsmen joined with the Highway Patrol and U.S. Customs and Border Protection to provide security, information and some traffic control for the city of about 1,300.

Beyond the law enforcement support, the N.D. National Guard provided three UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters that were on standby to place 1-ton sandbags and conduct potential search-and-rescue missions.

The flood mission in Cavalier wrapped up in less than a week with no incidents thanks to receding water levels. ■

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



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp, 119th Wing  
Spc. Brandon Nelson, left, and Spc. Fredrick Burdick, of the N.D. National Guard's 3662nd Maintenance Company, are positioned at a traffic control point on the outskirts of Cavalier to inform motorists that roads are closed in the town due to an evacuation caused by the threat of severe flooding May 22.

## Soldier Receives Prestigious Leadership Award at BOLC

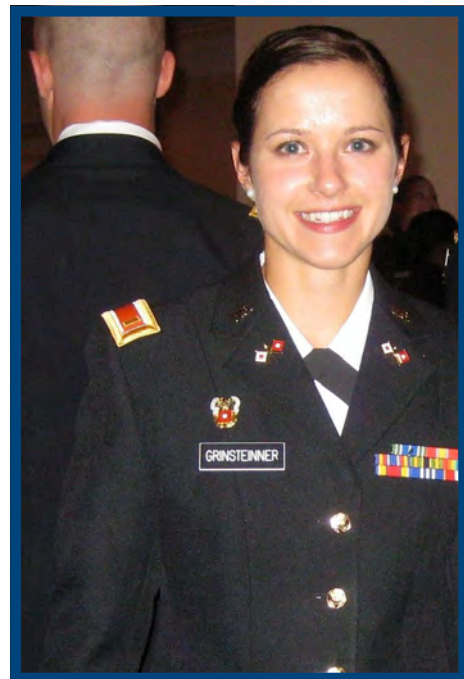
Second Lt. Leah Grinsteinner recently received the elite U.S. Army's Signal Corps Kilbourne Leadership Award. Named after Maj. Gen. Charles Kilbourne Jr., the award is one of the highest a signal officer can receive from the Signal Basic Officer Leadership Course.

Newly commissioned Grinsteinner received the award after graduating from the 20-week Signal Corps course. The training is designed to challenge as well as develop leadership skills in junior and staff officers. It focuses on professional development within the high-tech network systems and communication fields of the Army.

The Kilbourne Leadership Award is given to the officer who exemplifies the highest standards of military leadership. The officer is peer-nominated and board-selected on the basis of academics, physical fitness and leadership scores. During the multi-day process of selection, the candidate is tested on a variety of skill sets.

Grinsteinner, who serves in the N.D. Army National Guard's 426th Signal Network Support Company in Fargo, enlisted in the Guard July 2, 2008, and was commissioned Aug. 18, 2012. ■

— By Sgt. Chris Bohn  
426th Signal Network Support Company



Contributed photo  
N.D. Army National Guard's 2nd Lt. Leah Grinsteinner, Fargo, recently received the prestigious Kilbourne Award for her performance during the Signal Basic Officer Leadership Course. She is assigned to the Fargo-based 426th Signal Network Support Company.



# Chaplains' Corner:

# Small BLESSINGS

By Chaplain (Maj.) Leo Moenkedick  
119th Wing

As I write this article, we are enjoying another beautiful warm, sunny and dry day.

As I interact with people, I notice that their disposition has changed as much, and as quickly, as the weather. People who just yesterday were bemoaning the fact that they hadn't yet finished planting, the fields were under water, and the crops were ruined, are today hoping for a bumper crop this fall. Amazing what a little sunshine will do!

In just 24 hours, it can change millions of acres of crops from desperate to healthy, but — even more amazing — it can change an entire community's outlook and disposition.

So why am I writing about the weather? Because the "storms" in our personal lives can have a similar effect on our disposition and outlook on life.

I remember a man in my hometown of Perham, Minn., who always seemed to have a negative outlook. I really believe that if he had won the lottery, he would have been depressed because he would have had to pay more taxes!

Shortly before my ordination, I had the chance to talk to him. I found out that the reason for his depression was that he was in constant pain.

Some storms in our lives push us beyond our ability to function normally. It is simply impossible for us to be happy and pleasant when our personal trials are beyond our ability to cope. Where, or to whom, do we turn at such times for help?

The man I mentioned turned to his own inner strength, but that wasn't enough. The first time I ever saw him smile was

during that conversation. When I asked him about it, he said that during our conversation, he was able to forget the pain for just a little while. I was able to act as a ray of sunshine in his life.

God has filled our lives with small blessings each day. Most of those blessings are the people we meet. A warm greeting and smile can be even more powerful than sunshine in the middle of a rainy spell.

Why not be a blessing to someone today? Better yet — make it a personal goal to brighten someone's day every day with a kind word and a smile. May God send many blessings into your life, and may you be a blessing to many others.

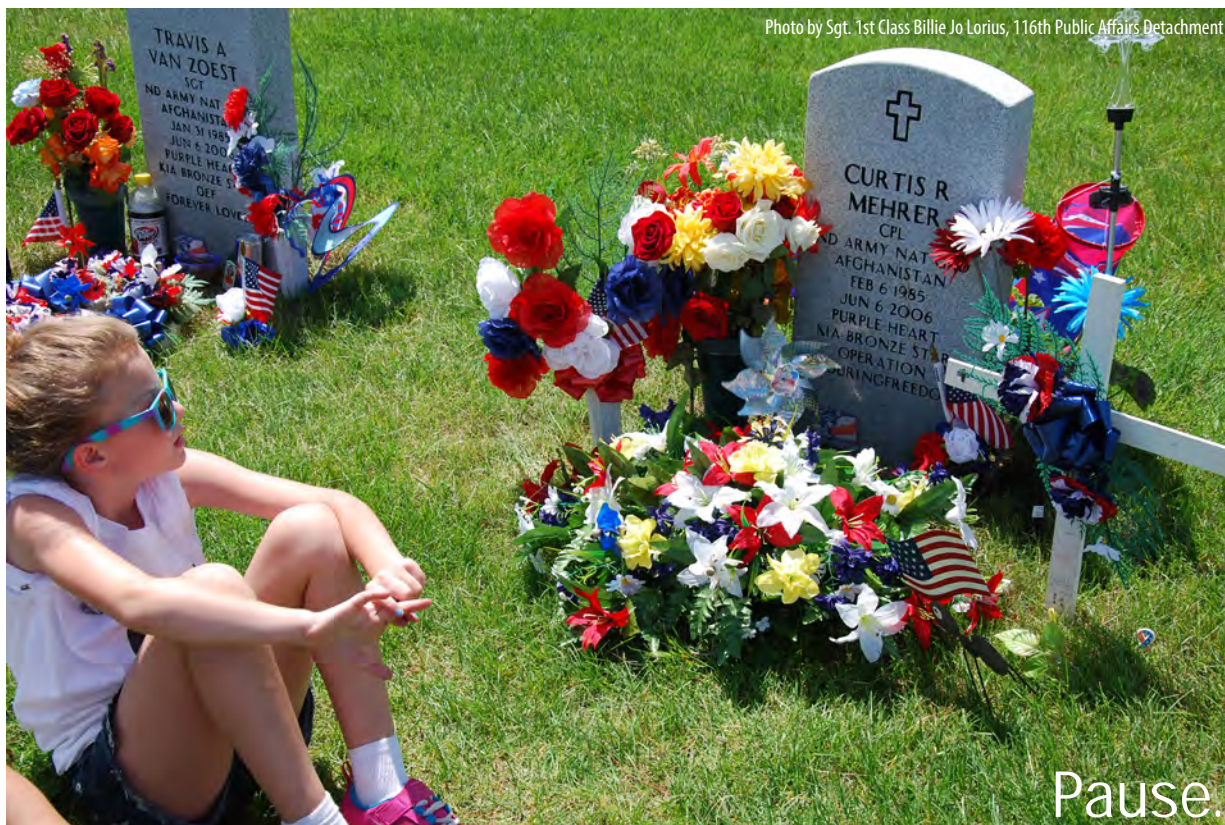


Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Billie Jo Lorius, 116th Public Affairs Detachment

Hailee McCormick, daughter of Cpl. Curtis Mehrer, visits her father's grave after a 9-mile Memorial Road March in Bismarck June 9. Mehrer was killed in action in Afghanistan on June 6, 2006. The memorial march honors service members killed in action in the Global War on Terrorism.

Pause.



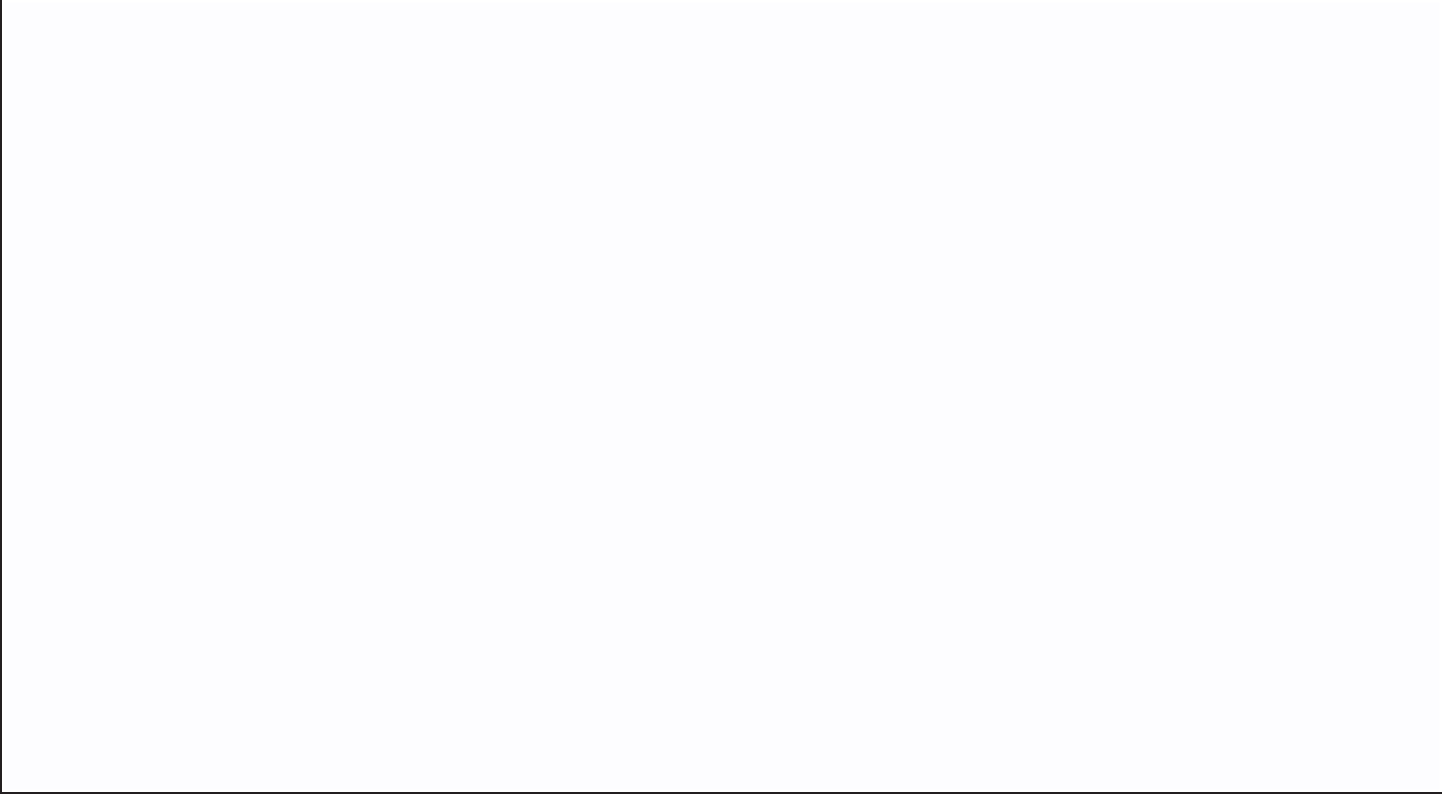


Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp, 119th Wing  
U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Shelly Pherson, of the 119th Logistics Readiness Squadron, right, holds the head of simulated casualty Shelby Moderow, of the 119th Student Flight, as Senior Airman Misty Breland, of the 119th Medical Group, looks on during an operational readiness exercise at the N.D. Air National Guard Base, Fargo, June 7. The exercise trains and tests the unit's ability to mobilize as well as to survive and operate while under attack.