North Dakota Guardian

Volume 6, Issue 7

August 2013

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DEAD ON

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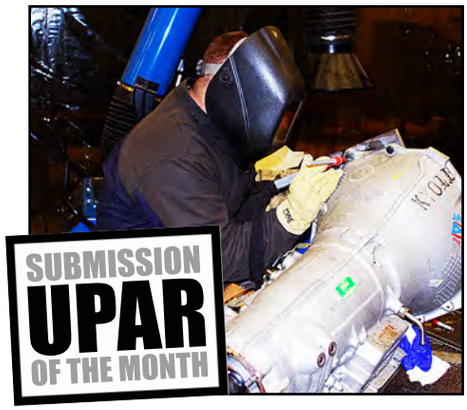
Tech. Sgt. Josh Von Bank, of the 119th Wing, advances to the firing line during the Rifle Excellence-in-Competition portion of the N.D. National Guard's 2013 Adjutant General's Combat Marksmanship Match July 14 at Camp Grafton, South, near Devils Lake. Von Bank and others competed in the state marksmanship event.

10 N.D. Summers the Pits?

Chase Baer, 10, Garrison, and other N.D. youth had a chance to experience the mud pit challenge, an annual favorite, and other activities at the Military Youth Camp near Washburn.



17 The Duece is Loose

Nearly 100 Soldiers with the N.D. Army National Guard's 3662nd Maintenance Company descended on Camp Dodge's Maintenance Training Facility in Johnston, Iowa, to train in their new maintenance roles during annual training in June.

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Digital photos should be 300 dpi, if possible.

On the Cover

Braedon McDonald, 10, West Fargo, tries a unique strategy as he attempts to cross the mud pit July 17 at the Military Youth Camp near Washburn.

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

Guard Posts

Dispatches from the N.D. Guard Family

Maj. Nathan Brenneman

119th Comptroller
Flight Commander

Protecting your Identity

In light of today's technological environment and the vulnerability of your personal information, protecting yourself against fraudulent activity is more important than ever.

If your identity or your credit card is stolen, your military career may be negatively affected. Identity theft may lead to security clearance issues, and it would most certainly impact your personal life as well.

Remain vigilant, review your transaction records, monitor your credit report, and don't assume that using your credit card at a certain location for years means it's okay to become complacent. While it's okay to extend a certain level of trust to well-known vendors, criminals are always looking for ways to make an easy buck, and they have ways of stealing your identity or emptying your bank account through the guise of a credible organization.

Recently, I was contacted by an Airman at a Technical School for the Air Force. He had been deployed for training and — even though he was very careful about keeping his wallet in a safe place while traveling — his personal credit card information was stolen. Even though the cards never left his wallet, the information they contain was scanned using radio frequency identification (RFID) and stolen through a process called wireless identify theft.

The only card that did not get scanned was his government travel card. The reason one card's information remained untouched, we believe, is that the travel card was still in the foil lined security wrapper in which it was shipped.

This can be a valuable lesson — for all of us — to protect our identity with these simple envelopes, which are designed to prevent RFID scanning and allow access to the card information only when payment is required.

Another method that criminals use to steal your information is called skimming. One member of the 119th Wing was the victim of skimming while he was deployed. His government travel card information was stolen by criminals using a small electronic device called a skimmer. The skimmer was discreetly attached to the card reader on a gas station pump that was used by the Airman.

Using blue tooth technology, skimmers can run indefinitely, suck power off the pump itself, and transmit data without the crook ever having to touch it again. They are becoming so high tech that it is nearly impossible to detect them at the pump.

Ways to better protect yourself (though admittedly there is no way to use your card with 100% safety) include paying for gas inside the station instead of at the pump, using the pumps that are closest to the station or where cameras have been placed to monitor unusual activity, and avoiding going to the pumps at night when no attendant is present. Certainly, you should never use an ATM or gas pump if the card reader looks at all suspicious.

Another good way to protect yourself is to scan the Internet to identify the appearance of new skimmers. If you spot one on an ATM or gas pump, notify management. Business owners are required to protect any device that collects personal information, and they can be fined — or even banned from using credit card collection devices — if they are found negligent in allowing these skimmers to be placed.

While skimming can be committed using electronic devices that capture card information, it is very common for skimming to occur on a more basic level. A restaurant server who handles credit cards out of view of customers, for instance, can record credit card numbers and security codes unobtrusively.

The lesson here is that you should always remain weary of your surroundings, keep tabs on your credit cards, and ensure the numbers that appear on your credit card statements match up with the receipts you accumulate throughout the month.

Credit card offers that arrive in the mail can be acquired and used for fraudulent activity too. Get a paper shredder at home or shred junk mail at work, but make sure it gets destroyed before throwing it away.

Finally, as more people report fraud, card issuers can more easily determine where and when information is being stolen and used fraudulently. This helps authorities catch anyone engaging in this type criminal activity.

Remember that there is always someone out there looking to make an easy buck off of innocent victims who are simply minding their own business. Keep safe and keep your information and identity protected!

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UNIQUELY TO MANAGE

GUARDSMAN DEFIES ALL EXPECTATIONS TO MAKE HISTORY ON NATIONAL SCALE

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

Everybody said it would never happen. No drill-status Guardsman would ever pass the extensive tests and strenuous training necessary to control security for the nation's nuclear arsenal.

"Remember when I was told early on that there would never be a traditional Guard member as an FSC (flight security controller)?" Chief Master Sgt. Mike Schreiner, senior enlisted leader for the N.D. Air National Guard's 219th Security Forces Squadron, asked recently. "It's happening."

Meet Tech. Sgt. Kelly Gonzalez — a traditional Airman with the 219th. This summer, she became the first "part-time" Guard member ever to pass the intensive and timely certifications to manage the security of a missile alert facility and its corresponding launch facilities for the Minuteman III weapons system.

That's not just the first ever in Minot, where the 219th is based, or even in North Dakota.

"She will be the first ever in the history of the Air National Guard … and it'll happen here at Minot Air Force Base," said Lt. Col. Tad Schauer, 219th Security Forces Squadron commander.

PROFICIENTLY PREPARED

On a recent overcast day at missile alert facility B-1 near Velva, she moved between camera feeds on multiple computer screens while juggling a handheld radio to communicate with security forces in the field and a landline phone to send reports. After each check, she set an egg timer to ensure no more than five minutes passed without verbal confirmation from the Airmen on the ground.

"All secure," came back the radio report as Gonzalez watched via cameras as her fellow 219th Airmen wrapped up the checks at a nearby launch facility.

She had the day shift, 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., on a four-day stint at the facility with Tech. Sgt. John Chalupa, who also serves in the 219th but as a full-time Guardsman.

Chalupa stood back and watched for a time as Gonzalez took the reins with professional ease, demonstrating the training had prepared her well for her new role.

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

Tech. Sgt. Kelly Gonzalez, of the 219th Security Forces Squadron, N.D. Air National Guard, demonstrates aspects of her duty assignment to Chief Master Sgt. James Gibson, the senior enlisted advisor for the N.D. National Guard, May 21 in the security control center of a missile alert facility in the Minot Air Force Base missile field complex.

She had already completed "pretty in-depth tests," said 1st Sgt. Larry Torres, with the 219th. First, Airmen in the 219th must pass the numerous checks in the Personnel Reliability Program, ensuring everything from good health to responsible money management. Then, verbal and written exams delve into job knowledge and weapons proficiency. Scenario-based testing checks Airmen's practical performance skills. Plus, there's on-the-job training. It all culminates with a duty position evaluation, which Gonzalez completed in June — although the training never ends for Airmen charged with protecting one of the nation's three nuclear missile fields.

"We want to make sure you're the cream of the crop when we send you out," Torres said.

EVER EVOLVING

Since its start May 1, 2007, the 219th has continually breached

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QUALIFIED MISSILE FIELD SECURITY

"THE TOLERANCE FOR MISTAKES IN THE MISSILE COMPLEX IS ZERO. PERFECTION IS THE STANDARD."

— LT. COL. TAD SCHAUER, 219TH SECURITY FORCES SQUADRON COMMANDER

new barriers in what was initially thought possible for Guard members. Gonzalez marks the latest milestone in the mission that's proving invaluable to the active-duty forces at the Minot Air Force Base.

"It's just neat to see the evolution of this unit," said Master Sgt. William Hawley, with the National Guard Bureau's security forces directorate, who recently visited the area to observe the Airmen's operations.

The Air Guardsmen fill in the 24/7 security schedule as they work alongside the active Airmen stationed at the base, ensuring continual coverage of the missile fields. Beyond supplementing the mission, they're providing a consistent presence in an area where active-duty forces move in and out over a period of a few years.

"In the Guard, we work with the same people all the time, so you build that relationship," Chalupa said.

On the active-duty side, he said, they might work with 20 or more FSCs during the same time period a single Guard Airman holds the role.

Many also offer the active-duty forces the knowledge that comes naturally for somebody born and raised in the area, as is the case for many of the Guardsmen. Think about it: How many Airmen from California or Texas have driven on gravel roads? How many fewer have handled a vehicle worth hundreds of thousands of dollars on that same type of road covered in ice as snow blows across it?

Having that "team effort," as Schauer calls it, between active-duty and Guard forces makes sure the Air Force chief of staff's No. 1 priority — that of nuclear deterrence — is upheld with the utmost professionalism.

"The tolerance for mistakes in the missile complex is zero," Schauer said. "Perfection is the standard. If … any errors are made, the magnification of the error is amplified because of the nuclear mission."

That level of perfection is one reason it was believed a "part-time" Guard member could never fulfill the FSC role, which Schauer said is "one of the critical duty positions" for the 219th.

That belief was quickly shelved as a myth, and Schauer cites the N.D. Air National Guard's role in nuclear deterrence through the 1960s and '70s as further proof that the Guard has always been well-suited for the mission.

"We were told at the onset of this mission that the Air National Guard would never be able to perform flight security controller duties, let alone have a drill-status Guardsman as a flight security controller," Schauer said.

Now, as Gonzalez has assumed that role, the team is already looking forward to the next milestones on the horizon.

"It's kind of exciting just to think that before they said this would never happen — that there would never be an Air Guardsman as an FSC — but here I am," she said. "It's pretty exciting."

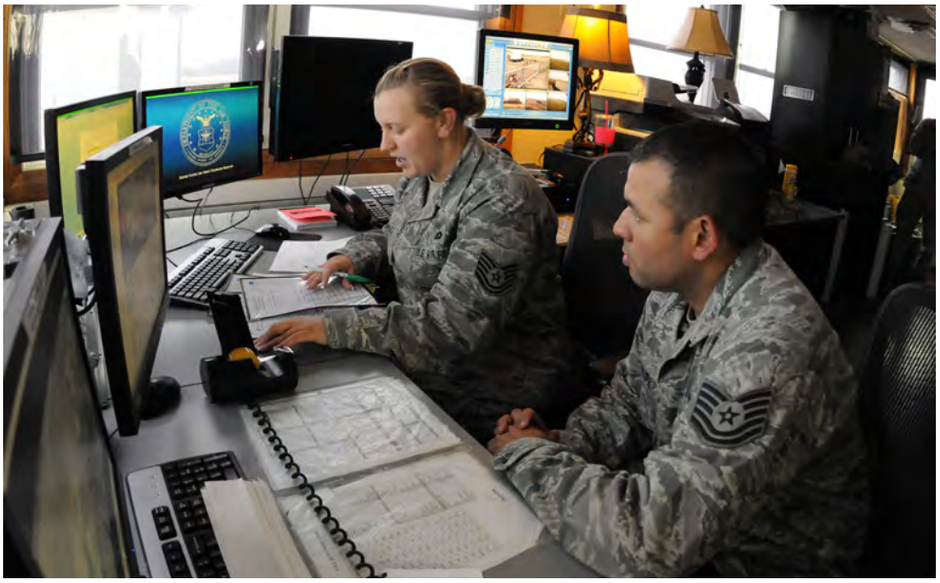

Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp, 119th Wing

Tech. Sgt. Kelly Gonzalez, left, and Tech. Sgt. John Chalupa, both of the 219th Security Forces Squadron, N.D. Air National Guard, monitor security activity in the security control center of a missile alert facility in the Minot Air Force Base missile field complex May 21. The missile field complex covers 8,500 square miles in North Dakota.

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MOVE & SHOOT

MARKSMEN BLAST THROUGH STATE COMPETITION WITH PRACTICE, DISCIPLINED SHOOTING

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Eric Jensen
Joint Force Headquarters

Repetition is a good game plan for any competitive marksman. Melding shooting fundamentals together — aiming center mass, breathing control, trigger squeeze — achieves accuracy and points by being exercised again and again. There was some repetition this year at the N.D. National Guard's 2013 Adjutant General's Combat Marksmanship Match July 12-14. After more than 14,000 rounds of varying calibers had been fired down range at Camp Grafton Training Center, a perennial-winning team of shooters from Jamestown had again come out on top.

The 817th Engineer Company (Sapper) has led the competition for several consecutive years. Team members Sgt. Evan Messer, of Fargo; Spc. Tyrel Hoppe, of Horace; Spc. Bryce Solie, of Fertile, Minn.; and Spc. Andrew Maley, of Fargo used disciplined repetition and adhered to the old adage of "practice make perfect."

BUILDING A MARKSMAN

Messer, who also was the overall top individual shooter this year, said his team logs as much time as they can behind their weapons before competition, whether it's on the shooting range or in their own backyards.

"We practice as much as we can. Getting together and having team practices is really difficult because, obviously, we all have a lot going on outside of the Guard," he said. "With conflicting schedules, it's rare that we actually get together and practice as a team. When we are able to get together, whether it's on a weekend or after work during the week, we take advantage of that."

Tech Sgt. Josh Von Bank, who shoots with a team from the N.D. Air National Guard, is the marksmanship program manager for the 119th Wing. The Air Guard's shooters have been competing with their Army counterparts at the state-level competition for the last four years. This year, Von Bank, along with revered and legendary marksman Sgt. 1st Class Gary Varberg, of the 817th Engineer Company, coached a joint team at the U.S. Small Arms Championship, or "All-Army" competition, in Fort Benning, Ga. The team, comprised of Messer, Hoppe, Spc. Christopher Lundberg, also of the 817th, and Master Sgt. Brian Rook, of the 119th Wing, was named third best in the entire U.S. Army after competing in a series of matches. Von Bank said the value of practice cannot be understated to be successful at various marksmanship competitions.

"Every day my guys are on orders, they've probably given three days in personal time for practice," Von Bank said. "It's time-consuming, more than anything. You have to be a proactive individual."

Messer notes there is a difference between firing during a typical yearly unit qualification and a marksmanship competition. Shooters rack up points using outlined silhouette targets during matches opposed to the familiar "pop-up" targets seen at Camp Grafton's range.

"You can qualify all you want. Everybody can hit a pop-up target, but hitting on scoring rings, there's only a few that can hit that 'X' or that five-ring from a distance," he said.

That shouldn't discourage new shooters from taking part in competition, though. Those who are involved in the marksmanship competition said that new shooters gain skill and increase performance by participating.

"It's a challenge for units to get their guys here, both Army and Air. But, there's a lot of return for it. The morale, the camaraderie is a large part," Von Bank said. "I think any unit that sends individuals here, especially if they do well . . . I know it helps with qualifications. You're building better Soldiers and Airmen and building a better marksman."

GETTING A 'LEG UP'

Lt. Col. Stephen Herda, who has participated in marksmanship events with the N.D. National Guard during the past 14 years and was officer-in-charge at this year's range, said the benefit to units goes beyond developing qualified marksmen. The N.D. National Guard's Marksmanship Program also develops quality trainers.

Sgt. Evan Messer, of the 817th Engineer Company, takes aim during the Rifle Excellence-in-Competition portion of the N.D. National Guard's 2013 Adjutant General's Combat Marksmanship Match July 13 at Camp Grafton Training Center, South, near Devils Lake.

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Tech Sgt. Dana Dabbert, of the 119th Wing, admires his handiwork after firing in the Pistol Excellence-in-Competition portion of the N.D. National Guard's 2013 Adjutant General's Combat Marksmanship Match at Camp Grafton Training Center, South, near Devils Lake, July 14.

"One other function of the competition, that we started last year, is being able to host range-certification training (at Camp Grafton)," he said. "Anyone who goes through the course can become a range safety officer or officer-in-charge at firing ranges when their unit does marksmanship training. That frees up the unit from having to coordinate that training."

For competition, typically, a marksmanship team at the state level needs to consist of two veteran shooters, along with two novices, or first-time shooters. Messer said his team seeks out new competitors to develop into superior marksmen each year. But, shooting on a team is not required for participation. Herda said anyone can participate in the Rifle and Pistol Excellence-in-Competition matches. The events yield "leg points" for the top 10 percent of shooters at a competition.

"EIC matches are open for anyone to come and shoot," Herda said. "We strongly encourage individual competitors to come up (to Camp) and do that because it will help us to award additional leg points to the top shooters."

Compounded leg points earned at state, regional and national competitions can go toward earning coveted Distinguished Rifle or Pistol badges. The designations are shared by an elite few. According to a U.S. Army news article published in 2009, about 3,275 Soldiers have earned the Distinguished Rifle badge since the award's inception and 1,740 Soldiers have earned the Distinguished Pistol badge. About 392 Soldiers have been awarded both badges, including Varberg. Messer is well on his way, with only eight points left to acquire through pistol competitions. His sights are set on firing his way to a "Double Distinguished" designation this year.

"I think it's definitely achievable. I just have to stay focused and keep practicing, get my scores up and keep my head in the game," he said.

SAFE SHOOTING

During June's Adjutant General's State Marksmanship Match, the group of nearly 50 Air and Army Guard shooters certainly met some challenges that required them to "keep their heads in the game." Herda said the competition got off to a rocky start when personnel running the firing ranges realized they had brought the wrong pistol targets for the Excellence-in-Competition event. Luckily, the 119th Wing had their backs and had packed a box of the required silhouettes. But then, on the second day of the competition, there was the heat … and the wind. The heat index at Camp Grafton required mandatory breaks during shooting, an abundance of bottled water on site and the resiliency of the Marksmanship Match's competitors.

"It's not a lot of work, but it is physical," Von Bank said about the day's event. "Competitors need to be put together and be ready to put a long day in."

Herda said the weekend went smoothly, and safely, thanks to added assistance from the Pre-Mobilization Training Assistance Element, or PTAE, Guardsmen who served as range safeties during the competition. The extra support gave shooters more time to prepare and rest in between matches.

"Everything is tantamount to training, but the No. 1 priority is safety," Herda said. "As long as everyone is safe and had a fun time … I'm happy. I'll take that every time."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The contact for marksmanship, or Small Arms Readiness Team (SART), is Maj. Russ Wolf, G3 training division. Units can request small arms instruction events, shooting clinics, and more through the SART. The SART also puts on mobile shooting competitions, which support the Chief of National Guard Bureau postal competitions. For more information, or for a chance to qualify for the marksmanship team, contact Wolf at russell.j.wolf.mil@mail.mil or 701-333-3098.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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CENTER MASS

THE BEST OF THE BEST

OVERALL SMALL-ARMS INDIVIDUAL MARKSMEN

1ST PLACE
SGT. EVAN MESSER
817TH ENGINEER COMPANY (SAPPER)

2ND PLACE
SPC. TYREL HOPPE
817TH ENGINEER COMPANY (SAPPER)

3RD PLACE
TECH SGT. DARRIN QUAM
119TH WING

4TH PLACE
SGT. 1ST CLASS RUSSELL GERHARDT
CAMP GRAFTON TRAINING CENTER

5TH PLACE
STAFF SGT. COREY MOEN
818TH ENGINEER COMPANY (SAPPER)

LEG POINTS EARNED

PISTOL

MAJ. BENJAMIN CLEGHORN
818TH ENGINEER COMPANY (SAPPER)

STAFF SGT. DEAN LUNDIN
CAMP GRAFTON TRAINING CENTER

STAFF SGT. COREY MOEN
818TH ENGINEER COMPANY (SAPPER)

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 2 CHRISTOPHER HANSON
PRE-MOBILIZATION TRAINING ASSISTANCE ELEMENT

RIFLE

TECH SGT. DARRIN QUAM
19TH WING

SGT. TYLER GOLDADE
815TH ENGINEER COMPANY (HORIZONTAL)

SPC. SAMUEL LANE
818TH ENGINEER COMPANY (SAPPER)

TECH SGT. CHARLES WELLE
119TH WING

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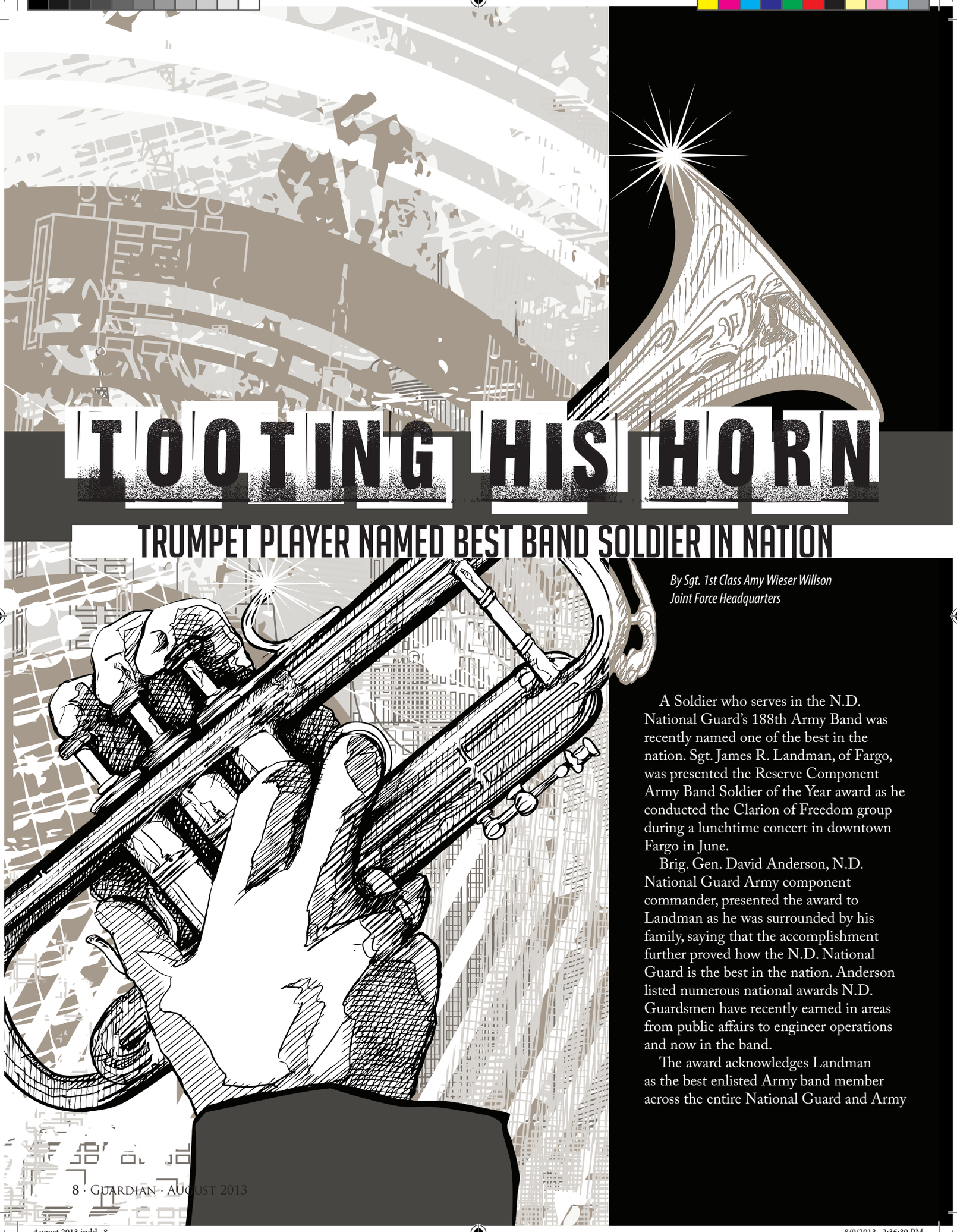
TOOTING HIS HORN

TRUMPET PLAYER NAMED BEST BAND SOLDIER IN NATION



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

A Soldier who serves in the N.D. National Guard's 188th Army Band was recently named one of the best in the nation. Sgt. James R. Landman, of Fargo, was presented the Reserve Component Army Band Soldier of the Year award as he conducted the Clarion of Freedom group during a lunchtime concert in downtown Fargo in June.

Brig. Gen. David Anderson, N.D. National Guard Army component commander, presented the award to Landman as he was surrounded by his family, saying that the accomplishment further proved how the N.D. National Guard is the best in the nation. Anderson listed numerous national awards N.D. Guardsmen have recently earned in areas from public affairs to engineer operations and now in the band.

The award acknowledges Landman as the best enlisted Army band member across the entire National Guard and Army

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Reserve for 2012. It took into account his personal honors, overall effectiveness, job accomplishment, leadership, organizational and planning skills, judgment and decisions, and artistic integrity.

"This has been a great recognition for a fine young man," said 1st Sgt. Bradley Reed, the acting commander and enlisted conductor for the 188th Army Band. "… He's a very talented musician, and it'll be great to watch him in coming years as he continues to enhance what the band provides to our communities and state."

Landman enlisted in the Guard in February 2008. Reed recruited him into the band after hearing him play.

Landman works full-time as the band director for Sheyenne High School in West Fargo. In the Guard, he's frequently seen playing trumpet — serving as the lead trumpet instrumentalist — as well as conducting other brass musicians as he was the day he received the award. He's also known for his vocals and was part of a trio that performed the national anthem in front of a crowd of nearly 20,000 for a North Dakota State University football game last year. Behind the scenes, he arranges and rewrites music for the ensemble groups, provides training for his peers, and even helped lead rehearsals for university music students at the Ployhar Honor Band Festival. Beyond his musical talents, Landman earned one of the highest physical fitness scores in his unit.

In addition to the Soldier of the Year award, Landman also received an Army Commendation Medal.

The mission of the 188th Army Band is to provide music throughout the full spectrum of military operations and to instill in Soldiers the will to fight and win, to foster the support of citizens, to promote national interests at home and abroad, and to entertain audiences.

Right: Sgt. James Landman (left), of Fargo, and Brig. Gen. David Anderson, N.D. National Guard Army component commander, display the Reserve Component Army Band Soldier of the Year award June 21 in downtown Fargo. The award designates Landman as the best in the nation among all other Guard and Reserve band members. Below: Landman conducts the N.D. National Guard 188th Army Band's Clarion of Freedom ensemble during a June 21 lunchtime concert in downtown Fargo. Landman works full-time as the band director for Sheyenne High School in West Fargo. In the Guard, he serves as the 188th Army Band's lead trumpet instrumentalist and often conducts other brass musicians.

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

INTERACT WITH US!

See video of Sgt. Landman receiving the awards and hear the 188th Army Band perform at http://bit.ly/Landman.

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SUMMER PIT STOP

MILITARY YOUTH ENJOY FUN IN THE SUN, FUN IN THE MUD AT 2013 YOUTH CAMP

Story by Sgt. Sara Marchus, 116th Public Affairs Detachment

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

Military youth had the exciting opportunity to attend another camp provided by the N.D. National Guard Child and Youth Program. The Western 4-H Camp took place July 14-18 in Washburn.

The camp hosted 71 military kids, ages 8-15, and 12 service members as squad leaders. The camp's curriculum involves education, military familiarization and a number of activities.

A typical day at camp included raising the flag, breakfast, organized activities and educational sessions, lunch, more games and education, dinner, counselor activities, lowering the flag and a nightly campfire. The kids also enjoyed a dance the last night at camp.

Mixing fun with education was easy to do for Beth Sandeen, the lead Child and Youth Program coordinator.

"The 4-H staff has so many great activities available and the squad leaders are like big kids themselves. The children are really enjoying them," Sandeen said.

The children had many activities to participate in. They created a skit, made rocket launchers, cooked chili, went down the waterslide, ran through the obstacle course and took part in the

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MUD PIT

OBSTACLE COURSE

(Opposite page, top left) Bobby Hintz, 11, Hannover, sails across the mud pit in his make-shift raft at the Military Youth Camp. (Opposite page, bottom left) Hailey Mehrer slides down a water slide during an obstacle course at the Military Youth Camp. The military youth camp is a weeklong camp near Washburn. (Opposite page, bottom right) Gavin Larson, 11, Bismarck, decides to cool off in the mud pit with help from 4H Counselors and military squad leaders at the Military Youth Camp. (Right) Raina Hoge, 11, Stillwater, Minn., practices her swan diving technique after trying to cross the mud pit on a rope bridge at the Military Youth Camp.

camp favorite: trying to walk across a rope without falling into the mud pit. The kids also made a trip to McDowell Dam, where they swam and used paddle boats and canoes.

"I keep coming back for the mud pit and the food. This is a great place to make friends and I love the experience," said Julia Carlson-Vincent, 11, from Bismarck. This was her fourth year at camp.

The kids also learned about different aspects of the military. They talked about flag etiquette, learned about being in formation, learned marching techniques, were shown different uniforms and badge identification, and received instruction in survival training.

Additional educational sessions included a nature walk with the Forestry Service, a curriculum with the Prairie Waters Education and Research Center, a visit with Great Plains Dogs, which provides service dogs to individuals with special needs, and instruction in archery by 4-H counselors.

"I love this camp because the kids keep coming back year after year," Sandeen said. "The seasoned kids make the new kids feel welcome and they make lifelong friends."

When asked why she puts on these camps, she replied, "You realize that kids deal with just as much as an adult during a deployment and sometimes nobody asks them. These camps give military kids an opportunity to share their experiences. They need to know that they're not alone."

For information on military youth camps or the Military Child and Youth Program, contact Sandeen at 701-451-6109 (Fargo) or Nicole Cook, Child and Youth Program coordinator, at 701-333-4822 (Bismarck).

(Left) Tatelyn Houle, 11, Lincoln, low crawls through an obstacle durning an obstacle course at the Military Youth Camp. (Left, below) Kassidy Kraft, 9, Glen Ullin, springs from the depths of a cold tub of water during the obstacle course at the Military Youth Camp.

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GUARDIAN Snapshots

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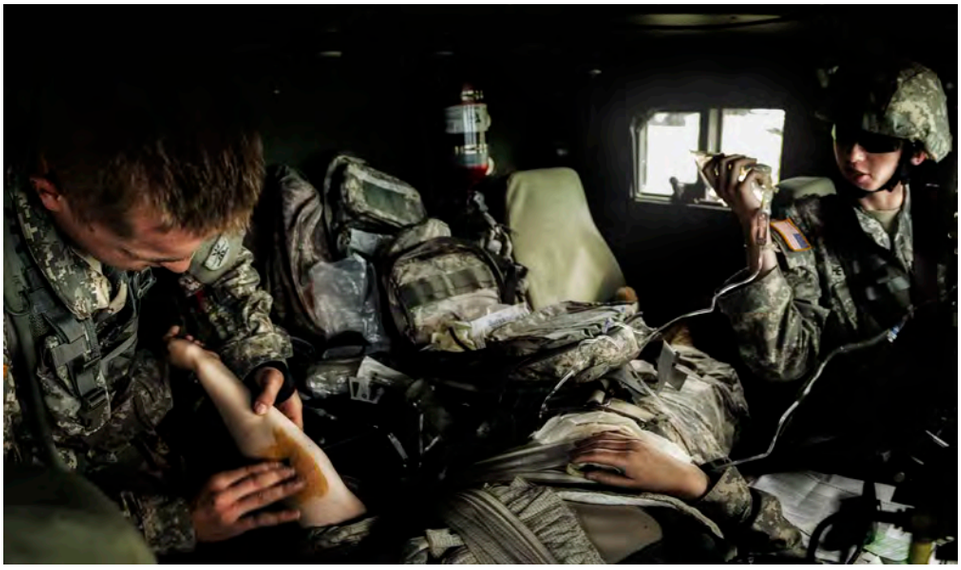

Photos by Staff Sgt. Brett Miller, N.D. National Guard Visual Information

(Top) Pvt. 1st Class Mick Wehrman, a medic with the Minot-based 164th Engineer Battalion, and 1st Lt. Eddy Yuja (right) prepare Spc. Casandra Duchaine for medical evacuation as 1st Lt. Douglas Billings monitors their performance. Spc. Duchaine was "wounded" July 17 during a training exercise near Garrison. Once in the UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter, Wehrman prepares Duchaine's arm for an IV stick while Sgt. Tina Heth holds a saline bag and comforts the "wounded" Soldier. This medical evacuation was part of an air evacuation training exercise for the 164th Engineer Battalion and the N.D. Army National Guard's Bismarck-based 1st Battalion, 112th Aviation Regiment (Security and Support).

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(Left) Tech. Sgt. Jamie Frankl, front, and Staff Sgt. Seth Allen, both of the N.D. Air National Guard's 219th Security Forces Squadron, look up at a white star parachutes launched from an M203 during night training July 18 at Camp Grafton Training Center near Devils Lake. (Right) Airman 1st Class Lucas Paper, 219th Security Forces Squadron, scans terrain for a simulated combatant during the night training.

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

N.D. National Guard Soldier Sgt. Dusty Nelson, of Minot, guides a skid steer operated by Spc. Jacob Baker, of Dickinson, during an Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) project July 15 at the Fairview Cemetery in Bismarck. The Soldiers are with the Dickinson-based 816th Engineer Company (Horizontal).

Photo by Sgt. Sara Marchus, 116th Public Affairs Detachment

A 957th Multi-Role Bridge Company Soldier is among seven Guardsmen who put together a dry support bridge July 17. The bridge's construction was part of the unit's annual training near Garrison.

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

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(Top Left) Chief Master Sgt. Brian Hornback, the Command Chief Master Sergeant for Air Force Global Strike Command, center, visits with Lt. Col. Tad Schauer, the 219th Security Forces Squadron commander, left, and Col. Ron Vercher, the 91st Missile Wing commander, as they view training activities being performed by the N.D. Air National Guard's 219th Security Forces Squadron members from the Minot Air Force Base, as they conduct realistic combat tactics July 18 at the MOUT (Military Operations in Urban Terrain) village at Camp Grafton Training Center near Devils Lake. (Right) Senior Airman Cody Jenson, of the 219th Security Forces Squadron, leads a simulated attack on a training building in an effort to clear the building of hostile forces during combat training in the MOUT village. The personnel are wearing protective gear because they are firing simunition rounds that are similar to paintball rounds. (Bottom) Staff Sgt. Eric Foss, of the 219th Security Forces Squadron, points out directions to his security forces team prior to clearing a training facility of hostile forces.

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

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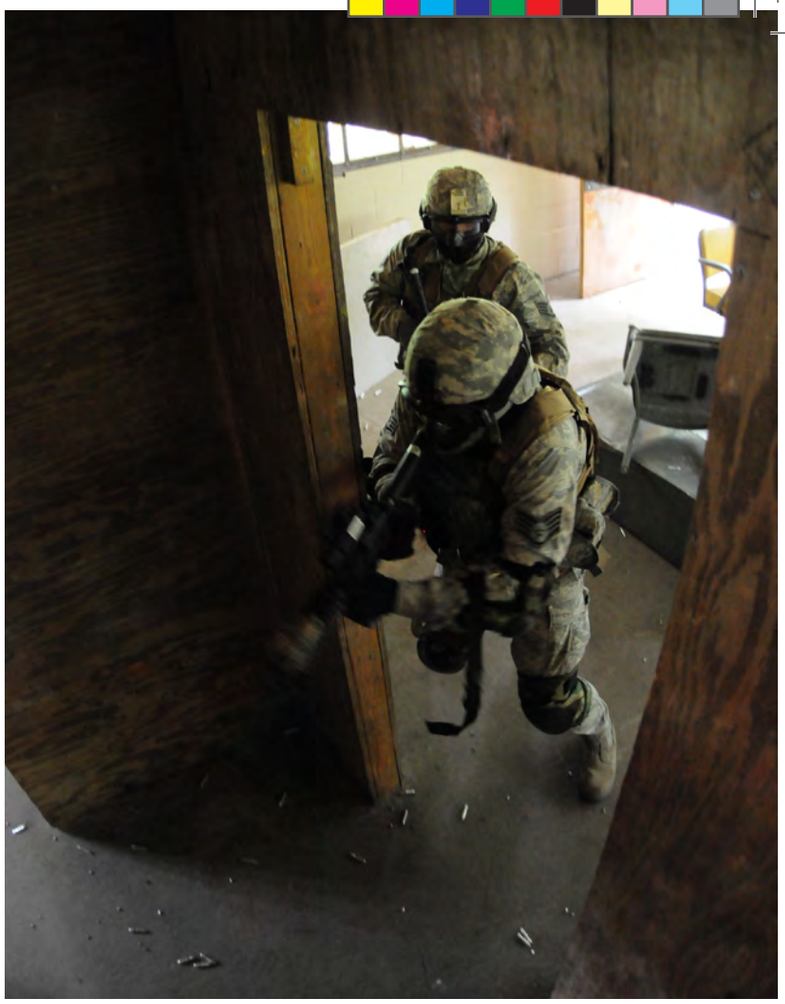

(Above) U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Shawn Beckner, of the 219th Security Forces Squadron, N.D. Air National Guard, rushes toward a training building during a simulated attack on the building in an effort to clear it of hostile forces during combat training July 18 in the MOUT (Military Operations in Urban Terrain) village at Camp Grafton. Beckner is wearing protective gear because the training includes the use of simunition rounds that are fired at opposing combatants and similar to paintball rounds. (Above right) Members of the 219th Security Forces Squadron, go from room to room of a MOUT training facility with weapons raised as they simulate clearing the building of hostile forces during combat training.

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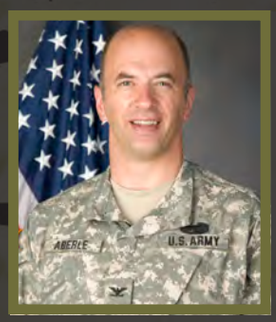
NEW N.D. NATIONAL GUARD ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF

WILZ SUCCEEDS ABERLE
AT JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS IN BISMARCK

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

Col. Giselle "Gigi" Wilz, of Bismarck, has taken over as the N.D. National Guard's Army chief of staff, as Col. Mike Aberle, also of Bismarck, retires from military service.



Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, North Dakota adjutant general, has appointed Col. Giselle "Gigi" Wilz, of Bismarck, as the new N.D. National Guard Army chief of staff. Wilz succeeds the recently retired Col. Mike Aberle, also of Bismarck, in the leadership position.

Wilz joined the N.D. National Guard in 1983 and is the first woman in the history of the N.D. Army National Guard to rise from enlisted Soldier to the rank of colonel – and now the first female chief of staff for the Army component of the N.D. Guard.

The Richardton native received her commission as a second lieutenant in 1986 and most recently served full-time as the deputy chief of staff for operations. She has served in several N.D. Guard units as both a quartermaster and engineer officer. She deployed to the Middle East for Operation Desert Storm in 1990 and also served in Kosovo from 2009-10 as the operations officer (G3) for the Fargo-based 141st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade.

"Col. Aberle will be missed, and we are glad he has decided to join our ranks as a civilian," Sprynczynatyk said. "Col. Wilz brings with her a depth of knowledge and competence that will serve the organization well. She understands the needs of our Soldiers and will always place their welfare and mission readiness as our main priority."

As a civilian, Aberle will be the new transition assistance advisor at the Military Service Center in Bismarck and will continue to help Guardsmen transition from deployments in that capacity. He enlisted in the N.D. Army National Guard on his 17th birthday in 1978 as a field wireman with the Edgeley-based Company D, 141st Engineer Battalion. He earned his commission as a second lieutenant in 1983 through the N.D. State University ROTC Program.

He began his officer career as a platoon leader with the Jamestown-based Company B, 141st Engineer Battalion in 1983 and has served in numerous key positions on both the full-time staff as well as traditional positions within the N.D. Army National Guard.

Aberle's other key assignments include command of the 68th Troop Command, the 142nd Engineer Battalion (Corps) (Heavy), and the 164th Engineer Battalion; executive officer and operations officer for the Engineer Brigade, 34th Infantry Division; commander of Company D, 141st Engineer Battalion and Company C, 141st Engineer Battalion. He assumed duties as N.D. Army National Guard's chief of staff in October 2011.

Aberle deployed to Iraq in 2007-08 as the strategic plans officer with the Bismarck-based Engineer Brigade, 34th Infantry Division in support of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's Gulf Region Division.

He is a 1984 graduate of N.D. State University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in science education. He also earned his master's degree in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College.

"I am really looking forward to working in my new position. It will allow me the opportunity to continue working with Soldiers and Veterans, and I believe that I have a unique perspective that will help me understand Guard members as they transition from active military service back to the civilian world," Aberle said. "I look forward to being able to help them in any way I can."

Aberle's military decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Combat Action Badge, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal (three awards), Army Achievement Medal (two awards) and the Iraq Campaign Medal. He has more than 33 years of military service.

Aberle resides in Bismarck with his wife Shelle. They have four daughters between them: Capt. Sara Aberle (Minn. National Guard), Jen Skibiciki, Pvt. Rebbekah McPherron, N.D. National Guard, and Emmaleis McPherron along with one grandson, Hudson. Aberle's parents are Richard and Lorraine Aberle. Richard served 35 years in the N.D. Guard and retired as a sergeant major.

Wilz has received several awards including the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Southwest Asia Service Medal (with three Campaign Stars), the Kosovo Service Medal, the NATO Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Defense of Saudi Arabia Medal, the Liberation and Defense of Kuwait Medal, the N.D. National Guard Meritorious Service Ribbon, the N.D. National Guard Commendation Ribbon and the Meritorious Unit Citation.

Wilz said she is excited for the next stage of her career and looks forward to working as the chief of staff.

"This position will provide me an opportunity to help strategically move the organization forward as we look ahead to the future of our Guard. This leadership step gives me more ways to serve our Soldiers, as well as the state and nation," Wilz said.

Her family is part of a proud National Guard tradition. Beside her late father, Charles Wilz, who served 39 years in the N.D. Guard, three of her brothers, Greg, Gary and Grant, and a nephew Justin also have served North Dakota in uniform.

Wilz graduated from Dickinson State University in 1990 with a bachelor of science in education, and she holds a master's degree in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College. Besides her new duties as Army chief of staff, she commands the Fargo-based 141st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade.

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THE DEUCE PUTS SKILLS TO USE, TRAINS TO PRODUCE

Story by Sgt. Joshua Bracken, 3662nd Maintenance Company

It's always hard to start a new job. For the N.D. Army National Guard's 3662nd Maintenance Company, that new job is for the entire company. It's transitioning from a component rebuild company that focused on rebuilding transmissions and engines to a support maintenance company that will repair equipment and issue parts.

Nearly 100 Soldiers with the unit, known as the "Deuce," trained for their new roles during annual training at Camp Dodge's National Maintenance Training Facility in Johnston, Iowa, in June. While there, the Guardsmen learned maintenance control operations, operator- and company-level maintenance and company headquarters functions. They also conducted physical training, took company photos, hosted platoon competitions and enjoyed a company picnic.

Each section in the Deuce addressed Soldiers' unique and specific roles. For example, the ground support equipment section includes heavy equipment mechanics that work on wreckers, road graders, bobcats, cranes and forklifts. The generator mechanics repair 3K to 60K generators while the chemical equipment repairers work on Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Units to ensure wiring throughout the system is correct and that the ROWPU runs without any electronic issues. The Soldiers gained knowledge and expertise in each field by troubleshooting problems throughout their training. The section has a broad scope when it comes to maintenance and requires technical knowledge in many different areas, and this annual training gave the Soldiers an opportunity to work in areas and fields that are often unavailable to them in North Dakota.

The Deuce also has two automotive platoons — one each in Devils Lake and Bismarck. Their mechanics combined forces and worked together on multiple pieces of equipment — both familiar and unfamiliar — throughout their time at Camp Dodge.

The armament section typically works with small arms at home station but, during annual training, had the opportunity to get their hands on some larger weapons. One Soldier even worked on line replaceable units — tracked vehicles' electronic "brains" that enable target acquisition — for M1 Abrams tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles as well as targeting systems for towed artillery howitzers. Other Soldiers worked on Howitzers and other artillery pieces.

Another facet of a support maintenance company is the allied trades section. During annual training, the section focused on new equipment familiarization as well as working with welding and milling equipment.

As annual training drew to a close, the unit's Soldiers had completed 33 work orders and logged 4,091 hours at the shop working on multiple pieces of military equipment. They received 8,000 parts and issued 93 parts to fix equipment. The Soldiers agreed that the hands-on training was a valuable experience no matter what field they worked in and that it prepared them for the "job change" the company is undertaking.

Photo by Sgt. Benjamin Halvorson
3662nd Maintenance Company

Spc. Nils Eldagsen, 3662nd Maintenance Company, uses significant leverage to torque a transmission bracket bolt to the proper specifications. The 3662nd has two automotive platoons — one based in Devils Lake and another based in Bismarck.

Photo by Sgt. Benjamin Halvorson
3662nd Maintenance Company

Sgt Joshua Adams, 3662nd Maintenance Company, replaces a cylinder head on a Humvee. The 3662nd is transitioning from a component rebuild company that focused on rebuilding transmissions and engines to a support maintenance company that will repair equipment and issue parts. Soldiers of the unit completed 33 work orders and logged 4,091 hours at the shop working on multiple pieces of military equipment during annual training this year.

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.

Interested in becoming a **Unit Public Affairs Representative (UPAR)**? The next UPAR training takes place Sept. 14-15. Contact Staff Sgt. Eric Jungels at eric.p.jungels.mil@mail.mil to sign up.

August 2013.indd 17 8/9/2013 2:37:22 PM

N.D. Airman Receives Prestigious Leadership Award

A N.D Air National Guard member has received the prestigious John L. Levitow Award in recognition of achieving the highest degree of excellence as a leader and scholar. Staff Sgt. Travis Kane, of Minot, received the award as he completed Airman Leadership School, a five-week U.S. Air Force school.

The Levitow Award is the highest award presented during the school and is based on both academic performance and recommendations from peers and instructors.

The award is named for John Lee Levitow, the lowest-ranking Airman to ever receive the U.S. Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military award. He received the award for actions on Feb. 24, 1969, when he was an airman first class serving as a loadmaster on an AC-47 aircraft on a night mission supporting Long Binh Army Post, Vietnam.

"Staff Sgt. Travis Kane is one of my finest Airman," said Lt. Col. Tad Schauer, 219th Security Forces Squadron commander. "He continually exceeds my expectations and sets the example for others to follow. I am exceptionally proud of him for being the winner of this prestigious award. He is an outstanding asset to the 219th Security Forces Squadron and the N.D. Air National Guard."

Kane enlisted in the N.D. Army National Guard in 2000. He deployed to Iraq from January 2003 to March 2004 with Headquarters Support Company, 142nd Engineer Combat Battalion, and to Kosovo in 2009 with Company A, 231st Brigade Support Battalion. In August 2010, he enlisted in the N.D. Air National Guard's 219th Security Forces Squadron and began serving full time in the military. He's now the Personnel Reliability Program monitor/unit security manager for the Minot-based unit.

His other military schools include Warrior Leadership Course in 2007, Basic Noncomissioned Officer Course in 2008, Security Forces Tech School in 2011 and Security Forces Craftsman's Course in 2012.

He and his wife, Jordana, have two children: daughter Ripley, 4, and son Raider, 11 months. Kane is the son of Donald and Daphne Kane, of Fargo. He has two brothers, Nick and Thomas, who continue to serve in the N.D. Army National Guard.

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

Engineer Soldiers Hone Skills Through Community Project

The N.D. National Guard participated in an Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) project in July at the Fairview Cemetery in Bismarck. The 816th Engineer Company (Horizontal), based in Dickinson, employed its heavy excavation equipment to expand useable space for the cemetery by leveling a hill. The Guard Soldiers worked on the project during their annual training period.

Soldiers used scrapers, graders, skid steers and bulldozers to remove rocks, cut into the hill, and then level it off to make useable terrain. The project covered approximately 6 acres, which will allow for 3 new sections in the cemetery.

The IRT is a duel-benefit program, enhancing the training of Soldiers through real-world training opportunities while meeting community needs. The program is a partnership between the community and the military that fulfills military training requirements and readiness while providing quality services to the community.

The IRT program focuses on three general areas; education and job training; health and medical services; and civil engineering projects. Some previous projects include constructing a youth education classroom and improving roads.

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

Photo courtesy of Minot Air Force Base

Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey Huber presents Staff Sgt. Travis Kane with the Levitow Award June 27, 2013. Kane, who serves in the N.D. Air National Guard's 219th Security Forces Squadron at the Minot Air Force Base, earned the prestigious award during Airman Leadership School.

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

Soldiers of the 816th Engineer Company use their heavy equipment to level out a hill July 17 at Fairview Cemetery in Bismarck. The project took place during two weeks in July.

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Chaplains' Corner:

Beyond the Noise

By Chaplain (Capt.) Scott E. Noyes
136th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion

Teacher: Where's your homework?
Dawson: I couldn't do it. There was too much noise at home.
Teacher: Noise? All evening? What kind of noise?
Dawson: It was the television. It was too loud. I couldn't do my homework.
Teacher: Surely you could have asked them to turn the sound down?
Dawson: No, Miss. There was no one else in the room.

Too often, you and I are like Dawson in the story. Our selfish wants, as well as permitting the world to capture our attention, drown us with a constant noise. Every passing year this noise of life inevitably becomes louder and louder, begging for someone to turn down the volume.

My last name is Noyes — pronounced the same as "noise" — and with three growing children in our house, the daily noise level can get pretty loud. However, this is not the noise I wish to eliminate. **"Live beyond the noise of self and live beyond the noise of this world because to truly live is the noise of Christ."** Because of the daily decibel of noise, this has been my family's lifelong mission statement. So, as a family, what does this mean for us?

Living beyond the **"noise of self"** is the daily challenge to escape from self-centeredness. In other words, there is a natural desire in each of us to be self-absorbed, placing too much emphasis on self rather than serving others. Our pursuit of happiness is not a bad thing. However, if it lacks the balance of humility, our own "noise/selfishness" will negatively impact those around us. God's word says there is greater joy when you place other's needs before your own (Philippians 2:3).

Living beyond the **"noise of this world"** is the daily escape from worldly noise. For example, such values as money, popularity, power, pleasure and prestige are values accepted and encouraged by the world that do not line up with the values of God. Rather than copying the world's "noise/behavior," God's word calls me to reflect his values and behaviors (Romans 12:2).

Therefore, for me, to truly live is the **"noise of Christ."** Rather than being plugged into myself and the world, God desires that I be connected to his sound system so that he can channel his noise in and through me (Philippians 1:21). While it is inevitable that I will become distracted in life, it's most important that I remember to stay focused on God and his ways for my life. How do I this? I do this by studying his word, praying for his guidance, and steering clear of the areas and ways that distract me. So, what about you? How is it that you live your life "beyond the noise?"

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A Kilometer for each Hero

Photos by Staff Sgt Dawn VanSteenvoort

The second annual 14K Fallen Soldiers Walk/Run was held June 22 in Devils Lake. The event honors the 14 N.D. National Guard Soldiers killed in the Global War on Terrorism. A marker at every kilometer honors one of the 14 fallen N.D. Guardsman. The message on the t-shirt (above) is in honor of Sgt. 1st Class Darrin Linde, who was killed in action while on duty in Afghanistan Dec. 3, 2012.

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

Members of the 219th Security Forces Squadron, N.D. Air National Guard, search for simulated combatants using night vision goggles during an exercise scenario July 18 at Camp Grafton Training Center near Devils Lake.

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