



# NORTH DAKOTA GUARDIAN

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September 2013



# DEPARTED.

## N.D. Air National Guard Navigates Unchartered Air Space as Last C-21 Departs

Airmen Celebrate History, Look to the Future as North Dakota Becomes  
Only State in the Nation without a Manned Air National Guard Flying Mission. PG. 8

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119th Security Forces Protect Bagram Airfield,  
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The N.D. Air National Guard's last remaining C-21 aircraft number 40064 made its' final flight before being retired at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, Dayton, Ohio. The aircraft is the last to depart the 119th Wing during a mission conversion, leaving the unit without a manned flying mission for the first time since it was formed in 1947.



### 17 Ten Miles for Wounded Warriors

More than 120 runners convened in Bismarck in late August for the first-ever N.D. National Guard Army Aviation Association 10-Miler, which was organized to support the efforts of the Wounded Warrior Project.

## NORTH DAKOTA GUARDIAN

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Digital photos should be 300 dpi, if possible.

## On the Cover



C-21 pilots Col. Brad Derrig, 119th Wing vice-commander, and Col. Kent Olson, 119th Wing commander, make one final pass in C-21 aircraft number 40064 Aug. 27 during its final flight from the N.D. Air National Guard base in Fargo. The aircraft is the last to depart the unit during a mission conversion, leaving the unit without a manned flying mission for the first time since it was formed in 1947.

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

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# GUARD POSTS

Dispatches from the N.D. Guard Family

## OPERATIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL BALANCE

**B**“Balance. We just need to find balance.” How many times have we heard that or said it out loud? How many times have you thought about whether you could achieve balance if things just slowed down or if you had a different job within the organization or even outside of it?

Regardless of your role in this organization — officer, NCO or enlisted, traditional or full-time — everyone has been impacted by the high operations tempo, multiple deployments both in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom as well as stateside disaster response. Our ongoing vigilance and commitment of service to our state and nation has had a tremendous impact on family, employers and on us as individuals. Many of our Soldiers and Airmen haven’t had the time to fully recover from or even work through the strain of war, whether that be the separation from family and loved ones for months on end, the pain and grief from loss felt both on the battlefield and since returning home, the anxiety caused by the potential of future deployments, and the list goes on ...

So, as the nation draws down from more than 10 years at war and looks to the future in times of fiscal uncertainty and the need for us to remain vigilant — both as a military and as citizens of this great country — what does that mean in terms of achieving balance both as an organization and as individuals? Do we as leaders now play an even more critical role in achieving that balance?

Some may argue that balance in this environment will be easy compared to the

past decade, but I would argue that after you have been on autopilot for this long — reacting successfully to the ever increasing operational demands and putting personal and family lives on hold — we will struggle as an organization in achieving that balance while transitioning to a peacetime force.

The organization will have two internal forces pulling at the balance pendulum, and it will be complicated by the external environment. Internally, we have more than 75 percent of our force who have joined since 9/11, specifically to serve their country in a time of war, and more than 50 percent of them who have not yet had that opportunity. The remainder of the force has either deployed — some multiple times — or has supported every Soldier and Airman in their deployment since 2003. Externally, we have a nation that is wearying of its support of the country putting our Soldiers and Airmen in harm’s way. We also have a defense budget that risks not only readiness but the continued funding of programs that support our Soldiers and Airmen, specifically as they return home. In the meantime, there’s ongoing instability of several nation states around the world that harbor our greatest enemies.

As an organization, we need to consciously avoid moving the fulcrum to either end of the cantilever. One end is succumbing to the pressure caused by dwindling resources, coupled with the declining attitude of support from the country, which would cause us to cancel all programs regardless of necessity to achieve



COL. GISELLE WILZ

N.D. National Guard  
Army Chief of Staff

pre-9/11 operational tempo and priorities. That will, in turn, alienate 50 percent of the force in achieving individual purpose and relevancy.

The other end is remaining in a hyper-alert status, trying to maintain the exact operations tempo with significantly reduced resources and feeling compelled to make everything a priority, which in turn has the potential to drive away our most seasoned force in order to achieve their own individual balance.

As we move forward in achieving organizational balance, we need to stay aware of our environment and the impact it is having on our Soldiers, Airmen and families. We cannot lose sight of the fact that we are and will continue to deploy Soldiers and Airmen into harm’s way. Their training, along with the support we provide them and their families, needs to continue to be priority one.

In addition, we need to continue to build a resilient force, meaning we also need to ensure the support to redeploying Soldiers and Airmen along with continuing the enduring support to redeployed Soldiers, Airmen and their families. And, finally, as leaders we need to prioritize those things we do as the N.D. National Guard to ensure that we not only continue focus on the above, but we balance the fulcrum between retaining our ability to answer our state and nation’s call in the time of need with retaining quality Soldiers and Airmen by ensuring we are providing a balance between them being a citizen and a Soldier or Airman.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Giselle Wilz'.

# CIVIL SUPPORT III

## EMERGENCY RESPONDERS TAKE ON LARGE-SCALE, REGIONAL EXERCISE

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

**Hundreds of emergency responders. Three dozen private, local, state and federal agencies. One week. One continuously evolving, large-scale regional training exercise.**

That's the challenge that played out in Fargo, N.D., and Moorhead, Minn., last month as the N.D. National Guard's 81st Civil Support Team joined with CSTs from Minnesota, Wyoming and Oregon along with a slew of medical personnel, police officers, firefighters, investigators and more.

The scenario brought the responders to the FargoDome, through a parking garage, into a local hospital, throughout Moorhead High School and elsewhere in the community.

"For this mission, what we're doing is truly integrating everybody who's participating," said Lt. Col. Mark Quire, 81st CST commander, from outside the FargoDome during one phase of the exercise. "So, going inside of the building, there will be six search teams. They will be made up of a Minnesota CST, a North Dakota CST, and a Fargo firefighter — so we're integrating three units into one team, and truly integrating everything."



Staff Sgt. Dale Dukart, with the N.D. National Guard's 81st Civil Support Team, left, places radiation detection equipment next to a vehicle with Kelly Crandall, from the Department of Energy, as Sgt. Kelly Poston, with the Minnesota National Guard's 55th Civil Support Team, documents the readings Aug. 13 at field level of the FargoDome in Fargo during a training sweep of the arena for radiation. The weeklong training exercise incorporates about three dozen federal, state, local and private agencies working together in the scenario-based response. The sweeps are a routine precaution for large events to protect people in attendance from possible terrorist attacks.



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

Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp, 179th Wing



From right to left, a joint agency, three-person team consisting of Sgt. Leroy Filler, of the N.D. National Guard's 81st Civil Support Team, Staff Sgt. Nick Polzin, of the Minnesota National Guard's 55th Civil Support Team, and Darin Nester, of the Fargo Fire Department, take readings Aug. 13 at field level of the FargoDome in Fargo during a training sweep of the arena for radiation. Stuart Cameron, of the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, left, is evaluating the team as they take radiation readings.



Beyond working together, the exercise gave all of the agencies a chance to become familiar with the wealth of equipment that might come into play during a large-scale event, said Leon Schlafmann, Fargo emergency services coordinator and incident commander for the exercise.

The training scenario centered around a World Energy Forum coming to Fargo and included doing a "pre-stage approach" including "radiological monitoring and sweeps of the entire venue," said Maj. Tom Krenz, deputy commander for Minnesota's 55th CST.

Those sweeps often are a standard, scheduled event, with Minnesota's CST conducting one prior to and during each Vikings football game in the Metrodome.

During the Fargo-area exercise, the scenario took responders from scheduled, routine missions to emergency scenarios as people were "injured" and "bad guys" were found. Throughout it all, evaluators closely monitored the actions of participants in order to further refine processes across the numerous agencies involved.

North Dakota's CST takes part in various-sized training exercises throughout the year as the full-time team of 22 Soldiers and Airmen stand ready to respond 24/7 to assist civilian first responders in reacting to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive agents. ■

## 81st CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM (WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION)

The 81st Civil Support Team is one of more than 50 federally funded National Guard units across the country that exists to advise and assist civilian responders in the event of a suspected weapon of mass destruction attack.

The 81st Civil Support Team provides the following:

- Support to civil authorities for domestic incidents
- 24/7 rapid deployment capability
- On-site analytical platform
- The ability to detect and identify chemical, biological and radiological agents/substances
- Capabilities to determine and assess current and potential hazards to personnel, animals & critical infrastructure
- Advice to civil authorities on initial casualty management and minimization measures
- Links to, and augmentation of, civil responder communications systems

# SECURE IN THEIR MISSION

## 119th Security Forces Squadron Keeps Watch Over Bagram

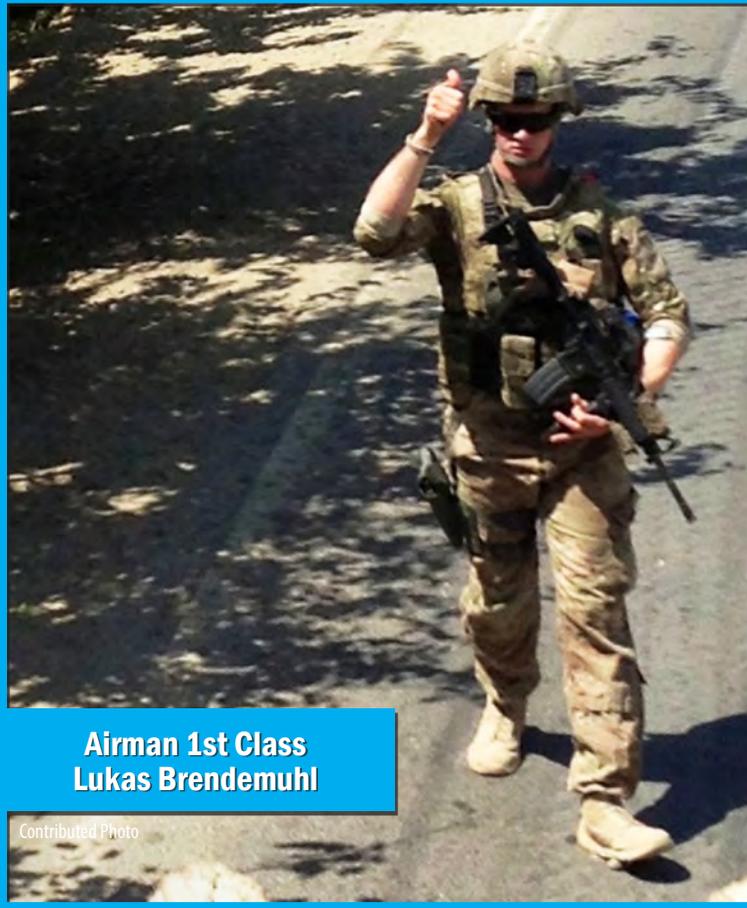
By Sgt. 1st Class Amy Wieser Willson  
Joint Force Headquarters

At the busiest logistics hub in the Department of Defense, a plane takes off or lands at least once every 2 minutes — 24 hours a day, 7 days a week — and Air Guardsmen from North Dakota are watching.

Since March, nearly 30 Airmen with the 119th Security Forces Squadron have been providing security at Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan. Their mission scans the perimeter and activities on the base, but also takes them to other countries as they serve on Fly-Away Security Teams, known as FASTs, for air crews and planes on a variety of missions.

“We’re in a hostile country, and we’re the sole protectors of a multimillion dollar aircraft. We’re really the only people protecting the crew, protecting the mission,” said Senior Airman Michael Bullen.

That mission might include moving hazardous materials or personnel under control, conducting a medical mission or transporting mission-essential personnel. Departure times and mission duration often are unpredictable, but the Airmen roll with the short-notice changes.



Airmen 1st Class  
Lukas Brendemuhl

Contributed Photo

"I have the sweetest mission on base," said Airman Brandon Gibson, one of several Happy Hooligans hoping to extend his tour in country. "I like traveling and interacting with career fields other than security forces."

While Guardsmen on the FASTs monitor aircraft, personnel and cargo, other 119th members keep a close watch on the perimeter and ground missions.

"I have seen our people play a key role in all aspects of the security mission ...," said Staff Sgt. Richard Gladue II in an email from Afghanistan, where he and Staff Sgt. Kristopher Jacobs work in the Joint Defense Operations Center. "I spend all day tracking the movements of all the OTW (outside-the-wire) teams, making sure to keep communicating with them. I work with the ISR (intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance) manager to keep as much aerial coverage of our teams or their route of travel as possible. We communicate directly with A-10 (Thunderbolt) pilots and AH-64 Apache pilots, directing them to overwatch teams. I also control cameras that watch the perimeter of the base."

An email from Col. Glen E. Christensen, commander of the 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Group, which the 119th falls under, called the Guardsmen's efforts part of "the most important mission we have." That mission includes protecting the lives of 36,000 people and securing more than \$3.5 billion in assets.

Master Sgt. Joshua Clarke, the senior leader from the 119th in Afghanistan, helped form two first-of-its-kind outside-the-wire teams for the 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron and works to oversee one of several defensive sectors in Bagram. The sector encompasses the busiest vehicle entry control point in the nation, and they've already surpassed numbers from previous years with 94,000 vehicles and 109,000 people searched since Jan. 1.

Other 119th Airmen provide security at the nation's busiest pedestrian entry control point. Additionally, some are providing flight line security while others help cover perimeter defense positions. Support personnel from the 119th help to tie the logistics and administrative part of the mission together.

Beyond the main missions, the Airmen have relied on their training in other scenarios. When indirect fire struck close by in June, Clarke and his fellow Guardsmen jumped into action. Their training allowed them to react quickly and calmly to tend to



## Senior Airman Mike Bullen

Contributed Photo

the wounded and restore power at the base.

"Staff Sgt. Gary did an awesome job getting around the sector to get generators running and get light-alls running," Clarke said. "Staff Sgt. Kellynn Johnston was the sector command post controller; she did an amazing job managing the CP (command post). Tech. Sgt. Ryan Bruggeman was the sector area supervisor and Staff Sgt. Anders Gylland was also posted in the sector; both did an amazing job. Tech. Sgt. Kris Jacobs was posted in Joint Defense Operations Center as a controller, and he did outstanding, as well."

Four U.S. service members died in the attack, but the efforts of Capt. Andrew York, Clarke, Gary and Tech. Sgt. Eric Wearing are credited with saving four additional lives as they took charge of the situation, retrieved combat lifesaver bags, provided

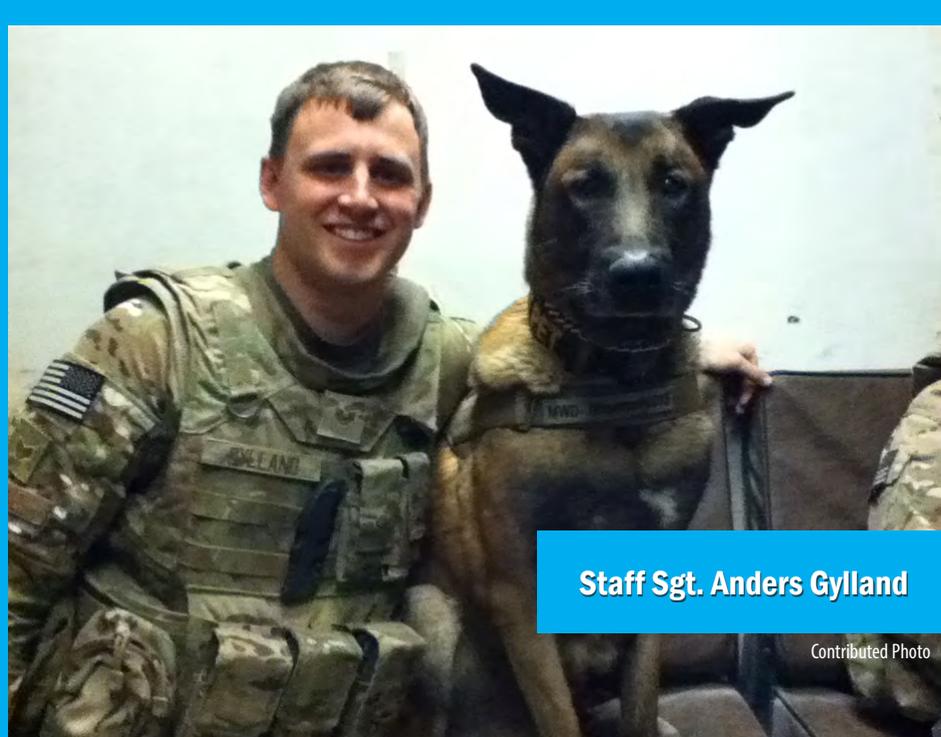
medical aid and evacuation, and restored power.

"I wish that we could have done more for them," Clarke said. "With all of the first responder training over the years, we all just went on autopilot and did what we were trained to do. It was great that we were able to save a couple of them."

Their experiences in Afghanistan will be able to further enhance training at home station after the mission ends this month.

"We deployed with a great group of people, and I couldn't be more proud of the job they've done," Clarke said. ■

*Staff Sgt. Torri Ingalsbe, with Forces Central Command Public Affairs, and Staff Sgt. Stephanie Wade, with 455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs, contributed to this report.*



## Staff Sgt. Anders Gylland

Contributed Photo

# FINAL TAKE-OFF

## HAPPY HOOLIGANS' MANNED FLYING MISSIONS CEASE

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

The N.D. Air National Guard's last C-21 aircraft has left the base. The plane, the last of eight that the unit known as the Happy Hooligans has been maintaining and flying since 2007, took off just after 11:30 a.m. Aug. 27.

The Air National Guard began serving in the state in January 1947, and its first aircraft — the P-51 Mustang — flew into Fargo the following month. In the decades that followed, the Airmen flew and maintained aircraft and racked up numerous national and international awards that their peers would never achieve.

"We stand here today at the end of an era and the beginning of a new life for the Air National Guard," Retired Maj. Gen. Alexander Macdonald told an audience gathered to witness the C-21's final flight from Fargo.

Macdonald, who commanded the Hooligans for 13 years and went on to become the state's first Air Guard adjutant general, shared recollections from his 45 years of service while listing the many high points from throughout history.



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

C-21 pilots Col. Brad Derrig, 119th Wing vice-commander, and Col. Kent Olson, 119th Wing commander, accelerate down the runway Aug. 27 in C-21 aircraft number 40064 as they launch the aircraft for the final time from the N.D. Air National Guard Base in Fargo. The aircraft is making its final flight for the unit before being retired at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force in Dayton, Ohio. This particular aircraft was the first C-21 built for the U.S. Air Force.

**NEXT MONTH:** Watch for a special Guard Post (page 3) featuring highlights from Retired Maj. Gen. Alexander Macdonald's speech as well as a feature that looks back across 66 years of successful N.D. Air National Guard missions.

(Left) Retired Maj. Gen. Alexander P. Macdonald, former N. D. adjutant general, salutes unit members of the 119th Wing as he addresses them, along with civilian media at a press conference Aug. 27 prior to the departure of the last C-21 aircraft from the N.D. Air National Guard base in Fargo. (Right) Tech. Sgt. Scott Hovda, a crew chief in the 119th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, right, prepares to assist pilots Col. Kent Olson, 119th Wing commander, and Col. Brad Derrig, 119th Wing vice-commander, as they launch the aircraft number 40064 Aug. 27 at the N.D. Air National Guard base. The aircraft is the last to depart the unit during a mission conversion, leaving the unit without a manned flying mission for the first time since it was formed in 1947. North Dakota will be the only state in the U.S. without a manned flying mission.



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



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

“Whenever the goal was set, and then reached, the men and women of the organization set loftier ones, and time and time again these goals were achieved,” he said. “First air-to-air rocket firing over Lake Superior. The Hughes Trophy — the first time ever won by a Guard unit. The same year, the Daedalion Maintenance Trophy. This was also the first ever for a Guard unit, and the first time those two major awards have ever been held by the same unit during the same year. This was followed by a second Hughes Trophy in 1994. We had the first deployed alert to Seymour Johnson (Air Force Base in North Carolina). We were the first to go on nuclear alert. The first to reach 100 percent strength. The first deployment overseas for an active NATO air-defense mission. The first air defense aerial refueling, and the list of awards and firsts goes on and on. The most accident-free flying hours of any unit in the entire Air Force flying fighters.”

When the fighter mission ended in 2007, the Hooligans transitioned to the C-21A Learjet, which was intended to serve as a “bridge” mission to keep pilots and maintainers active and relevant until the anticipated new flying mission of the C-27J Spartan arrived. The final decision to divest that mission from the U.S. Air Force was made earlier this year, prompting the N.D. Air National Guard to begin a transition to a mission that does not include aircraft. Many details of that new intelligence group mission are still uncertain. In the meantime, North Dakota is now the only state in the nation without an Air National Guard manned flying mission, although efforts continue to pursue a new mission that includes aircraft.

“USA Today once called the Happy Hooligans the ‘godfathers of air superiority,’ noting that they are the ‘best air-to-air combat fighters in the world,’” Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. adjutant general, said. “I’d rather say that, quite simply, they’re the best in the world. It’s not about the mission; it’s not about the aircraft; it’s about the people behind the mission. That’s what has made the Hooligans the very best for all of these years, and what will continue to make them the best for years to come.”

After Sprynczynatyk spoke, Col. Kent Olson, 119th Wing

commander, and Col. Brad Derrig, 119th Wing vice commander, along with Lt. Col. Jerrad Krapp, 177th Airlift Squadron commander, flew the last C-21A, with tail number 84-0064, to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio, where it became the first C-21 added to the collection at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force there.

The Happy Hooligans experienced success with 84-0064, along with the other C-21s, during the past six-and-a-half years. Olson spoke of that achievement and the hard work that went into creating such a success.

When the C-21s arrived in Fargo in January 2007, “they were about two dozen years old and had just been saved from a final trip to the boneyard,” Olson told the audience. “... Let’s think about that for the moment: Eight aircraft that the Air Force was going to send to the boneyard, they sent to us. So we received them, and what did we do? We did what our maintenance group does the best: They got the jets in such good condition that they are still, by the way, the best maintained C-21s in the Air Force inventory.”

Prior to receiving the C-21s, which were manufactured in 1983, only contracted civilian maintenance personnel had worked on the planes. The N.D. Guardsmen worked to develop a maintenance program that incorporated FAA guidance with Air Force procedures and training. That program was put to the test during an overseas mission that brought the C-21s to Iraq, Afghanistan, Djibouti and other areas. Despite the intense heat and dust, the C-21’s never missed a take-off.

Later that year, the 177th Airlift Squadron earned the title of JOSAC (Joint Operational Support Airlift Center) Squadron of the Year.

During the past two years, the Hooligans flew more JOSAC missions than any other unit. The number of missions and hours flown for JOSAC in the C-21 actually exceeds three active-duty Air Force bases combined.

In all, the Hooligans flew more than 17,000 Class A mishap-free hours in the C-21, which drove the unit’s total hours without a Class A accident to more than 175,340. ■



# EVERY **SOLDIER** A RIFLEMAN

## ***191st Military Police Company Home to State's First Female Squad Designated Marksman***

*By Staff Sgt. Laura Balliet  
191st Military Police Company*

It has been said that every Soldier, no matter their military occupational specialty (MOS, or job skill), is a rifleman first. All Soldiers understand that there are three essential skills to ensure mission success: shoot, move and communicate. Spc. Jennie DuShane, a military policeman from West Fargo, understands the importance of these three skills. This summer, DuShane had the opportunity to hone her shooting skills and became the N.D. Army National Guard's first female Squad Designated Marksman.



# SPC. JENNIE DUSHANE

DuShane spent two weeks at Camp Robinson in Little Rock, Ark., learning how to improve on her already established marksmanship fundamentals. She had participated as a member of her high school rifle team and has a history of qualifying at the “Expert” level with her assigned weapon, the M4-series rifle. Based on her experience and qualification history, the 191st Military Police Company, the unit with which she serves, found it only fitting that she be a candidate to attend the Squad Designated Marksman course.

The SDM, or Squad Designated Marksman, supports the squad by laying down accurate rapid fire at distances beyond the normal engagement range of the squad’s rifleman. The average rifleman is trained to engage targets up to 300 meters away. A sniper engages targets beyond 600 meters while the SDM is trained to engage targets in ‘No Man’s Land,’ the area between the capabilities of the two. Although the SDM receives much of the same training, the SDM is not a sniper. He or she is a rifleman and deploys as a member of a squad. The SDM maneuvers and engages with his or her squad and never operates alone.

The SDM course consists of five qualification ranges as well as Advanced Combat Optical Gunsight skills, Close-Quarter Battle skills, off-hand shooting techniques and “trace” technique. Soldiers must qualify on the “300 to 100” qualification in order to remain enrolled in the course. For the remaining four qualification ranges, Soldiers must obtain a score of 70 percent on each. Should a Soldier score below 70 percent on one of those, they are only removed from the course if their average qualification for the other ranges does not exceed 70 percent. Soldiers are taught enhanced marksmanship fundamentals and skills, including range estimation and wind calculations, in order to accurately engage targets beyond 300 meters.

DuShane estimated that she fired more than 1,500 rounds throughout the course. Although she was confident in her marksmanship fundamentals prior to the course, she was nervous about meeting the course qualification requirements.

“Even if I would have failed to qualify and been sent home, I would not have seen it as a failure,” she said. “Every day I was able to learn something new to enhance my skills. While I would have been disappointed in myself had I not graduated, I would not have been disappointed in the experience.”

DuShane’s class started with 32 Soldiers enrolled on the first day. When graduation day arrived, 11 Soldiers remained enrolled. Those 11 graduated with the designation of SDM.

DuShane’s instructors informed her that she is only the third female Soldier to graduate from the course at their location.

“I’m excited to have graduated and to bring enhanced marksmanship skills and knowledge back to the unit to share with other Soldiers,” DuShane said. “It’s a course I would recommend to any Soldier who is consistent in their shooting skills and is comfortable with the basic marksmanship fundamentals so they may enhance and build upon those skills.” ■

Photo by Staff Sgt. Laura Balliet  
191st Military Police Company

**Spc. Jennie DuShane is shown July 21, in Fargo. Dushane, a member of the N.D. Army National Guard’s 191st Military Police Company, recently became the first female Guard Soldier in the state to become qualified as a Squad Designated Marksman. Only a third of students enrolled in the course designed to hone marksmen in the 300- to 600-meter firing distance met the standards to receive the title.**

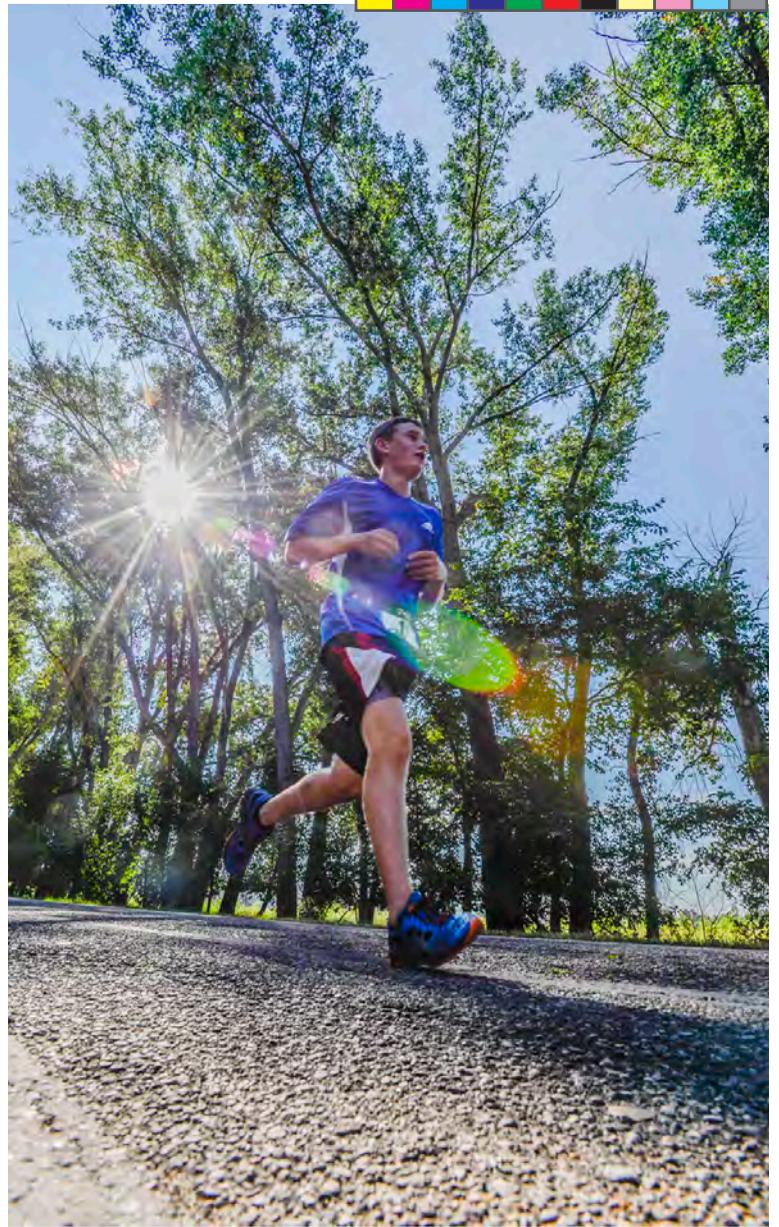


# GUARDIAN *Snapshots*



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More than 120 runners and walkers gathered in Bismarck Aug. 24 to participate in the N.D. Army National Guard Aviation Association 10-Miler. The inaugural 10-mile run took place at Papa's Pumpkin Patch with the goal of raising awareness and money for the Wounded Warrior Project.

Photos by Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kiel Skager, Joint Force Headquarters



Spc. Derek Palmer, of the 191st Military Police Company, is greeted with hugs and kisses from his daughter as he returns Aug. 30 to Hector International Airport in Fargo after a one-year deployment to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

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



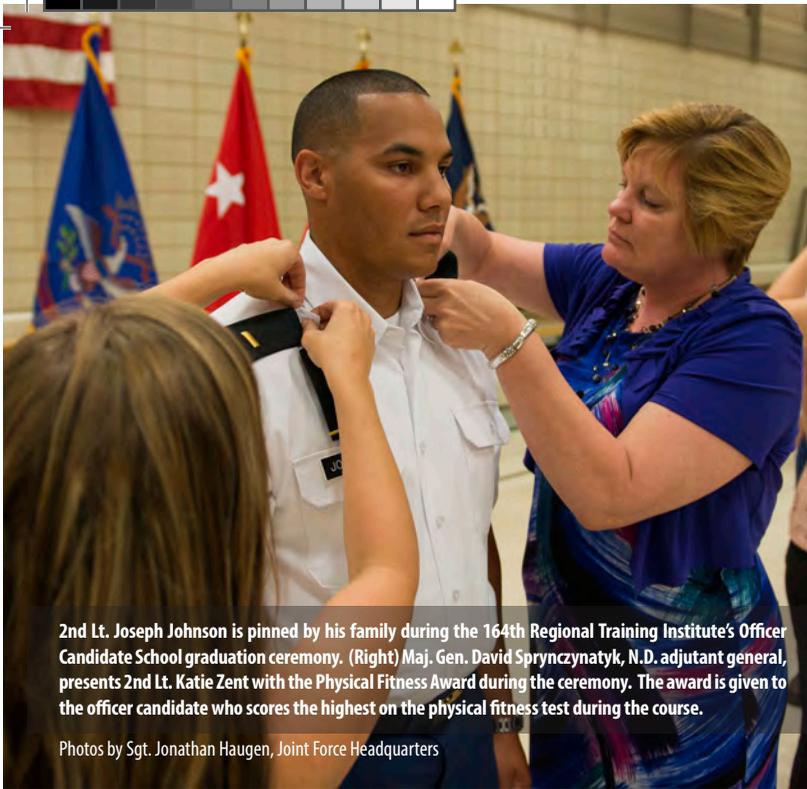
Sgt. Buddy Wenisch, of the 191st Military Police Company, is greeted by his wife Amanda, and their children Aug. 30 as he returns home from a one-year deployment to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

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



Master Sgt. Matthew Hjelseth and about 30 other N.D. Army National Guard Soldiers with the 191st Military Police Company returned to the U.S. Aug. 24. The Guardsmen arrived at El Paso International Airport, El Paso, Texas after serving since last November in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. They began the redeployment process at nearby Fort Bliss prior to returning to North Dakota. Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. adjutant general, and Chief Master Sgt. James Gibson, senior enlisted advisor, traveled to Fort Bliss to welcome the Soldiers as they arrived on U.S. soil.

Photo by Command Sgt. Maj. Bradley Heim, N.D. National Guard



2nd Lt. Joseph Johnson is pinned by his family during the 164th Regional Training Institute's Officer Candidate School graduation ceremony. (Right) Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. adjutant general, presents 2nd Lt. Katie Zent with the Physical Fitness Award during the ceremony. The award is given to the officer candidate who scores the highest on the physical fitness test during the course.

Photos by Sgt. Jonathan Haugen, Joint Force Headquarters



## Share your photos!

Submit your photos to be considered for inclusion in the N.D. Guardian! Email high-resolution photos to Staff Sgt. Eric Jungels, N.D. Guardian editor, at [eric.p.jungels.mil@mail.mil](mailto:eric.p.jungels.mil@mail.mil).

# GUARDIAN

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## 2014 BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION

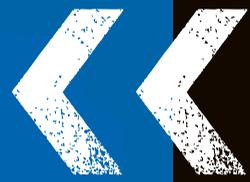
Check out the N.D. Guardian next month for pictures of the state-level N.D. Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition!

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# 2014 BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION

## N.D. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Spc. Joshua Baneck prepares to maneuver down the rappel tower as Spc. Sierra Felix looks on during one component of the state Best Warrior Competition Aug. 25 at Camp Grafton Training Center near Devils Lake.

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



# HAIL MARY PASS, WEST POINT TOUCHDOWN

## Guardsman Fulfills Dreams During Summer Work with Academy's Football Team

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

Staff Sgt. Andrew Carlson  
Contributed Photo

When a N.D. Guardsman launched a Hail Mary pass at fulfilling his dreams, West Point made the catch. Now, Staff Sgt. Andrew Carlson's passions for the military, athletic training and football are proving a win for all of the players.

"Because of my military experience and desire to work in a medical setting within the military eventually, I looked at any and every possibility to work with an athletic trainer in a military setting," he said.

Basic military training wasn't an option due to liability reasons, but an email to West Point's head athletic trainer through the military academy's website led to an interview followed by a 2012 summer internship with the sports medicine team.

"West Point is a prestigious institution (and) being allowed the opportunity to be a part of such an honored program was better than I could have imagined for my internship," Carlson said.



Staff Sgt. Andrew Carlson

Contributed Photo

After spending five weeks with West Point's youth summer camps and two weeks at the Black Knights' summer training camp, Carlson returned to the University of North Dakota last fall for his senior year.

Now, with his bachelor's degree diploma and athletic training certification in hand, Carlson is back at West Point — this

time working without the direct supervision required last year as an undergrad.

"Andrew is a great example of a young professional in the field of athletic training," said Tim Kelly, head athletic trainer for the U.S. Military Academy. "He is very enthusiastic and passionate about his profession while showing a strong desire to serve his country. He has been a great asset to our program, and I am sure he will represent the Guard, UND and athletic trainers well when he enters the Baylor Physical Therapy program."

While Carlson is in New York for the summer, his Guard unit — the Grand Forks-based 1st Battalion, 188th Air Defense Artillery Regiment — provides the flexibility he needs to serve in the Guard while fulfilling his professional dreams. The unit's two-week annual training took place before he departed for West Point, and he was able to split drill in July and August to perform duties at a different date.

"It was really interesting getting to know the cadets and learning about life at West Point," Carlson said before heading back on his second stint. "Many Soldiers have preconceived notions about West Point cadets, and I will admit I had my own before my internship. But, once I got working with them, I found that, for the most part, they are like your typical college student-athlete and Soldier. They had an amazing work ethic and sense of pride for their team, school and country."

Even while busy at West Point, Carlson's sights are set on the next steps of his growing career, which includes applying for the two-year doctoral program in physical therapy at Army-Baylor University, followed by dreams of a direct commission as an officer. ■

Do you or another N.D. Guardsman you know meld your civilian and military passions both in and out of uniform? Tell us your story! Email [ng.nd.ndarng.list.pao@mail.mil](mailto:ng.nd.ndarng.list.pao@mail.mil).

# RUNNERS COMPLETE INAUGURAL AVIATION 10-MILER

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

More than 120 runners and walkers gathered in Bismarck Aug. 24 to participate in the N.D. Army National Guard Aviation Association 10-Miler. The inaugural 10-mile run took place at Papa's Pumpkin Patch with the goal of raising awareness and money for the Wounded Warrior Project.

"We wanted the slogan for the race to be 'never give up,' which is the same as the slogan for the Wounded Warrior Project," said Col. Jerry Anderson, N.D. National Guard state aviation officer and co-organizer of the event.

The Wounded Warrior Project's vision is "to foster the most successful, well-adjusted generation of wounded service members in our nation's history."

Runners had a time limit of three hours and 30 minutes to complete the course that started and ended at Papa's Pumpkin Patch. As temperatures reached upward of 95 degrees, racers were still in high spirits.

"Despite the fact that its already 83 degrees, I'm excited

to run this, and it's for a great cause." said Jessie Carson, of Bismarck, before the race.

After the national anthem and announcements, the race started promptly at 9 a.m. At the sound of an air horn blare, racers sprinted off the start line in a flash.

Participants were greeted by fresh-cut watermelon, hot dogs and water balloons at the finish line. All participants managed to cross the finish line, albeit in varying shapes of mental and physical exhaustion. Some finished blistered feet and aching muscles, but all with what looked like relief and pride at completing the 10-mile track.

"They could have turned the temperature down a bit, but it was a good course and lots of fun." Carson said after the race. Carson, the oldest participant in the race, has completed 16 marathons.

"It was great to see such an awesome turn out for the event," Anderson said. "We hope to do this again next year."



Photos by Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kiel Skager, Joint Force Headquarters

Runners take part in the first-ever N.D. Army National Guard Aviation Association 10-Miler Aug. 24 in Bismarck. More than 120 runners and walkers raced in support of the Wounded Warrior Project, which is striving "to foster the most successful, well-adjusted generation of wounded service members in our nation's history."

**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.pjungels.mil@mail.mil](mailto:eric.pjungels.mil@mail.mil).

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## N.D. Veterans Cemetery Receives National Award

The U.S. Department of Department of Veterans Affairs' National Cemetery Administration presented the agency's "Excellence of Appearance Award" to the N.D. Veterans Cemetery on Aug. 21.

George Eisenbach, acting director of Veterans Cemetery Grants Services, presented the award. Brig. Gen. Alan Dohrmann, N.D. deputy adjutant general, Col. Steven Tabor, director of engineering and facilities for the N.D. National Guard, and Pam Helbling-Schafer, cemetery director, accepted the award on behalf of the cemetery.

"This award is a great testament to the outstanding staff that operate and maintain the N.D. Veterans Cemetery," Dohrmann said. "Thanks to their efforts and the countless hours donated by dedicated volunteers, these beautiful grounds are a fitting final resting place for our military heroes."

State veterans cemeteries are inspected every three years by the administration. The review includes headstone general



Photo by Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kiel Skager, Joint Force Headquarters  
**George Eisenbach (holding award), acting director of the Veterans Cemetery Grants Services, presents the U.S. Department of Department of Veterans Affairs' National Cemetery Administration (NCA) "Excellence of Appearance Award" to the N.D. Veterans Cemetery Aug. 21 at the cemetery's chapel. From left to right are Brig. Gen. Alan Dohrmann, N.D. deputy adjutant general; Pam Helbling-Schafer, cemetery director; Col. Steven Tabor, director of Engineering and Facilities for the N.D. Guard.**

appearance, alignment, turf conditions, drainage, and building and equipment maintenance. ■

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

## Flight Doctor Named Best in Air National Guard

A flight doctor with the N.D. Air National Guard has been named one of the best in the nation. Lt. Col. Fred Black, the 119th Wing chief of aerospace medicine, received the U.S. Air Force Clinical Excellence Award in the field-grade officer category for the Air National Guard.

"Time and again, our Guardsmen and units earn national-level awards. Lt. Col. Black is yet another fine example of what makes the N.D. National Guard the best in the nation," said Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, N.D. adjutant general, who presented Black with the award during an Aug. 3 ceremony.

Black joined the Guard in 2000 and serves in the 119th Medical Group. He attended Des Moines University Medical School, Iowa, and did his residency through the University of Iowa in Des Moines. ■

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

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## St. Alexius Medical Center Receives Pro Patria Award



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

**Gary Miller (left), president and CEO of St. Alexius Medical Center, Bismarck, accepts the Pro Patria award from Bob Wefald, state chair of the N.D. Committee for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Aug. 28 in Bismarck. The Pro Patria award recognizes support to employees who are members of the Guard and Reserve. St. Alexius was nominated for ESGR's highest award at the state level by Col. Gordon Leingang, an emergency trauma physician who is a senior flight surgeon in the N.D. Army National Guard.**

St. Alexius Medical Center, Bismarck, received the Pro Patria Award in recognition of its support to employees who are members of the Guard and Reserve. Bob Wefald, state chair of the N.D. Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, presented the award to Gary Miller, president and CEO of St. Alexius Medical Center.

St. Alexius was nominated for the highest award that can be given at the state level by Col. Gordon Leingang, an emergency trauma physician who is a senior flight surgeon in the N.D. Army National Guard.

"I've been called to active duty four times and will go a fifth in the coming months," Leingang said, "not counting several 'call ups' for other state emergencies, like floods, winter storms and tornadoes along the way."

Throughout these deployments, Leingang says he and others have received "steadfast and enthusiastic support," noting that "we continue to serve because St. Alexius not only allows it, but encourages it."

**To nominate your employer for outstanding support to your military career, please go to [www.esgr.mil](http://www.esgr.mil).** ■

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

# Chaplains' Corner:

## ARE WE BREAKING BAD?

By Chaplain (Col.) John Flowers  
Joint Force Headquarters

The final episodes of “Breaking Bad” air this fall. It’s wildly popular, critically acclaimed, and trumpeted on social media. Just for the record, I don’t recommend that you watch a TV show just because it’s popular or critically acclaimed. And, please, don’t take this article as an endorsement.

For my part, I started watching the show, and ... you know how it goes with these things. I got hooked like a meth head and couldn’t wait for the next episode.

In case you haven’t seen it, the premise of the show is this: A mild-mannered high school chemistry teacher (Walter White) is diagnosed with terminal cancer. He decides to provide for his family by cooking and selling meth. Turns out, because of his great skill at chemistry, he produces a highly popular product. He is gradually sucked in to the ugliest corners of the drug underworld. At first you find yourself rooting for Mr. White. He’s taking on some very undesirable characters and kicking some serious you know what. But, over time, he is transformed into a hideous monster.

You might ask, “Why is the chaplain writing about a TV show featuring a ruthless drug king pin?” I would answer — first of all — that it’s way better than “The Walking Dead.” And, secondly, that it can be hard to come up with relevant topics to write about for The Guardian. Have you tried it lately?

But mainly I’m writing about “Breaking Bad” because it is a modern day morality tale. A morality tale teaches the difference between right and wrong. It tells about struggling to be virtuous, overcoming temptation, and gaining redemption. A morality tale also teaches us what happens when evil is allowed full expression in our lives.

You see, Walter White lost his moral compass. He started reluctantly, hesitant

to pull the trigger. Then he began rationalizing evil — telling himself he was doing it for a good reason, that he would only do it for a short time, and that he could control it. Without a moral compass, it’s easy to deceive yourself into taking that first step of moral compromise. And one moral compromise always leads to another.

If you compromise with evil, then evil will consume you. Evil always keeps you longer that you intended to stay. Evil always takes you further than you wanted to go.

In Walter’s life, the lies build on one another. The greed for more money is never satisfied. The thirst for raw power consumes his soul. The body count grows astronomically. The number of lives destroyed by his evil is incalculable.

HINT: If you are still rooting for Walter White in season five, you might want to check your own moral compass (actually, season one if you really think about it).

I guess that’s my main point. It often seems like our whole society is “breaking bad.”

Our culture is rooting for Walter White. He’s cool. He breaks all of the rules. He’s in control. He doesn’t take crap from anybody. He’s getting his fair share. He’s the hero. Seems like we all have collectively lost our moral compass.

I don’t know how “Breaking Bad” will end. In a true morality tale, he will either get the justice he deserves or will somehow come to a point of repentance and redemption. I’m sure I will be watching to see what happens. I will have to check my moral compass.

Are you following your moral compass? If not, beware. Moral compromise will not end until evil is satisfied.

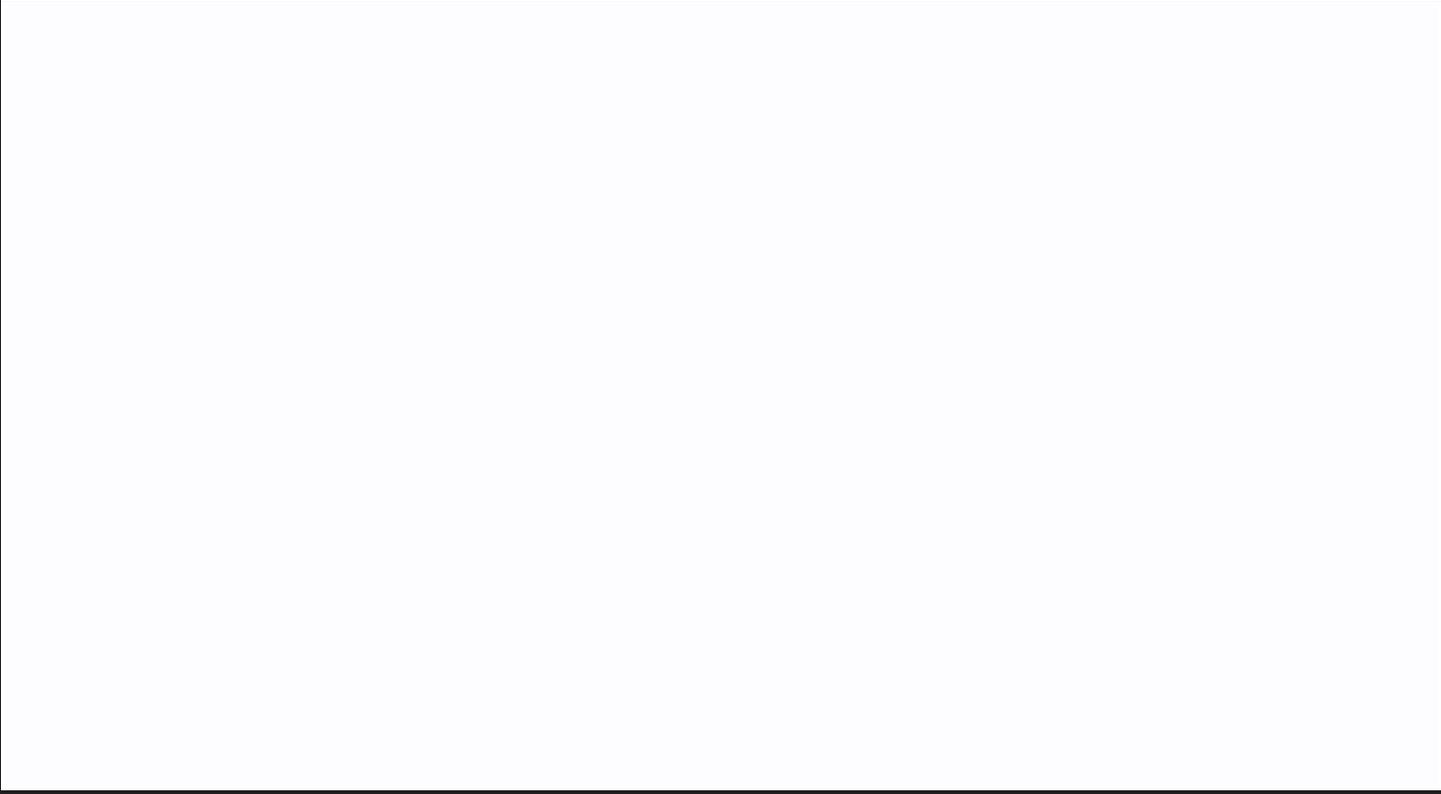
But be hopeful, as well. Redemption is always possible. Possible for each one of us, and possible for our culture, as well. ■



Chaplain (Col.) John Flowers

*Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter.*

— Isaiah 5:20



# A BEAUTIFUL PLACE TO REST



Flags fly over the N.D. Veterans Cemetery Aug. 21, the same day that George Eisenbach, acting director of the Veterans Cemetery Grants Services, presented Pam Helbling-Schafer, N.D. Veterans Cemetery director, with the U.S. Department of Department of Veterans Affairs' National Cemetery Administration "Excellence of Appearance Award."

