



# NORTH DAKOTA GUARDIAN

Volume 8, Issue 4

May 2015

## Revered Resting Place

North Dakota Veterans Cemetery  
Reaches 25-Year Milestone

PG. 8

## Highest Accolade

Sexual Assault Response Coordinator  
Named Best in National Guard

PG. 14

## Capturing the Story

Military Journalists Complete  
Overseas Mission to Germany

PG. 6

# RELIEF FROM ABOVE

North Dakota Aviators Respond to South Bismarck Wildfire PG. 4

# INSIDE THIS ISSUE

## FEATURES



### 4 Capital City Wildfire

N.D. Army National Guard aviation crews responded to a 2,000-acre wildfire in Bismarck, North Dakota, last month. The Soldiers hoisted 640-gallon Bambi buckets full of Missouri River water to suppress the blaze while working with emergency responders from multiple agencies to save lives and property.



### 10 Families Support

The N.D. Army and Air National Guard honor their Families of the Year for 2014. Both the Voeller and Kraiter family supported Guardsmen this year through selfless volunteerism. Read about how the families helped improve well-being and increased readiness for Soldiers and Airmen in their communities.



### 12 Mission to Inspire

Senior Airman Sean Hummel is helping to pair Fargo-area youth with members of the 119th Wing by developing a new mentoring program within the unit. Called "Little Wingman," the program is supported by the N.D. Air National Guard's Family Program, which facilitates the volunteer process.

# NORTH DAKOTA GUARDIAN

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

## DEPARTMENTS

Guardian Snapshots ..... Page 16  
News Briefs ..... Page 18  
Sound Off! ..... Page 19



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## On the Cover



A UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter operated by the N.D. Army National Guard's Company C, 2nd Battalion, 285th Aviation Regiment (Assault) uses a 640-gallon Bambi bucket April 14 to suppress a wildfire south of Bismarck, North Dakota, near the residential area of Briardale. Aviation crews applied more than 122,000 gallons of water to the blaze while working with local emergency responders during the weeklong battle.

Photo by Sgt. Ashley Johlf  
Joint Force Headquarters



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# VIEW FROM THE TOP

## A MESSAGE FROM THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

# THE GREATEST GLORY

As we approach the Memorial Day weekend — the unofficial start of summer — I am reminded of the words of England's Bishop William Havard, who once wrote, "The greatest glory of a free-born people is to transmit that freedom to their children." Havard, a Welshman who served as a chaplain in the British Army during World War I, likely never took part in the distinctly American holiday known as Memorial Day, but through his words, he demonstrated his understanding of the meaning of the day we set aside to remember our nation's war dead and honor their sacrifices.

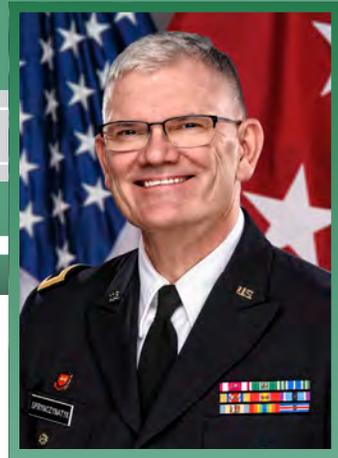
It can be difficult to pause from our busy lives with our many responsibilities and commitments. The true meaning of Memorial Day is sometimes lost, or at least diluted, as to its intended meaning. To many, Memorial Day is a off from work. To others, it's an opportunity to indulge in the savings afforded by the wave of retail sales. We must strive to always keep the true meaning of the holiday in the forefront of our thoughts: it is the day we honor those heroes resting in cemeteries here at home and overseas, who defended our nation's freedom and sovereignty.

Originally known as Decoration Day, Memorial Day was intended to commemorate those who died maintaining the Union during the American Civil War. Decoration Day took its name from the single day set aside during the year when families and friends of the dead traveled to cemeteries across the country to place American flags and flowers at the graves of those who died serving our country. As the 20th century dawned, Decoration Day expanded to include all Americans who died in military service. Still, many of the traditions remained, such as conducting ceremonies, decorating the graves of the fallen, and listening to speakers reminding us of their sacrifices and service.

At the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery, the North Dakota National Guard has hosted Memorial Day ceremonies annually since 1993. In the nearly quarter century since

then, these programs have honored those veterans and their family members interred there, spanning from the Civil War to the Global War on Terrorism. The Memorial Day ceremony at the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery has become the cemetery's signature event; a day we assemble to remember and honor those who paid the ultimate price for the freedoms we so enjoy. As President Abraham Lincoln said in his Gettysburg Address at the dedication of America's first National Cemetery at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, in November 1863, "It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this."

Please join us this Memorial Day at the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery at noon for the largest ceremony in North Dakota. This year's keynote speaker will be retired Maj.



Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk

### North Dakota Adjutant General

Gen. Alexander P. Macdonald, former North Dakota adjutant general, who in that role began construction on the cemetery 25 years ago. This year's theme, "25 Years of Honor," is in recognition of our state's most honored resting place for our fallen military members. ■

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Sprynczynatyk".

Photo by Shirley Olgeirson



Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, North Dakota adjutant general, left, is joined by his wife, Connie Sprynczynatyk, civilian aide to the Secretary of the Army, and retired Maj. Gen. C. Emerson Murry, former North Dakota adjutant general, center, during a Memorial Day ceremony May 2010 at the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery. Murry, who passed away Aug. 29 of that year, served as an infantryman in the European theater with the 17th and 82nd Airborne Divisions during World War II. He participated in several major campaigns, including the Battle of the Bulge in 1944. In his last public appearance during the 2010 Memorial Day ceremony, he delivered the keynote speech highlighting the service of World War II veterans. He is buried at the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery.

# WHERE THERE'S SMOKE

## GUARD AVIATORS, LOCAL RESPONDERS BATTLE BISMARCK WILDFIRE

*By Staff Sgt. Eric W. Jensen  
Joint Force Headquarters*

“Sheer panic” is the phrase Col. Brian Keller used to describe his own demeanor after reaching his neighborhood the afternoon of April 13 in south Bismarck. He already could see the plume of smoke as he departed work from the Raymond J. Bohn Armory, where he serves as the North Dakota National Guard’s deputy state surgeon. By the time he hit Sibley Drive — a thoroughfare into the Briardale residential area in south Burleigh County — he could hardly see out of his vehicle’s front windshield, the streets obscured by a fiery haze.

“When I got home, I stopped over at my neighbor’s, because I saw a fire truck sitting in his backyard. I pulled up around the corner and looked and the flames were about 20 yards from his house,” Keller said.

Keller described the first of a 2-day battle — from April 13 to April 14 — with a wildfire that eventually swallowed up about 2,000 acres of dry, moisture-deprived vegetation on the outskirts of Bismarck. As he frantically packed cherished household items for possible evacuation, Keller saw a swarm of local and state agencies racing to douse the blaze. The group included N.D. Army National Guard aviators operating Black Hawk helicopters, which hoisted 640-gallon Bambi buckets brimming with Missouri River water.

“Everyone did a superb job. I talked to one guy (with the Bismarck Rural Fire Department) who was up for 40 hours. And, if it wouldn’t have been for the (Bambi) buckets and the helicopters, we would have potentially been in a lot more danger.”

Ultimately, no one in the area lost their homes to the fire, despite some intimate encounters with the blaze. Keller said the fire ended up about 150-200 yards away from his back yard until it was eventually suppressed. The University of Mary, just a short jaunt to the



A local firefighter clears deadfall and debris April 14 while a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter drops water in support of fire operations in south Bismarck.

Photo by Sgt. Ashley Johlfs, Joint Force Headquarters

north of Keller’s house, had flames within about 50 feet of one of its administrative buildings. For a short time during the first night of the fire, about 20 homes were evacuated, as well as about 3,000 students from the University of Mary. Authorities believe the blaze was sparked by an unattended campfire in a nearby recreational area.

The fire response was a combined effort headed by the Bismarck Rural Fire Department. Mutual aid also was provided by Bismarck City Fire and rural fire departments from Sterling, Wilton and Mandan, as well as personnel from the North Dakota Forest Service and North Dakota Game and Fish. Aviation crews from the Bismarck-based Company C, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 285<sup>th</sup> Aviation Regiment (Assault) had been on stand-by alert since April 1, following an executive order issued by North Dakota Gov. Jack Dalrymple. The order authorized Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, North Dakota adjutant general, to activate N.D. National Guard resources should they need to support local and tribal governments fighting wildfires. During the Bismarck fire fight, the pilots would drop more than 200 buckets of water, which totaled about 122,000 gallons.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Zachary Putz, one of the pilots who responded during the operation, said the fire was easily visible from the crews’ staging area at the N.D. National Guard’s Army Aviation Support Facility, which sits just a few miles to the north of where responders were working to push back the flames.



“We had air crews that were already out and operating and saw the early development of the fire. They saw the smoke start to build and escalate,” he said.

Coincidentally, the Guardsmen were scheduled to conduct fire-fighting training the day they received a request for assistance from the North Dakota Department of Emergency Services. Putz and others, fortunately, had just completed the training during a unit mobilization to Kosovo last year. In addition, Putz had the opportunity to participate in a U.S. Forest Service fire-fighting course in March.

“We had a lot of guys that had done water bucket training in August of last year, so they were prepared and still current (on the training),” he said.

Up in the air, the crews were able to place water in front of the fire to cut it off from burning up land and structures. Putz said the Bambi buckets are equipped with a “tarantula valve,” which is a variable-delivery system that allows the Guardsmen to slowly spread the water across larger areas.

“A lot of times, we don’t have enough water to put out the ‘head’ of the fire, or the direction in which the flame is moving. Generally, you’re picking a line where you think you’ll be able to cut off the flame,” he said. “If you fight the head, when you drop water there, the flame is just going to go around that area. It’s like building a dam. What we can do is pre-treat the area where the flame is going to go, the vegetation, grass or trees. By dropping the water, we reduce the heat and the likelihood that the flame will continue over an area, reducing the spread of the fire.”

The Black Hawks were a welcome sight to firemen on the ground. One of those firefighters was 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Josh Entzel, who

serves with the 191<sup>st</sup> Military Police Company in Fargo. He also is a volunteer for the Bismarck Rural Fire Department. His full-time job, however, is at the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery where he works as the maintenance supervisor.

“It was nice to see (the Black Hawks during operations) because of the area we were in. With the banks up and down the crick (where they were fighting the fire) and the fire on both sides, we had to divide our assets. It was so hard to get around in that area and having the National Guard there with the helicopters was a huge asset. We would’ve never got ahead of the fire like we did without them,” he said.

Entzel, too, could see the smoke from the blaze from across the Missouri River during the first day of the fire. As a volunteer, he works with his supervisor to get time off to respond to calls, should he be needed.

“My boss (Pamela Helbling-Schafer, the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery director) is awesome with everything. It’s a service to the community. They saw that here (during the fire), and appreciate it,” Entzel said. “You never know when it could be your house or your family involved, and that’s a lot of the reason why I do it. A lot of people ask, ‘Why do you want to get up at two or three in the morning to go do this?’ It’s not about the pay, it’s about knowing it could be my family in that house or in that car wreck, and that’s the way I see it.”

After responding the first day of the fire, on April 13, Entzel would end up fighting the blaze well into the week. The fire initially was contained on the first day of operations, but soon reignited the following day, requiring ingenuity and hours of hard work from each of the responding agencies. Putz said he was proud of the way his crews



Left, the day after a large fire threatened homes and property in Burleigh County, smoldering wood and high winds were still a concern April 14 for firefighters and homeowners. Right, a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter hoists a 640-gallon Bambi bucket filled with Missouri River water to extinguish the south Burleigh County fire.

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adapted to the fire and their coordination with the fire suppression units on the ground.

“The ground firefighters don’t get nearly the credit they deserve,” he said. “When you look at it, they are the ones who are right down in the action, right against the flames, in the smoke. We’re just trying to augment to them and help them in any way we can.”

Monsignor James Shea, University of Mary president, expressed his gratitude to local responders and the N.D. National Guard after fire suppression operations had ended in a letter addressed to the adjutant general.

“In these days since the fire and winds of (April 13-14), we continue to carry and recount the blessing of your ready generosity in response to the challenges that confronted us. On behalf of the University of Mary community, I want to express our heartfelt gratitude for the great difference you made and for the inspiration your responsiveness brings. It is the steadfast generosity of vigilance,” Shea wrote. “In these days of heightened awareness and expressed gratitude, I extend well our heartfelt appreciation for what you do each day — practice skills, enlarge knowledge, and stand ready to serve. We needed you and you served with beautiful and heroic generosity.” ■

# Public Affairs Detachment Shares Soldiers' Stories During Overseas Training

## MISSION FIRST TO BE CONDUCTED BY ALL-FEMALE NORTH DAKOTA UNIT

*Courtesy of the 116th Public Affairs Detachment*

As 4,700 military members from 17 countries converged at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center here, one of the smallest units captured the most double-takes. The mission of the 8-member 116<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment (PAD) had them interacting with numerous Soldiers from across Europe and the United States. That alone tended to make the military journalists stand out in a blur of camouflage as they reached out to make connections and form relationships. The composition of the group, however, garnered more attention than usual.

The deployed Soldiers of the North Dakota Army National Guard unit were all female. Led by Capt. Kristi Blair, commander, and Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Billie Jo Lorius, acting first sergeant, the women were busy last month interviewing military members, shooting video and capturing photos during Saber Junction 15, a multinational training exercise focused on promoting interoperability among NATO allies. The vast majority of participants were male, with most U.S. Soldiers serving in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division or the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Division.

While women comprise a greater percentage of North Dakota Guardsmen now than ever before, this is believed to be the first all-female deployment overseas for the N.D. Army National Guard. The unit included two Soldiers augmenting from other states, Florida and Utah.

"We have a unit full of very strong, independent and intelligent women," said Sgt. Jennifer Joyce. "We have very well-established friendships within the unit and our respect for each other makes the training even more valuable. We all are able to teach and learn from each other to become more proficient in our roles. Our relationships will certainly outlast any of our terms of enlistment."

### MULTINATIONAL TRAINING

Despite the attention the group got for standing out in a training area filled with infantrymen, combat engineers and armament Soldiers, the women remained focused on the job they, too, had to do at the JMRC.

After arriving April 9, the 116<sup>th</sup> PAD Soldiers set to work reporting on the initial Saber Junction training. For eight days, they shared visual and written stories on everything from Latvian soldiers training alongside U.S. forces to M1132 Stryker engineer squad vehicles clearing minefields to how training continues to transition following the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

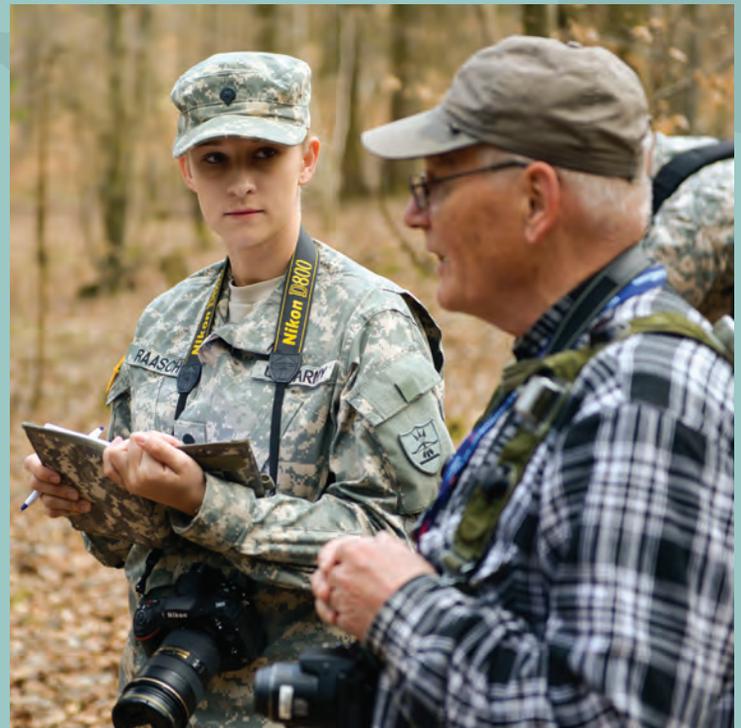
"Working with multinationals is always a great learning opportunity" said Spc. Jess Raasch. "I had the chance to learn from the

Latvian soldiers and hear their stories. You can't put a price on the value of this experience."

The group wrote nearly 20 stories, produced five video news reports and published significantly more photos and b-roll video footage of the training during the first half of the 3-week mission. The latter half included daily news packages from each Soldier.

### ROLE PLAYING

Then, the Soldiers changed hats – literally. They left their uniforms behind and transitioned into civilian journalists working for news services developed as part of a large-scale game, of sorts. Each assumed a new persona, clipped on a press pass and grabbed a



Spc. Jessica Raasch, of the 116th Public Affairs Detachment, interviews Latvian Soldiers with the help of translation provided by a "civilian on the battlefield" during a training exercise at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center near Hohenfels, Germany. Nearly 4,700 service members from 17 different NATO allies and partner nation armies participated in Saber Junction 15, a decisive action training environment exercise, which aimed to build and maintain interoperability among the nations.

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



Peter Schneider, of Munich, asks a question during a press conference at Joint Multinational Readiness Center, Hohenfels, Germany. Schneider — along with Eberhard Dressler of Taucha, Germany, and Lothar Aschenbrenner, from Rostock, Germany (seated to the right) — are working as “civilians on the battlefield” and assigned to work with the 116th Public Affairs Detachment during a large-scale, multinational, force-on-force training scenario. Also taking part in the press conference are (seated from left) Capt. Kristi Blair, Sgt. 1st Class Billie Jo Lorus, Spc. Jessica Raasch and (standing) Staff Sgt. Ashley Baum. All of the Soldiers are in civilian clothes with press passes under different names for the role-playing exercise.

camera for eight more days of training, but in a highly organized and scripted force-on-force training environment.

“I had a blast working with the oppositional forces,” said Staff Sgt. Sara Marchus, who worked closely with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. “I had the opportunity to ride along in an M113 armored personnel carrier, operate a turret and fire a simulated round from it. Learning about their job and seeing the impact that it has on a larger scale has really been a valuable experience. It has been a true example of brothers and sisters in arms working cohesively to complete the mission.”

The large-scale training event moved across the JMRC, incorporating complex scenarios with civilians, minefields, radioactive substances, roadblocks, chemical attacks, press conferences, maneuver forces, civilian political leaders and more.

PAD Soldiers reported on the events under assumed names and dictated roles for simulated news agencies for both sides of the scripted conflict. They interviewed civilian grocery store owners, internally displaced personnel and NATO members throughout the training area on their experiences. The questions helped prepare NATO troops for what they might encounter from actual media during a deployment.

They also partnered with German civilians in the role-playing, which gave them the added bonus of forming stronger international relationships while learning more about the history and culture of the area.

“It was very interesting to hear their life

stories, experiences and their appreciation of our units and their mission. One of the COBs (civilians on the battlefield) was from East Germany, and recalled U.S. Soldiers liberating his home town as a child, 70 years ago this month,” said Staff Sgt. Carmen Steinbach.

In the meantime, the PAD Soldiers wrote stories, documented the events with photos, produced broadcast news packages and voiced radio news reports that were posted online for their respective news stations as a way to direct the story line in the evolving conflict.

“This training is different from anything we’ve previously done,” Blair said. “It broadens our abilities as journalists and also offers a unique opportunity to the rotational units to have realistic interaction with what would be civilian media in a real-world environment.”

### ONE-OF-A-KIND EXPERIENCES

Public affairs ranks among one of the most-deployed MOSs, or military occupational specialties, in the U.S. Army. That means this group of Soldiers has had the opportunity to tell the story of their fellow service members at locations across the globe.

This mission brought them in touch with even more countries as military members came to the Joint Multinational Readiness Center from Albania, Armenia, Belgium, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Great Britain, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Turkey,

Sweden and the U.S. It provided lessons in interoperability while giving the Soldiers an opportunity to learn more about the global military environment and work to overcome challenges, from barriers in language to new terminology.

“There have been several challenges that we have encountered during our training here, but each was an opportunity for individual and professional growth,” Lorus said. “As a result, we will all have skills and memories that we will carry with us throughout our lifetimes. Each of the Soldiers here has done an outstanding job in their fields, seeking out stories and taking each moment as a way to learn more and tell the story about other countries and the exercise.”

Lorus marked her 20<sup>th</sup> year of service in the military while in Germany, and used her experience to mentor younger Soldiers.

Beyond the training value, the Soldiers embraced the opportunity to strengthen as a team in one of the more unique deployments of their careers.

“As I complete my last training before retiring from the National Guard, it’s interesting to reflect on the changes from my first training event,” said Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Amy Wieser Willson, who also has served 20 years. “I enlisted into an engineer unit and was one of few women in the company. The North Dakota National Guard has changed a lot since then, and it’s a pleasure to end my career surrounded by young, motivated and passionate women who will continue to grow in their careers while telling the military story.” ■

Photo by Staff Sgt. Brett Miller, Joint Force Headquarters

# 25 Years OF HONOR



## A HISTORY OF THE NORTH DAKOTA VETERANS CEMETERY

By Capt. Jeff Hoffer  
N.D. National Guard Historian

Six miles south of Mandan, North Dakota, along Highway 1806, and a stone's throw from the Missouri River, lays 35 acres of arguably the most sacred and historic land in the state: the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery. The inscriptions on the thoroughly-ordered rows of headstones and well-manicured lawns comprising its grounds tell only part of the proud history of the site now permanently serving as the final resting place of more than 6,630 North Dakota veterans and their immediate family members.

However, it was both sacred and historic long before the land became a cemetery.

It once was home to the Mandan Indians, who established a village nearby they called "On-A-Slant" in 1575. The Mandan occupied the village until the early 1780s before a smallpox epidemic pushed them out of the area to the northwest, at what is now the Fort Berthold Reservation. Little more than 20

years later, explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark traveled through the area during their expedition, noting the remains of the village as they proceeded west.

In 1872, nearly 70 years after Lewis and Clark passed through the area, the U.S. Army established Fort McKeen on the heights to the north of what is now the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery. The fort was expanded the following year and had its name changed to Fort Abraham Lincoln. As part of a larger military reservation carrying the same name, this military post became famous as the home of the 7th Cavalry, commanded by Lt. Col. (Bvt. Maj. Gen.) George Armstrong Custer. Custer and his wife, Elizabeth, called the fort home from 1873 until his death at the Battle of the Little Bighorn in June 1876. In 1891, the military abandoned Fort Abraham Lincoln and the ground lay vacant until 1907 when President Theodore Roosevelt transferred the former Fort Abraham Lincoln Military Reservation to the state of North Dakota, and the site became Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park — North Dakota's first state park. Nearly 30 years later, the United States was in the midst of the Great Depression, and President Franklin D. Roosevelt enacted legislation that formed, among other things, the Civilian Conservation Corps, comprised of young men who built the park's first facilities, laying the groundwork for one of most famous tourist destinations in North Dakota. Many of these young men went on to serve in our nation's military during World War II, fighting through to victory around the world before returning home and seeing to the peace-time development of North Dakota.

When the North Dakota Legislature authorized then-adjutant general, retired Maj. Gen. Alexander Macdonald, to build and operate a state



The North Dakota Veterans Cemetery as it appeared on June 2, 1992. The first burials occurred the following month. Left, Soldiers from the N.D. National Guard's Ceremonial Platoon fire a French 75-millimeter cannon, WWI vintage, for a 21-cannon salute during a 2013 Memorial Day ceremony at the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery.

cemetery in 1989, this quiet, yet historic, setting was a natural choice as the final resting place of North Dakota's military veterans. While the legislature appropriated no state monies to fund the project, accrued interest from the State Highway Fund, as well as private funds from the North Dakota Militia Foundation (now known as the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery Foundation), and federal resources from the National Guard Bureau's Grants Program helped with costs.

Construction of the cemetery began in April 1990. About a year and a half later, in July 1992, the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery officially opened for burials. On July 7 of that year, Clyde W. Arenz, a U.S. Army veteran who served in Europe during World War II, was laid to rest. Further burials followed soon after, as did the dedication of the cemetery, which occurred Aug. 30, 1992.

North Dakota veterans from the Civil War to the Global War on Terrorism have found their final resting place at the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery. The cemetery's lone Civil War veteran, former Pvt. John A. Murray, was reburied there

from another cemetery on Aug. 18, 1992. Murray served as a private in Company F, 2nd Minnesota Cavalry, in both Minnesota and Dakota Territory during the Civil War. Other interments include two Medal of Honor recipients from the 1st North Dakota Volunteer Infantry, who served in the Philippines from 1898 to 1899. Pvt. Charles P. Davis was reburied there in September 1995, and Pvt. Thomas Sletteland was moved to the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery in November 1995.

The North Dakota Veterans Cemetery also is the final resting place of Petty Officer 2nd Class Chester Coons, a U.S. Navy aircrewman killed when his plane was shot down during a mission in Laos in February 1968. Missing for decades, Coon's remains were not recovered until 1994. Following his identification, Coons was returned home for burial at the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery.

While rows of headstones covering the cemetery's grounds provide mute testament to the service and sacrifice of North Dakota's veterans, so to do monuments commemorating North Dakota units and past battles fought during our nation's wars. The first dedication of such a monument

occurred Sept. 24, 1994, when cemetery staff placed a monument commemorating the 164th Infantry's service during World War II. Since then, other monuments honoring the World War II service of National Guard units appeared, such as the 188th Field Artillery Battalion and 776th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for their service in Europe. Other monuments commemorate North Dakotans who fought in the Pacific at Iwo Jima and in Europe during the Battle of the Bulge. A plan to erect another monument to North Dakota's POWs and MIAs from the Vietnam War currently is well underway.

When visiting the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery and remembering those veterans no longer with us, one will notice that the white marble grave markers are interspersed with granite markers across the cemetery's grounds. When the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery was first built, it was decided to use upright marble headstones. In 1994, Maj. Gen. Keith Bjerke, former adjutant general, decided to change the grave markers to granite as the white marble headstones eroded and discolored quickly in North Dakota's climate. Following extensive research, Bjerke determined that it was in the best interest of the cemetery to switch to granite, improving the long-term appearance of the graves and the cemetery as a whole. Eventually, all graves will have granite headstones.

Cemetery maintenance remains ongoing, and the number of burials continues to grow.

"Over the last three years alone, the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery has averaged about 450 burials annually," said Pam Helbling-Schafer, cemetery director.

With so many burials conducted each year, the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery Foundation assists with raising funds for a long-term fund, from which accrued interest is used to operate and maintain the grounds. This guarantees the perpetual care of the cemetery, ensuring the high standards of appearance the cemetery staff provides. This year, in July, a transfer of a further 35 acres from the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department to the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery will double the current size of the cemetery and provide enough burial space for an estimated 160 years into the future. ■



# NORTH DAKOTA'S MILITARY families of the year

*By Staff Sgt. Eric W. Jensen  
Joint Force Headquarters*

The North Dakota National Guard's Service Member and Family Support Division staff honored two military families for their generosity, support and devotion to fellow Guardsmen throughout 2014. The Families of the Year — both for the North Dakota Army and Air National Guard — were named March 21 during a National Guard Officer and Enlisted Association of North Dakota awards banquet at the Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck.

"When our Guardsmen make the decision to swear an oath to protect our communities, state and nation, their families make that commitment to service, as well," said Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, North Dakota adjutant general. "Our Soldiers and

Airmen could not be successful without the support they receive from their loved ones. I congratulate this year's North Dakota Army and Air National Guard Families of the Year. Not only are they deserving of these awards, but their gracious volunteerism reinforces how crucial families are for helping us execute our missions at home and abroad."

## *Voeller family*

Capt. Matthew Voeller and his wife, Janelle, along with their children, Abram, Keira and Natalie, are the N.D. Army National Guard's Family of the Year. Matthew works full time as the officer-in-charge of the 1st Battalion, 188th Air Defense Artillery Regiment in Grand Forks, North Dakota.



**Capt. Matthew Voeller, third from left, and his wife, Janelle, along with their children, Abram, Keira and Natalie, are the 2014 Family of the Year for the N.D. Army National Guard. Joining the Voellers, from left, are Lt. Col. Paul Harron, 1st Battalion, 188th Air Defense Artillery Regiment commander; Col. Robert Fode, commander of the N.D. National Guard Army component; and Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, North Dakota adjutant general, far right. Sprynczynatyk presented the Voellers with the Family of the Year Award March 21 during a National Guard Officer and Enlisted Association of North Dakota awards banquet at the Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck.**



Photo by Jonathan Haugen, N.D. National Guard Visual Information



**SMFS**  
SERVICE MEMBER & FAMILY SUPPORT

Senior Master Sgt. Jennifer Kraiter, left, and her husband, Master Sgt. Kent Kraiter, and their daughters, Kaylee and Hannah, are the 2014 Family of the Year for the N.D. Air National Guard. Hannah is one of only two Air National Guard members' children serving on the U.S. Air Force Teen Council. The nationwide group provides a youth perspective in the planning, implementation and evaluation of Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard youth programs.



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



To better assist Guard families during a yearlong National Capital Region mission in Washington, D.C., Capt. Voeller helped combine Family Support Groups between three Grand Forks-based Air Defense units prior to their departure. Janelle was the consolidated group's lead volunteer, tasked with providing support to more than 400 Soldiers and their families. During her time in that role, she conducted monthly Family Support meetings and spearheaded numerous creative family projects, including designing, ordering, selling and distributing commemorative National Capital Region t-shirts and hoodies to family members and Soldiers. The Family Support Group also created Thanksgiving-themed picture frames for its Soldiers, holiday ornaments and held a "Frozen" movie party for family members. Janelle also developed a family Facebook page for the Air Defense Artillery Battalion and continues to serve as its administrator.

In addition to Family Support activities, the Voeller family also volunteers within their community, specifically at their church where they help with bake sales and other events, as needed. Capt. Voeller also volunteers with the Minnesota/North Dakota/South Dakota Chapter of the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Association. He also serves as secretary for the National Guard Association of North Dakota, has served as the Grand Forks area

representative for the Combined Federal Campaign for the past three years, and is a National Guard representative on the Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce's Military Affairs Committee.

The Soldier who nominated the Voellers for the Family of the Year Award wrote, "I truly believe that our Family Readiness Group would not exist and have accomplished as much as it has without the leadership of Capt. Voeller and Janelle. They and their children give so much time and effort to our organization, Soldiers and families. I believe they embody the ideals represented by the Family of the Year."

### *Kraiter Family*

Senior Master Sgt. Jennifer Kraiter and Master Sgt. Kent Kraiter, along with their daughters, Kaylee and Hannah, were honored as the N.D. Air National Guard's Family of the Year for 2014. Jennifer and Kent, both members of the North Dakota's 119th Wing, have more than 42 years of military service between them.

The Kraiter family has been active in numerous programs, activities and events supporting the N.D. National Guard. Jennifer last year completed the organization's Joint Mentoring Developing Leaders Program, which pairs mentors and mentees outside of normal

supervisory and command channels to gain expertise and gain alternative perspectives about leadership, decision making and communication. She also serves as the chairperson of the 119th Wing's Diversity Council. Additionally, Jennifer helped implement a program called "To Basic and Back" with the 119th Wing's Recruiting Office. The program helps new recruits by pairing them with mentors to communicate with through writing letters while attending basic training.

Last year, the Kraifers helped raise \$2,000 for the 119th Wing through the Remember Our Serving Soldiers, or ROSS, event annually held at the West Fargo, North Dakota, VFW Post 7564.

Hannah supports the 119th Wing, as well, as one of only two Air National Guard members' children serving on the U.S. Air Force Teen Council. The nationwide group provides a youth perspective in the planning, implementation and evaluation of Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard youth programs. ■

# Little

# Wingman

# SOARS HIGH

# FOR 119TH WING

By Senior Airman Desiree Moya  
119th WIng



**A**irmen who are proficient at their assigned job, continually pursue education and are active members within the community represent a well-rounded North Dakota Air Guard member. Community involvement was the focus of National Volunteer Month in April.

U.S. Airmen's heritage encompass an exclusive set of standards and values that can inspire young children to solidify a confident character, along with encouraging a perseverance approach to life. While volunteering is an individual preference, it's an intrinsic part of being a true Airman and wingman.

Throughout the month of April, Airman 1st Class Sean Hummel, new to the 119<sup>th</sup> Wing, developed a base-wide initiative for mentoring local community children.

"I wanted to generate a positive community impact through my military association. The (119<sup>th</sup>) Wing is a great catalyst for building that local connection with this new project," said Hummel.

Senior Airman Sean Hummel, of the 119th Wing, poses for a photo with his "little wingman" Max during an outing at the Sky Zone indoor trampoline park April 14 in Fargo. Hummel has been mentoring Max for six years and is working on developing a youth mentoring program for members of the 119th Wing through the N.D. Air National Guard Family Program, which is called the Little Wingman program.

The project — called Little Wingman — will provide adult mentors for children, ages 6 – 16, who are under pressure at school or home and may need further one-on-one consideration to work through youth obstacles. The mentoring program welcomes every child; no one will be turned away.

Hummel coordinated the mentoring venture after noticing a child being abused during a community outreach event while off duty.

"I was serving food to the less fortunate one day in the local community, when I witnessed a little boy being abused," Hummel



Hummel jumps with Max during their outing at Sky Zone.

"I spoke to the little boy who was hesitant to respond initially, but after sharing that I was in the military, he relaxed and opened up to me."

said. "I spoke to the little boy who was hesitant to respond initially, but after sharing that I was in the military, he relaxed and opened up to me."

Hummel said simply understanding a child's interest as they are going through a rough patch in life may be the deciding factor for their positive reform. Spending an hour or so with that child could perhaps improve their overall performance at school and home.

Hummel shared his idea with base leadership at the most desirable time, since there is an increasing number of children in the Fargo community who need mentors,

Hummel said.

"Airman Hummel displayed great initiative by starting a mentoring program for the Wing. It is precisely the kind of forward thinking that Chief Master Sgt. James W. Hotaling, the command chief master sergeant of the Air National Guard, has encouraged all senior leaders to support," said Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Muehler, 119th Wing command chief.

Anyone in the 119th Wing can participate at anytime. Hummel asks that future applicants be dependable, compassionate and ready to have an amazing experience with their "little

wingman."

"The best thing about this new base program is there is no deadline to participate," Hummel said. "Anyone in the 119th Wing can participate at anytime."

For more information about the Little Wingman program, call Mark Ostern, Airman and Family Readiness Program manager, at 701-451-2112. ■



Left, Hummel orders snacks for his "little wingman" Max during their outing at Sky Zone. Above, Max is all smiles as he plays during his meeting with Hummel.

# EXCEPTIONAL

MATTSON GARNERS DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AWARD  
FOR LEADING SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE AND PREVENTION PROGRAM

Photo by Sgt. Ashley Johlfis, Joint Force Headquarters



By Staff Sgt. Eric W. Jensen  
Joint Force Headquarters

For her outstanding service in support of North Dakota's military members, Heather Mattson was named the 2015 Exceptional Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) of the Year for the entire National Guard. Mattson, of Jamestown, North Dakota, was congratulated last month by Gen. Frank J. Grass, chief of the National Guard Bureau, during a video teleconference April 20 at Fraine Barracks — the North Dakota National Guard's headquarters facility — in Bismarck.

"I applaud Ms. Heather Mattson's selection as the 2015 Sexual Assault Response Coordinator of the Year. Her tremendous efforts and innovative approaches working with community agencies and service providers greatly aided in the recovery of sexual assault survivors and contributed to fostering a culture of dignity and trust within the National

Guard," Grass said. "Her dedication, professionalism and passion epitomize the essence of the National Guard as a community-based organization that vigorously advocates for survivors and the Guard community."

Six awards are presented annually to SARC's across the country in each military branch and reserve component, which includes the U.S. Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and National Guard. The recognition is given in April to coincide with the nationally-observed Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

As the SARC for the N.D. National Guard, Mattson leads the state's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program — an educational and prevention-based program designed to protect the rights and safety of the organization's Soldiers and Airmen. According to the National Guard Bureau's website, through confidential reporting measures, sexual assaults can be reported at any time and

Left, Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, North Dakota adjutant general, presents Heather Mattson with the 2015 Sexual Assault Response Coordinator of the Year Award from the National Guard Bureau April 29 at Fraine Barracks in Bismarck. Right, participants in this year's Race to Zero 5K Run/Walk gather at the starting line April 18 outside the Hughes Education Center Gym in Bismarck. The event is co-organized by the N.D. National Guard's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program, which is led by Mattson.

victims receive "sensitive and immediate comprehensive care and treatment they need to restore their health and well-being." Mattson has served as the SARC for North Dakota since September 2012.

"Taking care of our Soldiers and Airmen has always been my No. 1 priority, and professionals like Heather provide the resources, training, expertise and leadership to ensure that goal is met," said Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, North Dakota adjutant general. "As an organization, we have a zero-tolerance policy when it comes to sexual assault. It's important for all to know that our leadership fully supports our Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program and value Heather's initiative and creativity in challenging our Guardsmen to confront the damaging realities of sexual assault and domestic violence."

During the teleconference, Mattson was commended for developing a number of innovative, far-reaching projects to increase awareness about sexual assault throughout North Dakota's communities. One of those projects is the Race to Zero 5K Run/Walk, which annually is held in Bismarck. For the past three years, Mattson has worked as a co-organizer for this event, partnering with multiple local and state agencies, such as the North Dakota Council on Abused Women's Services, Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota, Abused Adult Resource Center, Bismarck Prevention Task Force, and Region 7 Foster Care/Adoption Recruitment Coalition, and more than 20 private sector sponsors.



Photo by Sgt. Ashley Johlfs, Joint Force Headquarters

Mattson also has led the North Dakota's SAPR Program's victim advocates in developing promotional resources and products for Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Posters, displays and fact sheets about sexual harassment/assault response and prevention are distributed at each N.D. National Guard facility across the state in April. Additionally, Mattson has partnered with the Abused Adult Resource Center to develop a series of public service announcements, which have been broadcast on local television stations. The videos feature N.D. National Guard Soldiers and Airmen and civilian professionals from multiple state agencies. In addition to public distribution, the products have been incorporated into unit training for North Dakota Guardsmen.

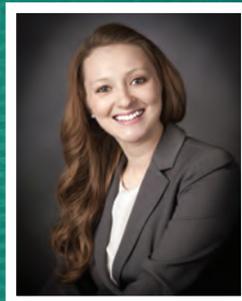
An excerpt from the 2015 Exceptional SARC Award citation reads, "A dynamic professional, Mrs. Mattson displayed a passion to dispel myths and challenge negative attitudes toward victims of sexual assault. Her boundless enthusiasm and genuine concern lead to improved morale, thereby enabling commanders to focus on accomplishing the mission. Widely recognized for her innovation, she is often sought out for advice and assistance. Mrs. Mattson established a curriculum committee to ensure the delivery of current and relevant training. Her infectious energy and interactive presentations greatly increased audience participation, significantly elevating the effectiveness of the training."

A graduate of the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, North Dakota,

Mattson holds a Bachelor of Science in social work. In 2010, she earned her master's degree in social work and is a licensed-certified social worker. She also is a 2011 recipient of the Dakotah Cassandra Award, which recognizes professionals who have worked in communities around North Dakota to combat violence against women.

Mattson has served as a traditional

member of the N.D. Air National Guard since 2005. She was named the 2012 Outstanding Noncommissioned Officer of the Year for the 119<sup>th</sup> Wing in Fargo, North Dakota. She resides in Bismarck with her husband, Justin, who is employed by the N.D. National Guard's Service Member and Family Support Division, and her two daughters, Ryleigh and Mariah. ■



## MATTSON ON NORTH DAKOTA'S SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE AND PREVENTION PROGRAM SUCCESSES

The North Dakota National Guard's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program continually is evolving. The resources and manpower that are dedicated to support our victims/survivors has drastically increased since I started as the alternate sexual assault response coordinator

in 2010. Currently, there are more than 50 Soldiers and Airmen serving as victim advocates, two full-time sexual assault response coordinators and one full-time victim advocate coordinator, 1st Lt. Austin Kastet, who are fully trained to respond to a report of sexual assault.

North Dakota has two trained two officers to provide Special Victims' Counsel (SVC) services to those who request it. The SVC's mission is to provide clients with confidential legal representation related to issues that may arise as a result of being sexually assaulted. Victims of sexual assault have the right to consult with a SVC by the government at no cost.

Annual Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention training is created locally with input from the field. This training is interactive, thought-provoking and utilizes experiences from victim advocates and survivors from the N.D. National Guard.

We work diligently to build relationships with agencies across the state. We want to ensure that, regardless of where our service members go to receive help for their sexual assault, the agency they are working with knows about the additional benefits that the National Guard can offer victims. Our goal is for victims of sexual assault to receive all of the resources that they deserve. The SAPR office believes strongly that no two reports of sexual assault are alike, and we understand that a cookie-cutter approach will not provide the best result. ■

# GUARDIAN Snapshots

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Courtesy Photo



Chief Warrant Officer 5 Shelly Sizer, right, joins a group of panelists March 11 for a Leading Ladies Luncheon at the Radisson hotel in Bismarck, North Dakota. Two luncheons annually are held to celebrate Women's History Month and feature women panelists representing a variety of historic roles in North Dakota. Joining Sizer, from left, are Kathleen Neset, president of Neset Consulting Service; Prairie Rose Seminole, a member of the Three Affiliated Tribes of North Dakota; Grace Link, former first lady of North Dakota; and Roxanne Romanick, contractor to the N.D. Department of Human Services. Right, Master Sgt. Jason Meyers, a 119th Logistics Readiness Squadron vehicle maintenance mechanic, creates sparks as he uses a grinder April 8 to remove bolts from a pickup box at the N.D. Air National Guard Base in Fargo. Meyers is removing the pickup box for repair.

Photo by Chief Warrant Officer 4 Kiel Skager, Joint Force Headquarters

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



Spc. Julie Hieggelke, of the 81st Civil Support Team (CST), collects samples of an unknown material during a training exercise with members of the Minot Fire Department. During the training scenario, the CST demonstrated the methods used to approach, collect and identify unknown or potentially hazardous materials. The unit is comprised of members of the N.D. Army and Air National Guard, who have been specifically-trained to support local and state emergency responders.





Photo by Sgt. Erin Walters, 141st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade



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

Master Sgt. Michael Putnam and Sgt. Kendall Sage, both of the 141st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, discuss the location of a simulated enemy element approaching a U.S. military base during a command post exercise April 26 at the Fargo Armed Forces Reserve Center. Right, Senior Airman Ryan Volitis, of the 90th Civil Engineer Squadron, lines up emergency airfield lighting system lights April 24 onto a makeshift runway during a training course at the N.D. Air National Guard Regional Training Site in Fargo. Below, Col. Kent Olson, the 119th Wing commander, right, escorts U.S. Senator John Hoeven, of North Dakota, during a facility tour April 1 at the N.D. Air National Guard Base in Fargo.

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



## Share your photos!

Submit your photos to be considered for inclusion in the N.D. Guardian!

Email high-resolution photos to Sgt. Jennifer Joyce, N.D. Guardian editor, at [jennifer.m.joyce2.mil@mail.mil](mailto:jennifer.m.joyce2.mil@mail.mil).



## Fontaine Takes Command of Bismarck Unit

By Staff Sgt. Eric William Jensen  
Joint Force Headquarters

Col. Scott Boespflug formally relinquished command of 68th Troop Command April 12 to Col. Scott Fontaine during a change of command ceremony at Raymond J. Bohn Armory in Bismarck.

The Bismarck-based unit is a command and control headquarters for more than 1,400 Soldiers who are organized into three battalions and 25 subordinate companies and detachments. 68th Troop Command's primary mission and focus is to provide command and control, as well as training, administrative and logistical support to maintain Soldier and unit readiness for missions stateside and overseas.

Boespflug has led the unit since September 2013 and recently was appointed the North Dakota National Guard's chief of joint staff. As commander of the 68th Troop Command, he oversaw multiple unit mobilizations for missions abroad, including the 814th Medical Company's (Area Support) deployment to Afghanistan and aviators from Company C, 2nd Battalion, 285th Regiment's deployment to Kosovo. Under Boespflug's command, a group of N.D. Army National Guard aviators also began a mission on the southwest border in Texas supporting agents from the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol.

"Col. Boespflug has done a tremendous job leading and mentoring Soldiers in this very diverse and talented unit. As

Photo by Staff Sgt. Brett Miller, Joint Force Headquarters



Col. (promotable) Robert Fode, the N.D. Army National Guard land component commander, right, passes the 68th Troop Command guidon to incoming commander Col. Scott Fontaine April 12 during a change of command ceremony at Raymond J. Bohn Armory in Bismarck.

68th Troop Command commander, he's shown care to his Guardsmen by reaching out to them and encouraging them to pursue their military and civilian education goals, and helping them navigate the next steps in their military careers," said Col. (promotable) Robert Fode, the N.D. Army National Guard land component commander. "His leadership will be missed, but he will continue to serve us well as the chief of joint staff; and we look forward to the experience and expertise Col. Fontaine now will bring to the Soldiers of 68th Troop Command."

As the new commander, Fontaine brings

more than 26 years of military service to the position. He has served in various roles within the 1st Battalion, 188th Air Defense Artillery Regiment (1-188th ADA). From Nov. 2005 – Feb. 2007, he deployed as the commander of 1-188th ADA's first Joint Land Attack Elevated Netting Sensor, or JLENS mission, in Afghanistan. Most recently, Fontaine has served as the officer-in-charge of the N.D. National Guard's domestic operations section, which provides Guard support to civilian authorities. In his civilian profession, he is a certified nurse anesthetist with Altru Health Systems in Grand Forks. ■

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## ROSS Event Supports Military Families

By Spc. Kristin Berg  
116th Public Affairs Detachment

The West Fargo VFW Post 7564 hosted the 12th Annual Remembering Our Serving Soldiers, or ROSS, fundraiser March 28. Volunteers grilled 375 steak dinners for the event, which brought in \$23,333. All of the funds raised from the dinner go toward the support of families of local National Guard and Reserve units.

"It started in 2003, we made \$500 dollars

on a sausage and pancake breakfast," ROSS Program Chairman Charles Weibile said during the event. "It's kind of gone way over that since then and it's been a great success. I think you can see that tonight with the number of volunteers."

This year's event was ROSS's most successful to date. The proceeds surpassed last year's fundraising total by more than \$2,500. Throughout the past 12 years, ROSS has raised about \$165,000 to support local military families. The money raised is divided among family readiness groups in Fargo for various projects, including military youth activities and

emergency assistance for families.

During the event, a memorial program was held to honor North Dakota's fallen service members. The fundraiser also featured a lunch, silent auction, bingo and a meat raffle, which were made possible with help from volunteers.

"Each year the donors always step up to make the event a success for the families," said JoAnn Czerwinski, ROSS donation coordinator. "We now donate to the family readiness groups of seven Army National Guard units, the Air National Guard, the Navy Reserve and the Army Reserve in Fargo." ■

# Chaplains' Corner:

## For Those Who Serve With Us

By Chaplain (Maj.) Corey Bjertness  
141st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade

It was 11 p.m. and I finally got a chance to eat after a long day of working for the Army. I slumped into my chair at Chili's, hardly conscious of my surroundings. Racing through my head were the stories I had heard all day long from Soldiers who needed to talk and knew their chaplain was a safe ear. Occasionally, I provided a godly perspective to their tales. After all of that, I just needed a moment to collect my thoughts from the day before I crashed into a bed. God laughed.

Soon after I sat down, the elderly couple across the aisle began to engage me in conversation. I groaned inwardly as I politely entered into a conversation I had no interest being a part of. Their questions were the usual:

Have you been deployed and where?

How bad was it?

How did your family handle your absence?

But then, the old gentleman caught me off guard and said, "Are you going to be OK?" And he said it with such compassion that I opened up to him and started telling him "my war." It seemed that, after listening to the stories of others all day, I needed someone to listen to me. It was one of the most healing times of my life. I have no question in my mind that God sent them to that Chili's on that night to visit with me. When it was time to get my bill, the waitress informed me that it had already been paid. Long before we had even begun to talk, the older couple had picked up my tab.

When I stood up, I walked to their table and reached to my right shoulder and tore my combat patch off of my uniform, handed it to the gentleman and said, "I got this because the nation sent me to war. Thanks for going with me." They stood

**Chaplain (Maj.) Corey Bjertness, chaplain for the 141st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, blesses the audience during a send-off ceremony benediction April 28, 2013, at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks. More than 200 N.D. Army National Guard Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 188th Air Defense Artillery Regiment were embarking on a yearlong mission to Washington, D.C., where they used their skills and equipment to protect the National Capital Region against threats.**

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



and hugged the stuffing out of me as the nearby patrons applauded. It would have been a great commercial.

I believe our faithfulness to God is lived out in two ways: first, the devotion we show to God; second, the devotion we show to others. When Jesus was asked how someone might come to eternal life, these two practices were the solution he confirmed. Love God, love others!

So, is there anyone that you are helping in life that can say, "Thanks for going with me?" If not, why not? The world is in desperate need of people who are willing to care for the people around them. Be somebody's hero, friend and light. Be the type of person that won't let a lonely Soldier eat his meal in peace because you sense there is a story that needs to be told. You can do it. Go with them! ■



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

**Capt. Stephanie Collins, of the 814th Medical Company (Area Support), is spontaneously hoisted into the air and surrounded by her friends and family as they welcome her home from a deployment to Afghanistan Aug. 13, 2014, at Hector International Airport in Fargo.**



## LINEAGE OF SERVICE

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

From right to left, Col. Darrin Anderson, the 119th Intelligence Surveillance Reconnaissance Group commander, his daughter, Danielle, and wife, Senior Master Sgt. Barb Anderson, of the 119th Force Support Squadron, pose for a photo immediately after Col. Anderson performed the oath of enlistment for Danielle, who officially joined the 119th Wing March 31, 2015, at the North Dakota Air National Guard Base in Fargo. Danielle is holding a "Jet Letter" in which she appeared on the cover, January 1996, as a nine-month-old baby. She appeared on the cover as a "new" baby in an effort to celebrate the New Year, while seated in the recently-awarded Hughes Trophy. The Hughes Trophy has been awarded annually since 1953, and is given to the top air-superiority or air-defense squadron in the U.S. Air Force. The N.D. Air National Guard won the trophy twice, once in 1975 and again in 1994.