



# NORTH DAKOTA GUARDIAN

Volume 8, Issue 9

October 2015



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**Commander in Chief**  
North Dakota Governor  
Jack Dalrymple

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## ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

Contributions to the *North Dakota Guardian* are encouraged! Send articles, photos and art to Editor, JFND PIO, Box 5511, Bismarck, N.D. 58506-5511. Electronic submissions are preferred. Please e-mail stories in Word format to: [jennifer.m.joyce2.mil@mail.mil](mailto:jennifer.m.joyce2.mil@mail.mil)  
Phone: 701-333-2195 Fax: 701-333-2017  
Digital photos should be 300 dpi, if possible.

## On the Cover



Sgt. Jory Shykowski, of the 81st Civil Support Team, takes photos in an effort to identify a notional nuclear, biological, chemical, radiological or explosive agent Sep. 30 during a training exercise at the Bismarck Civic Center.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Brett Miller, Joint Force Headquarters

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# VIEW FROM THE TOP

## A MESSAGE FROM THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

### COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE



Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk

#### North Dakota Adjutant General

The Best of the Best. Simply put, the North Dakota National Guard is the best of the best. As citizen Soldiers and Airmen, we are held to a higher standard. We are asked to be upstanding citizens, family members, Guardsmen and, for the majority of us, civilian professionals. The N.D. National Guard has proven time and again that we can do all we are asked to do, and we can be the best at it.

Throughout history, the N.D. National Guard has been recognized for our outstanding achievements, dating as far back as WW II, when the 164th Infantry Regiment was given the Presidential Unit Citation (Navy) for their actions at Guadalcanal. We have set a history and precedence of excellence in all we do.

This past year has been no different. Our units have earned countless state awards, regional awards and even some on the national level. Here are just a few of our outstanding accomplishments of 2015:

Master Sgt. Daniel Anderson, of the 119th Civil Engineer Squadron, received the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) Goddard Medal Mar. 7 for his exemplary work in the electrical power production career field. The Goddard Medal is presented to U.S. Air Force, Air National Guard and U.S. Air Force Reserve Airmen for outstanding contributions to military engineering. The medal first was awarded in 1973 and is named for Maj. Gen. Guy H. Goddard, who served as the director of civil engineering for the U.S. Air Force and as an officer in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers during World War II.

Sixteen Soldiers representing eight states' Army National Guards competed in the Region VI Best Warrior Competition May 11-14 at the Camp Guernsey Joint Training Center in Wyoming. Among them were two North Dakota Army Guardsmen: Staff Sgt.

Jason Dittus, of the 818th Engineer Company (Sapper), and Spc. Nigel Helley, of the 426th Signal Company. Both displayed extreme tenacity, determination and physical and mental toughness while contending for top honors. When the results were announced at the end of the closely-contested, four-day competition, Dittus was named the Best Warrior in the noncommissioned officer category.

North Dakota's marksmen proved themselves as expert shooters this year during individual competition. Two of those Soldiers earned the "Chief's 50" marksmanship badge, which is awarded to the top 20 individual rifle competitors and top 20 pistol shooters, using a combined aggregate score from their respective marksmanship matches. Sgt. Tyler Goldade, of the 815th Engineer Company (Horizontal), earned the "Chief's 50" recognition in the rifle category. Sgt. Evan Messer, of the 817th Engineer Company (Sapper), received the award in the pistol category. The "Chief's 50" badge is presented on behalf of the Chief of the National Guard Bureau.

Additionally, two North Dakota Soldiers earned awards in individual shooting events. Spc. Bryce Solie, of the 817th Engineer Company (Sapper), took second place in the "Close Quarter Battle - Novice" match. Messer also took second place in the "Reflexive Fire" match.

North Dakota had one marksmanship team participate in this year's Winston P. Wilson match at Camp Joseph T. Robinson in North Little Rock, Arkansas. Team members Sgt. Tyler Goldade, Sgt. Andrew Maley, of the 817th Engineer Company (Sapper), Tech. Sgt. Charles Welle, of the 119th Wing, and Messer took 14th place in the overall team competition.

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 is dedicated to the protection and wellbeing of our Soldiers and Airmen and this award validates her hard work and dedication to her mission.

The Happy Hooligans of the 119th Wing were awarded their 17th Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. Over the past decade, the 119th Wing has tackled many changes. This Air Force Outstanding Unit Award proves that no matter what is asked, the Happy Hooligans will meet the mission.

Most recently, Camp Grafton was named the 2015 Army National Guard Environmental Security Award winner for Cultural Resources Management - Large Installatio. They have set the example for the 54 states and territories and will represent the Army National Guard at the 2015 Secretary of the Army Environmental Awards and have an opportunity to compete for the Secretary of Defense Environmental Award.

These are no small accomplishments. Be proud of your fellow Soldiers and Airmen, and proud of yourselves for your commitment to excellence and your unwavering service. I am proud of all of you and I am proud to serve alongside you in the N.D. National Guard. ■

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

# BUILDING STRONGER WARRIORS

N.D. National Guard Social Workers Provide Invaluable Service to the Force, Fortify Soldiers, Airmen and Families

By 2nd Lt. Eric Jungels,  
132nd Quartermaster Company

“If you think about it logically, you’ll quickly agree — if somebody needs help — that person’s seeking help is a sign of strength.”

We meet with strong people, and we provide them with the help and resources to strengthen them further, said Jane Johnson, a licensed independent clinical social worker and Fargo-based human relations counselor for the North Dakota National Guard.

Jane is part of a team of human relations counselors who, as she puts it simply, “help Soldiers, Airmen and their families.”

“There are periods in life when we hit bumpy areas,” Johnson said. “We help people get through those times.”

The team, which also includes licensed social worker Bernadette Ternes, in Bismarck, and licensed counselor Ann Stark, in Fargo, provides emotional and mental health support through a variety of services and resources, including crisis

intervention, relationship counseling, and aid in overcoming deployment and reintegration challenges. The team falls under the N.D. National Guard’s Office of the Chaplain and has been in place since Jane and Bernadette were brought on in 2004.

While the N.D. National Guard has always had religious support teams that offered services to Soldiers, Airmen and their families, the entire program changed drastically when Chaplain (Col.) David L. Johnson was named the state’s first full-time chaplain. Chaplain Johnson and his team were called on to provide for the religious support needs of the

**“If I were in a foxhole, I would want to be next to somebody who is seeking help for mental health issues...”**



Jane Johnson is a licensed, independent clinical social worker and a Fargo-based human relations counselor for the N.D. National Guard.

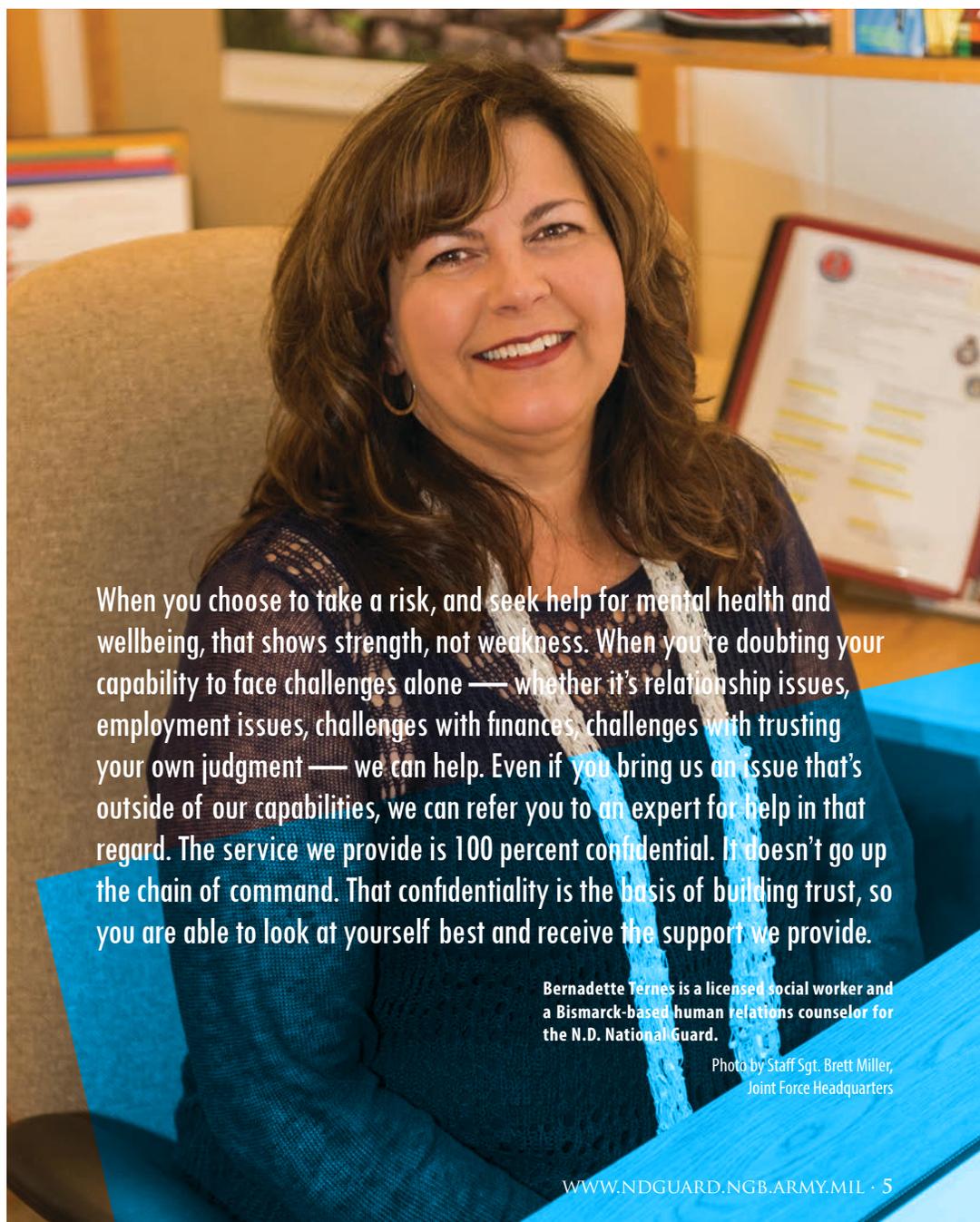
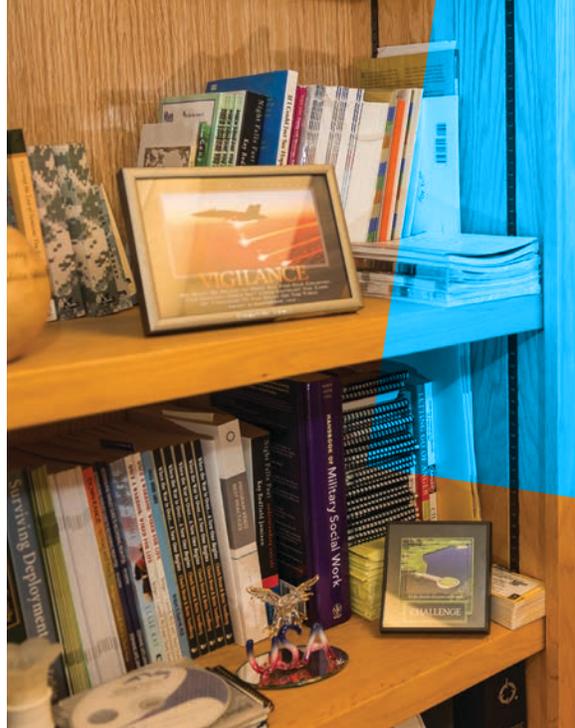
Photo by 2nd Lt. Eric Jungels, 132nd Quartermaster Company

chaplains to plan, coordinate, and provide for the religious support needs of its force, North Dakota may be the only state to have licensed counselors to complement chaplaincy efforts.

“They are force multipliers, and they are invaluable members of the team,” Chaplain Johnson said. “Yet, because of the fact that much of their work is done behind the scenes, no one will ever fully know all the support they provide for our military members and their families every day.”

Current and retired Guardsmen and their families are eligible to receive support from this unique team of human relations counselors.

“They know the military — how we operate and the challenges we face — and work directly with military members



When you choose to take a risk, and seek help for mental health and wellbeing, that shows strength, not weakness. When you're doubting your capability to face challenges alone — whether it's relationship issues, employment issues, challenges with finances, challenges with trusting your own judgment — we can help. Even if you bring us an issue that's outside of our capabilities, we can refer you to an expert for help in that regard. The service we provide is 100 percent confidential. It doesn't go up the chain of command. That confidentiality is the basis of building trust, so you are able to look at yourself best and receive the support we provide.

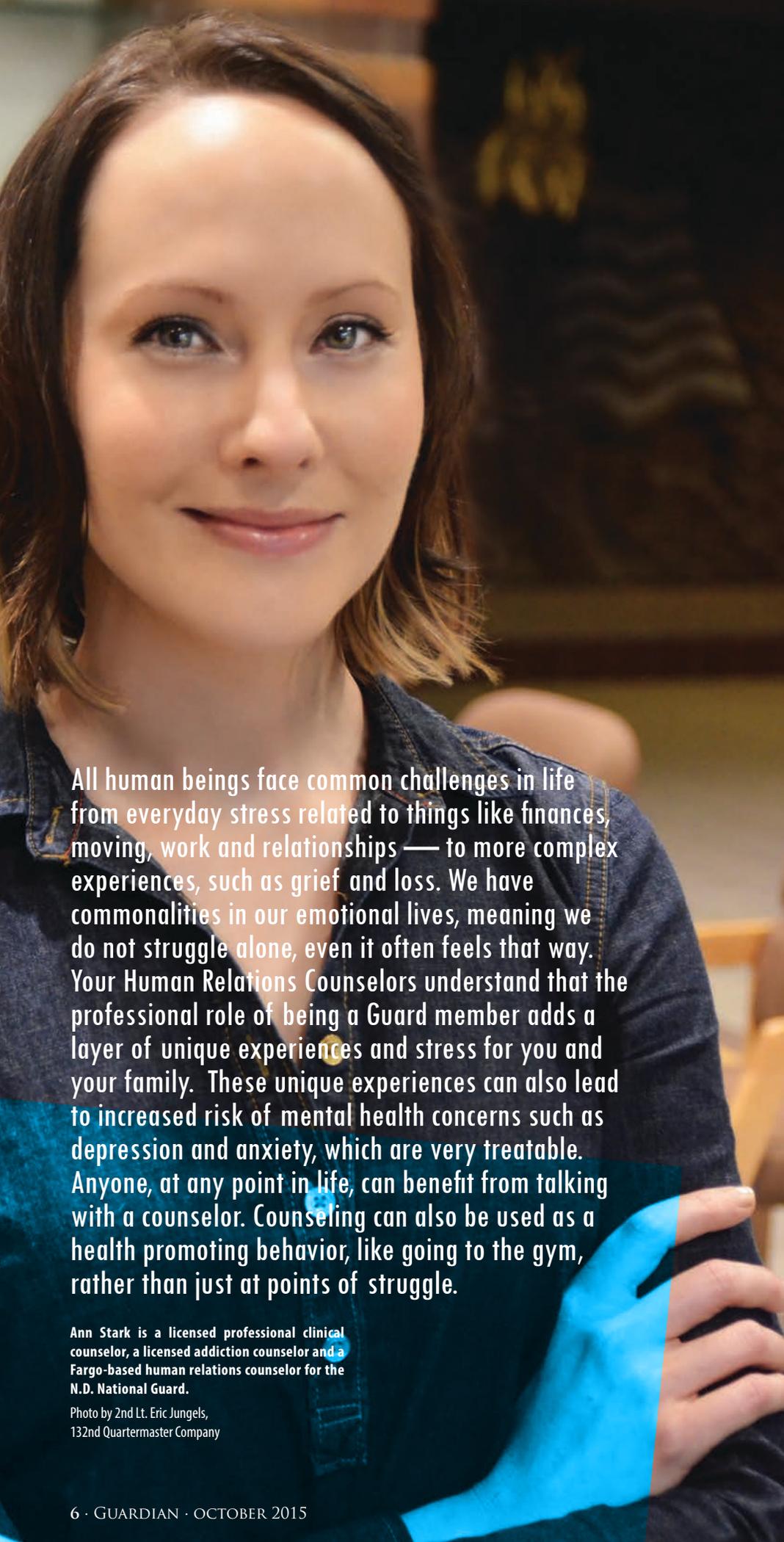
Bernadette Ternes is a licensed social worker and a Bismarck-based human relations counselor for the N.D. National Guard.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Brett Miller, Joint Force Headquarters

force, which was facing high-tempo, expeditionary demands and mobilization challenges of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The need for additional support was so great that Johnson and Ternes were hired to work with the state's chaplains and to help care for the emotional and mental health of the force. Since then, additional team members have been added to the Office of the Chaplain, including a religious support team on-site with the Fargo-based 119th Wing that was mobilized to meet the needs of the unit's remotely piloted aircraft mission.

While every state has full-time



All human beings face common challenges in life from everyday stress related to things like finances, moving, work and relationships — to more complex experiences, such as grief and loss. We have commonalities in our emotional lives, meaning we do not struggle alone, even it often feels that way. Your Human Relations Counselors understand that the professional role of being a Guard member adds a layer of unique experiences and stress for you and your family. These unique experiences can also lead to increased risk of mental health concerns such as depression and anxiety, which are very treatable. Anyone, at any point in life, can benefit from talking with a counselor. Counseling can also be used as a health promoting behavior, like going to the gym, rather than just at points of struggle.

Ann Stark is a licensed professional clinical counselor, a licensed addiction counselor and a Fargo-based human relations counselor for the N.D. National Guard.

Photo by 2nd Lt. Eric Jungels,  
132nd Quartermaster Company

daily, but they are not in the military,” Chaplain Johnson said. “Because of their uncommon position and significant expertise, they can provide an effective and safe environment for people seeking the support they need.”

The counselors provide support through confidential meetings at no cost and are available 24/7.

“Service members can expect to be treated with respect and have their concerns taken very seriously,” said Stark, who was added to the team in 2014.

No problem is too big or too small. If a Guardsman is looking to overcome an individual or relationship challenge, the team is ready to provide assistance.

“All human beings face common challenges in life from everyday stress,” Stark said. “Counseling can also be used as a health promoting behavior, like going to the gym, rather than just at points of struggle.

In the end, the team of human relations counselors want to encourage Guardsmen to take advantage of this opportunity for help in building stronger relationships and in becoming stronger warriors.

“If I were in a foxhole, I would want to be next to somebody who is seeking help for mental health issues and challenges,” Jane said. “I’d want to be next to someone who is strong and getting stronger, instead of somebody who is dealing with issues on their own,” said Stark. ■

## OFFICE OF THE CHAPLAIN

Connect with **N.D. National Guard human relations counselors** for emotional and mental health services in crisis intervention, marriage/relationship enrichment, deployment and reintegration support, substance abuse and more.

**Bernadette Ternes** in Bismarck  
701-333-3352 or 701-226-2905

**Jane Johnson** in Fargo  
701-451-6078 or 701-799-9704

**Ann Stark** in Fargo  
701-451-6093 or 701-866-7933

# EMPOWERING LEADERS

## N.D. National Guard Accepting Applications for 2016 Joint Mentoring Developing Leaders Program

By Chief Warrant Officer Janet Nitschke,  
Joint Force Headquarters

It is natural, throughout one's career, to wonder "What's my next step?" "Is this the right path for me?" "What are my options?" "Do I have the right strengths to obtain my goals?" or "What's standing in my way?" To help answer these questions, many organizations implement mentoring programs for developing employees to pass along knowledge, improve skills, develop new perspectives and increase professional networks. In addition, these programs help mentors to continue to develop as leaders.

Professional growth is highly valued among Soldiers and Airmen within the North Dakota National Guard and senior leaders are committed to providing opportunities for learning and development.

In 2007, the N.D. National Guard launched its formal mentoring program called the Developing Leaders Joint Mentoring program, through which, culture and values as well as job knowledge and skills, can be passed along from one leader to another. The mentoring program supports accomplishment of the N.D. National Guard's vision: A dynamic, relevant force where everyone is a trained, mentored and empowered leader.

Through Dec. 1, the N.D. National Guard Organizational Development Office is accepting applications for the 2016 Developing Leaders Joint Mentoring program. To date, nearly 200 N.D. National Guard members have taken advantage of the professional development opportunities provided through the yearlong program.

"I have seen how mentoring can help employees at every level acquire skills, broaden perspectives, open doors, increase

confidence, and enhance career and life goals and improve the success of the organization," said North Dakota Adjutant General Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk. "I encourage people in all positions throughout the state to apply as a mentor or mentee. The program provides ample opportunity for participants to gain and impart insight, perspective and knowledge."

Up to 20 mentees will be matched with mentors through a selection process that matches pairs based on the mentee's goals and the mentor's strengths. Participation, which is open to all N.D. Guardsmen, is not evaluated as part of a performance appraisal.

The program consists of five facilitated training sessions held at Bismarck State College. Between training sessions, mentors and mentees meet to develop their mentoring relationship and work on developing and accomplishing the mentee's goals.

For an application for the 2016 Developing Leaders Joint Mentoring program, call Warrant Officer Janet Nitschke at 701-333-2172 or email [janet.k.nitschke2.mil@mail.mil](mailto:janet.k.nitschke2.mil@mail.mil) (applications also are available on the NDKO homepage and on the N.D. National Guard website). ■



Photo by Ms. Noreen Keesey, N.D. National Guard Organizational Development

Participants in the 2015 Joint Mentoring Developing Leaders Program work together to complete a team-building/problem-solving event Sep. 17 during a training session at Bismarck State College in Bismarck, North Dakota.

# Among the Stars: Fode Promoted to Brigadier General

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



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

North Dakota Adjutant General Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk passes a general officer flag to Brig. Gen. Robert Fode during a promotion ceremony Sep. 20 for at the Raymond J. Bohn Armory in Bismarck, North Dakota. As a general officer, Fode's one-star brigadier general flag will be posted whenever he attends formal military events.

Robert Fode, of Mandan, North Dakota, was promoted Sep. 20 to the rank of brigadier general, becoming one of only five general officers within the ranks of the North Dakota National Guard. A formal ceremony was held for the state's newest "one-star" at the Raymond J. Bohn Armory in Bismarck, where Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, North Dakota adjutant general, presided over the event.

"Today is a very special occasion. To put in perspective the scale of this event, less than one percent of the American population serves in the military, and of that one percent, less than one percent become a general officer," Sprynczynatyk said during the ceremony. "Countless times, you (Fode) have placed the state of North Dakota and the nation as your highest priority, and have sacrificed much along the way. You have served with distinction and have reached a place of honor which few ever attain. It is a great privilege to stand here today and promote you to the rank of brigadier general."

In front of an audience of current and former National Guard members, family and friends, Fode had his new rank affixed to his uniform by his wife, Theresa. He also was presented a general officer's black belt. Adorned with an 18-karat gold-plated buckle featuring the imprint of an eagle, the issuing of the belt dates back to World War II when it was first produced in 1944 upon an order from the U.S. Army chief of staff.

Sprynczynatyk then administered the oath of office and presented Fode a red, U.S. Army brigadier general officer's flag with a white, five-pointed star in the center. The flag will be posted whenever Fode attends formal military events.

"Every place I went this weekend, everybody tried to make this event about me. I'm going to let you all know that it truly is not about me," Fode said to attendees at the ceremony. "It's really

about a community. It's really about family and it's really about a team — one of the best teams I've been a part of — the North Dakota National Guard. I thank all of you, because if it wasn't for you, there's no way that I'd be standing here today."

A native of Mobridge, South Dakota, Fode has more than 37 years of service in the military. He enlisted in the South Dakota National Guard in 1978 as a truck driver before transferring to the North Dakota Army National Guard later that year. In 1985, he attended Officer Candidate School and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the engineer branch within the N.D. Army National Guard.

Fode has held myriad key leadership positions throughout his career, including serving as a platoon leader, executive officer and commander within units of the 164th Engineer Combat Battalion. Additionally, he has served as the operations officer for the 142nd Engineer Combat Battalion. He commanded the 141st Engineer Combat Battalion from December 2003 – February 2005 during that unit's deployment to Iraq. He mobilized again for a NATO-led peacekeeping mission in Kosovo in 2009, serving as the deputy commander, Multinational Battle Group East with Kosovo Forces (KFOR) 12. Upon his return, Fode was assigned as the director of the Joint Staff for the N.D. National Guard before assuming duties as the Army Component commander. In this role, he is responsible for leading more than 3,000 North Dakota Guard Soldiers.

Fode graduated from the University of North Dakota with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. A traditional Guardsman, Fode is employed by the N.D. Department of Transportation. He has worked for the agency since 1993 and is currently assigned as the director for the Office of Project Development. ■



Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, North Dakota adjutant general, administers the oath of office to newly-promoted Brig. Gen. Robert Fode, left, during his promotion ceremony.



Newly-promoted Brig. Gen. Robert Fode's brigadier general rank is affixed to his uniform Sep. 20 by his wife, Theresa Hersch, during his promotion ceremony in Bismarck, North Dakota.

# TOTAL FITNESS

## N.D. GUARD & BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE HOST COMMUNITY FIT FAIR

By Sgt. Jennifer Joyce,  
116th Public Affairs Detachment



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

**Sgt. 1st Class Krista Glanville, inset right, of 68th Troop Command, and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Kerry Beck, of Joint Force Headquarters, far right, demonstrate jumping jacks for youth participants of the Community Fit Fair Sep. 22 at the Shiloh Christian Schol athletic complex in Bismarck, North Dakota.**

In 2014, the U.S. military began implementing measures to ensure overall wellbeing, or “total fitness,” for service members. The Department of the Air Force implemented Air Force Instruction (AFI) 90-506 Comprehensive Airman Fitness on Apr. 2, 2014, and the Department of the Army implemented Army Regulation (AR) 350-53 Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness Jun. 19, 2014. Both regulations aim to apply a holistic approach throughout the forces to enhance the

physical and psychological health, resilience and performance of service members, families and civilian employees.

Shortly after the implementation of AFI 90-506 and AR 350-53, the North Dakota National Guard released Strategic Plan 2014-2019. Goal No. 3 reflects the intent of both regulations. It states, “We will foster resilient and healthy Soldiers, Airmen, Families and civilian employees by embracing a culture of total fitness.”

Since the release of Strategic Plan 2014-2019, the N.D. National Guard has

collaborated with community members to uphold that goal. Last month, the N.D. National Guard and Bismarck State College hosted the second Community Fit Fair at Shiloh Christian School’s athletic complex in Bismarck, North Dakota.

Fit Fair participants were invited to take the U.S. Army’s Physical Fitness Test (APFT), which is comprised of three consecutive events: 2 minutes of push-ups, 2 minutes of sit-ups and a 2-mile run or a 2.5-mile walk. Participants were able to

perform the APFT individually or in teams of four.

“The Fit Fair is a perfect example of how the North Dakota National Guard partners with our communities,” said Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, North Dakota adjutant general. “Our partnership with Bismarck State College made it possible for us to not only host the Army Physical Fitness test, but to bring in resources from the community that encompass all aspects of fitness.”

The event, which was free and open to the public, provided opportunities for attendees to visit an array of resource booths, which offered information about health and wellness, suicide prevention and intervention, and available local health and wellness support services. Booths were staffed by representatives from military and community organizations, businesses and fitness facilities.

Sprynczynatyk said that community events, such as the Fit Fair, provide opportunities to connect service members and their families with resources in an environment which promotes a culture of total fitness. ■



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

Maya King, daughter of Chief Warrant Officer 2 Kerry Beck and Master Sgt. Marvin Beck, of the Recruiting and Retention Battalion, performs the push-up event of the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) Sep. 22 during the Community Fit Fair in Bismarck.



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

Master Sgt. John Zacher, of Joint Force Headquarters, and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Patricia Zacher, of the 141st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (MEB), perform the sit-up event of the Community Fit Fair APFT while their children brace their feet. Sgt. 1st Class Luara Balliet, left, of the 141st MEB also participated in the APFT.



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

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kiley Kuntz, far right, and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Cody Hertz, inset right, both of Joint Force Headquarters, time/score the 2-mile run event of the APFT Sep. 22 at the Community Fit Fair in Bismarck, North Dakota.

# Welcome Home

Leaders, Community Honor Logistical Support Soldiers and Families

By 2nd Lt. Eric Jungels, 132nd Quartermaster Co.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brett Miller, Joint Force Headquarters

**Capt. Nicolette Daschendorf (left foreground) shakes hands with North Dakota Adjutant General Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk Sep. 27 at the 231st Brigade Support Battalion Logistical Support Element's (BSB LSE) Freedom Salute ceremony in Fargo, North Dakota.**

Lt. Gov. Drew Wrigley, Sen. John Hoeven, and Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, North Dakota adjutant general, along with other military leaders and community supporters last month filled the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Fargo. There, they honored 15 North Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers, who recently returned home after serving overseas, and their families.

The Guardsmen, of the Fargo-based 231st Brigade Support Battalion Logistical Support Element (231st BSB LSE), received awards during a Freedom Salute ceremony, which is meant to formally recognize Soldiers who have returned home from deployment. The Soldiers returned home in July after a yearlong logistical support mission in support of U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM).

"Today, we officially welcome home the members of the 231st BSB LSE and honor them for their distinguished service in support of U.S. Central Command," said Wrigley. "These Soldiers were tasked with an important mission in the defense of our homeland and completed that mission with great success and distinction. We are grateful to them for their outstanding service to our state and nation and to the families who also served and sacrificed on our behalf."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brett Miller, Joint Force Headquarters

**Sgt. Steven Trautman presents a pin to his mother as a token of appreciation during the 231st BSB LSE Freedom Salute in Fargo.**

Under the command of Capt. Nicolette Daschendorf, of Bismarck, the Soldiers provided logistical support to units in CENTCOM's area of responsibility, by managing supply, maintenance, transportation and cargo movement activities. 1st Sgt. Kevin Magstadt, of Bismarck, served as the unit's senior enlisted leader.

CENTCOM is one of nine unified combatant commands in the U.S. military. The command's area of responsibility covers the "central" area of the globe and consists of 20 countries: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and Yemen.

"I am very happy to be here today to welcome the men and women of the 231st BSB LSE back home to North Dakota. This was an important mission for the North Dakota National Guard in that CENTCOM is dedicated to bringing peace and stability to this region," Sprynczynatyk said. "We're extremely proud of the success of our Soldiers during this mission and thank them for their accomplishments."

Each Soldier honored yesterday received a gift to present to a family member in appreciation for their role during the deployment. Six of the unit's members recognized at the event received additional honors for having served on more than one deployment in support of the Global War on Terrorism. The group included three Soldiers who have deployed twice

and three more who have served during three deployments.

"We all know that the service does not start at stop with our soldiers. I thank the families for their unyielding service and support to their Soldiers, to the North Dakota National Guard and to the nation," Sprynczynatyk added.

He also thanked the Soldiers' employers, saying that without their support, the North Dakota National Guard would not be as successful.

Freedom Salute ceremonies occur about three months after Soldiers return from a deployment and coincide with the third Yellow Ribbon reintegration weekend that brings together Soldiers and family members for programs and reintegration activities to foster strong, resilient military families. ■



Photo by 2nd Lt. Eric Jungels, 132nd Quartermaster Company

**Sgt. Nick Kane, of the 231st BSB LSE, is greeted Jul. 21 by his son, Hunter, and his daughter, Harper, upon his arrival to Hector International Airport in Fargo after a nearly yearlong deployment overseas.**

# 81<sup>ST</sup> CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM

By N.D. National Guard Public Affairs Staff

The North Dakota National Guard's 81st Civil Support Team (CST) is comprised of 22 full-time Soldiers and Airmen. Their primary responsibilities are to support civilian authorities, at any time of day or night, at domestic chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive, or CBRNE, incident sites. There, the CST is responsible for identifying CBRNE agents/substances, assessing current and projected consequences of a CBRNE event, advising civilian authorities on response measures and assisting civilian authorities with appropriate requests for state support.

Due to the specialized nature of their mission, continued training is imperative to ensure the readiness of the CST. During the past month, the unit has participated in three training exercises throughout North Dakota to practice, test and enhance their capabilities

Members of the CST worked side-by-side with the Grand Forks Fire Department while responding to a simulated emergency Sep. 17 at the University of North Dakota's Ralph Engelstad Arena. The incident — part of a joint training exercise — required the agencies to identify, evaluate and eliminate hazardous materials after an improvised explosive device expelled a powder in the building that left nine people sick and threatened the health and safety of others.

Simulated victims were evacuated and decontaminated by the Grand Forks Fire Department. The 81st CST and the fire department's HAZMAT Team donned protective suits to collect and analyze samples of the malicious substance, so that proper medical treatment could be provided and the threat could be neutralized.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brett Miller, Joint Force Headquarters

Sgt. Julie Hieggelke, left, and Sgt. Jory Shykowski survey an area in the Bismarck Civic Center Sep. 30 to locate notional hazardous agents during a training exercise.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Eric Jungles, 132nd Quartermaster Company

Two members of the 81st Civil Support Team search the Ralph Engelstad Arena for notional explosive devices and work to determine the extent of a simulated contamination Sep. 17 during a joint training exercise in Grand Forks, North Dakota.



Photo by Mr. Bill Prokopyk,  
N.D. National Guard Public Information

Staff Sgt. Bill Miller checks for radiation Sep. 28 during the 81st Civil Support Team's joint training exercise with the Mandan Fire Department.

The 81st CST conducted a similar exercise Sep. 28 with the Mandan Fire Department. The exercise was conducted near the Dacotah Speedway in Mandan, North Dakota. The 81st CST and Mandan Fire Department personnel trained on identifying, evaluating, minimizing and eliminating threats in their effort to protect the civilian population.

Finally, the unit conducted a “no-notice” training exercise Sep. 30 at the Bismarck Civic Center to practice and test the capabilities of the team to respond to a hazardous materials event in a large arena on short notice. The CST surveyed an area of the building and sampled materials in full HAZMAT (hazardous materials) suits to collect a sample and analyze it in their mobile laboratory.

Follow-on missions included searching the building for additional devices and determining the extent of the simulated contamination. The exercise was an opportunity for the CST to test their decontamination procedures and communications equipment as they prepare for their Training and Proficiency Evaluation at the end of November. ■



Photo by Mr. Bill Prokopyk, N.D. National Guard Public Information

The 81st Civil Support Team and the Mandan Fire Department establish a base of operations Sep. 28 near the Dacotah Speedway in Mandan, North Dakota, to support their joint training exercise, which allowed personnel to train on identifying, evaluating, minimizing and eliminating threats in order to protect the civilian population.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brett Miller, Joint Force Headquarters

Sgt. Julie Hieggelke, left, and Sgt. Jory Shykowski enter the Bismarck Civic Center Sep. 30 to survey the area in an effort to identify a notional nuclear, biological, chemical, radiological or explosive agent during a training exercise.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Eric Jungles, 132nd Quartermaster Company

Two members of the 81st Civil Support Team survey an area in the Ralph Engelstad Arena Sep. 17 to identify notional hazardous agents during a joint training exercise in Grand Forks, North Dakota.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brett Miller, Joint Force Headquarters

Sgt. Jory Shykowski photographs a notional laboratory Sep. 30 while surveying an area in the Bismarck Civic Center during a training exercise.

# GUARDIAN Snapshots

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

Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Muehler, 119th Wing command chief, serves retired Maj. Gen. Alexander Macdonald, left, and retired Brig. Gen. Thornton 'Beck' Becklund, as Chief Master Sgt. Doug Faldet carries a tray of food plates Oct. 7 at the retiree breakfast hosted by the chief's council at the North Dakota Air National Guard Base in Fargo, North Dakota.



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

From right, Master Sgt. David Wosick, Senior Master Sgt. Tim Laney, Tech. Sgt. Samuel Dibble and Master Sgt. Sep. 21 to repair damaged and weathered areas of the North Dakota Air National Guard Base in Fargo.



Contributed photo

Army Cpt. Robert Meland, Recruit Training Battalion commander, crosses the finish line Sep. 13 at an Ironman competition in Madison, Wisconsin. His overall rank was 1,898 of about 3,000 competitors in the race, which consisted of 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike and 26.2-mile run events.



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

The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) hosted North Dakota Guardsmen's employers from North Dakota. The event, which was hosted in an effort to show appreciation to employers for their commitment



Sgt. Terry Babbler, all of the 119th Civil Engineer Squadron, pour concrete



U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. JT May III

U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Giselle Wilz, NATO Headquarters Sarajevo (NHQS) commander, awards Command Sgt. Maj. Harley Schwind, NHQS command senior enlisted leader, with the Legion of Merit Medal Sep. 7, 2015, at Camp Butmir in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Schwind received the medal for exceptionally meritorious service to the North Dakota Army National Guard. He also received the state Legion of Merit Medal.



from the Bismarck-Mandan community for a "boss lift" Sep. 10 at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Bismarck, North Dakota. The event showcased the capabilities of N.D. Army National Guard's aviation assets.

## 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).



## Local Motorcycle Club Chapter Supports North Dakota National Guard Foundation

The Vietnam Veterans Legacy Vets Motorcycle Club's North Dakota chapter showed its support Oct. 9 for the nonprofit North Dakota National Guard Foundation with a \$2,500 donation. Representatives from the organization presented a check during a visit with Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, North Dakota adjutant general, at Fraire Barracks in Bismarck.

"Our Soldiers and Airmen, as well as their families, are truly appreciative for the support we receive from volunteers," Sprynczynatyk said. "Their support is key to the North Dakota National Guard's ability to support our communities, state and nation."

North Dakota National Guard members and their families benefit from the programs offered through the North Dakota National Guard Foundation, namely North Dakota Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (ND-TAPS) and the North

Dakota National Guard Emergency Relief Fund (ERF).

ND-TAPS supports the national TAPS initiative and provides services to those who have lost a loved one serving in the Armed Forces. The funds are used to cover transportation costs for families of fallen service members as they travel to Washington, D.C., to participate in the annual national TAPS program on Memorial Day weekend.

ERF provides financial support in sudden and unforeseen emergency situations for North Dakota National Guard members and their families who may be facing illness, accident recovery, fire, theft or natural disasters.

As a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, the North Dakota National Guard Foundation has no paid employees and hires no professional fundraisers. It depends on volunteer assistance and donations from those concerned about military members and their families. ■

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



The Vietnam Vets/Legacy Vets Motorcycle Club's North Dakota Chapter presents a check for \$2,500 to Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, North Dakota adjutant general, Oct. 9 on behalf of the nonprofit North Dakota National Guard Foundation. North Dakota National Guard members and their families benefit from the programs offered through the North Dakota National Guard Foundation, namely North Dakota Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (ND-TAPS) and the North Dakota National Guard Emergency Relief Fund (ERF).

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# Chaplains' Corner:

# Chaplains Assistants: Here to Serve

*By Master Sgt. Donald Dinger,  
State Chaplain Assistant*

The value of the chaplain assistant usually is not questioned, within the Chaplain Corps, anyway. Many outside of the Chaplain Corps, however, have questioned the value of the chaplain assistant and whether we are an essential part of the unit ministry team. Some may mistakenly view us as “assistant” chaplains, which we are not, and others think that any Soldier is capable of doing what we do.

For those who are unfamiliar with the job, opinions may be that assistants are just secretaries or bodyguards. Those who are somewhat familiar with this position may believe that this job consists only of setting up for worship services or prayer breakfasts. The chaplain assistant does assist in these areas, but our job encompasses so much more.

In 1909, the War department issued general Order No. 253, establishing the chaplain assistant, for the purpose of assisting the chaplain in the performance of his or her official duties. However the chaplain assistant was not established as a separate career management field until Oct. 1, 2001. Chaplain assistants help the commander provide religious support to Soldiers, Airmen, family members, and other authorized Department of Defense (DoD) personnel. Chaplain assistants, both Army and Air, are specially trained and qualified to assist chaplains in religious affairs, including religious advisement and religious support, which can be performed independently.

The chaplains' and chaplain assistants' primary responsibility is to ensure the right to free exercise of religion for U.S. military members on behalf of the commander. The chaplain assistants' role is now more clearly defined: effective May 2015, chaplain assistants (56M), by regulation, (AR165-1) are now called “religious affairs specialists.” This new name will more accurately reflect what we do in support of the unit ministry team.

Chaplain assistants shape the environment to accomplish the commander's religious support mission by providing technical expertise in religious support operations. We have three core capabilities: integrate religious operations, provide spiritual readiness and provide basic human interaction tasks into the unit mission. Additionally, we also have specialized skills which enhance religious support, and we are always combat ready. We are trained in all the warrior tasks and battle drills that are essential to provide safety for

the ministry team in combat. This is vital because U.S. chaplains are not authorized to carry weapons. Thus, chaplain assistants protect and care for the unit ministry team.

Currently, there are multiple vacancies for Religious Affairs Specialists within the N.D. National Guard (limited to Soldiers in the grade of E-4 or E-5). If you have ever considered a role in this career field, I encourage you to call me at 701-333-3350 or email [donald.s.dinger2.mil@mail.mil](mailto:donald.s.dinger2.mil@mail.mil) for more information. ■





Photo by Spc. Brandi Schmidt, 116th Public Affairs Detachment

Members of the North Dakota Patriot Guard presented commemorative coins to WWII Veterans Oct. 10 during the 70th Anniversary Victory Celebration held at the WWII Memorial Building in Bismarck, North Dakota. An estimated 125 veterans attended the event, which was hosted by the 164th Infantry Association. Look for the full story in the next issue of the North Dakota Guardian.