



# Full-time civil support team is Guard's newest

By Staff Sgt. Mike Hagburg,  
188th Army Band

On Nov. 22, 2004, North Dakota gained a new full-time National Guard unit: the Civil Support Team (CST). The Guard now faces the challenge of staffing, equipping and training the 81st CST.

The 81st CST is a Department of Defense Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)-Civil Support Team. Civil support teams are Guard units with the mission of providing technical assistance to civilian first responders in WMD, biological, chemical and nuclear incidents, said Lt. Col. Larry Shireley, commander of the 81st WMD Civil Support Team LT. This unit is a traditional Guard unit that the full-time 81st CST will replace.

The Defense Department has been activating full-time civil support teams since 1999, said Shireley. All the states are designated to have a full-time civil support team, with North Dakota being one of the last 11 states that will actually receive one. In the region, Colorado and Minnesota already have full-time civil support teams up and running.

The 81st will be a joint service unit, said Shireley. When fully staffed, the unit will have 22 members. Shireley said the unit intends to fill its first four AGR positions – commander, deputy commander, senior medical officer, and senior enlisted member – by early 2005. The new command team will then work to fill the unit's remaining slots, which will be advertised.

The CST will have an operations team with supply and administrative personnel. Shireley said the unit will also have specialized teams:

- a communications team equipped with secure gear that will allow instant on-scene communication and reach back capabilities with emergency agencies;
- a medical team with a mobile analytical laboratory, headed by a doctor or physician's assistant;
- a monitoring team trained to track released agents and recommend response and evacuation strategies; and



Photo by Staff Sgt. William J. Hinamon, 130th Airlift Wing

*Civil Support Team members responding to a Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) training scenario involving a car bomb and chemical agent help an unconscious victim through a decon line.*

- a survey team trained and equipped to enter "the hot zone," survey the situation and take samples of suspicious materials.

Shireley said the Guard will try to fill all the team positions by recruiting in North Dakota, but that some positions – in particular, a slot for a nuclear medical science officer – may be hard to fill in-state.

Once the unit is formed, each member of the team will receive "hundreds of hours" of training, said Shireley. This will include two months of individual and team training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

The extensive training is necessary in part because of the advanced equipment the members will need to operate, including "Level A" self-contained suits with oxygen packs, the specialized communications van with satellite uplink capabilities and the mobile analytical laboratory.

"We are going to have a highly sophisticated, highly trained team," said Shireley.

Plans are to base the CST in Bismarck, said Shireley, so that it will be able to respond within four hours to any location in the state. The unit will eventually need to have a climate controlled facility of its own for its specialized equipment.

The team will be on duty "24/7" said Shireley, so the unit will be able to react quickly in an emergency. All unit members will be required to live within 30 minutes of Bismarck so that everyone can be gathered together quickly. In addition, because of the extensive training the unit will receive, all members will be required to make a three-year commitment to the 81st CST.

The Army requires the 81st to be certified within two years of its activation, said Shireley, so once the unit completes its formal training, the focus will be on the certification process. Once the unit is certified, the focus will be on internal team training and training with first responders.

"The CST exists to help local officials, so it will be necessary to train with local first responders," said Shireley. "We need to get to know the faces and names of the local people because we are there to work with them and assist them, not to take over. We have a lot to offer and we are looking forward to working with them."

Shireley said that it will also be important for CST members to work with local and federal law enforcement agencies, such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"When we first respond, we won't know whether it's a HAZMAT (hazardous materials) or WMD situation," said Shireley. "So we have to respond with the idea that we could be dealing with a criminal or terrorist act and treat the area like a crime scene."

Shireley said the Guard has established a relationship with the FBI and has a history of working with police and fire departments in Bismarck, Mandan, and Fargo. In August 2004, for example, the Guard participated in a city-wide disaster preparedness exercise in Bismarck.

Shireley said the 81st, like all CST units, will be a state asset under

## Public affairs team provides real-time coverage of the 141st in Iraq

By Sgt. Amy Dobler,  
Headquarters and Headquarters Company,  
141st Engineer Combat Battalion (Corps) (Wheeled)

**FOB SPEICHER, Iraq** – A bit of North Dakota came to Iraq this week in order to bring a bit of Iraq back to North Dakota.

Four Soldiers from the North Dakota National Guard's Public Affairs Office are spending a couple of weeks with Soldiers in the 141st Engineer Combat Battalion. It's the second time the office has sent a team to Iraq; they covered the 142nd Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy) and 957th Multi-Role Bridge Company last year.

The public Affairs team – which consists of Lt. Col. Pete Conlin, Capt. Dan Gaffney, Warrant Officer Russ Zuraff and Sgt. 1st Class Rob Keller – is keeping busy recording holiday greetings for local media as well as longer, personal messages from Soldiers to their families. The team also is ensuring the battalion's place in history through documentation of missions and events.

Conlin serves as the team's leader as well as the North Dakota

National Guard's historian.

"As a team leader, my responsibility is to make sure the team gets over here, has everything they need and can focus on the mission," Conlin says. "As a historian, my basic responsibility is to ensure that the unit is doing what it needs to do to preserve the history of its sections over here in Iraq."

Soldiers may not think that's important in the near-term, but the significance will be clear in future decades, Conlin says.

Keller, the public affairs officer for Joint Force Headquarters, has been documenting Soldiers' missions and connecting them with media in North Dakota via satellite phone.

He says the team "broke the code" in finding how to get a public affairs team to Iraq. Only a handful of other states have done similar missions, and North Dakota is among even fewer that have returned for a second trip.

"We wanted to do it for the Soldiers," he says.

He also feels it's important for someone who understands the National Guard to cover the missions.

"If we don't tell our story, someone is going to go along and do it for us, but not as well," he says.

The team's technology allows that story to be told in real-

time, something the battalion has not been able to do before during Operation Iraqi Freedom II. Media also will be provided with video from the deployment for the first time.

"We'll give them raw interviews and the raw video and let them create their own things," Gaffney says.

He will be able to provide footage on everything from Soldiers' living conditions to the battalion's Trailblazer mission by the end of the trip, which will conclude just before Christmas.

Soldiers' families will get some extra-special footage, though. Zuraff, who serves as the team's information technology support person, has been filming personal DVD greetings from Soldiers to their loved ones that will be mailed just in time for Christmas.

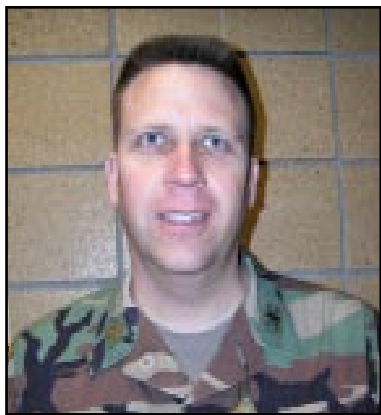
Whether they're on a Trailblazer or shooting hometown greetings, the team says they have been very well received by the North Dakota Soldiers longing for a connection to home.

"We've been greeted and treated very well by all the units," Conlin says.

# Soldier Talk



## What do you think of the new Army Combat Uniform (ACU)?



**Maj. Lee Nordin**

Headquarters and Headquarters  
Battery 1st Battalion 188th  
Air Defense Artillery

*"Overall, I'm a proponent of change related to improving a system. Some small parts bother me -- the loss of branch insignia for officers, and I am unsure of the efficiency of velcro patches. From what I've seen so far, though, I think it will be a change for the better."*



**Staff Sgt. John Haynes**

Headquarters and Headquarters  
Battery 1st Battalion 188th  
Air Defense Artillery

*"My concern is that washing will get the velcro bunched up, and the tabs won't look good. Also, if I forget to take them off, they will probably get lost in the field. I like the integration of kneepads and elbowpads, and there is no need to worry about buttons."*



**Staff Sgt. Dovey Mitchell**

Headquarters and Headquarters  
Battery 1st Battalion 188th  
Air Defense Artillery

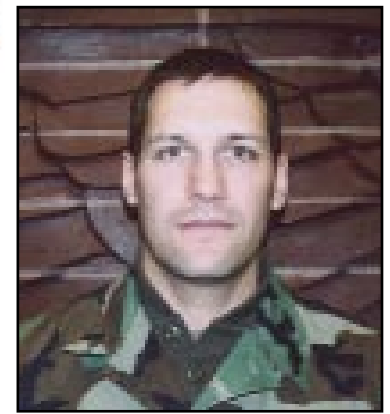
*"Basically, my comments are from more of a female perspective. I don't think the uniforms flatter Soldiers' appearances. The internal pockets on the patrol cap will be nice for carrying IDs, though."*



**Sgt. Jared Sherven**

Headquarters and Headquarters  
Company 164th Engineer Combat  
Battalion (Corps) (Mechanized)

*"I'm not sure about the velcro because name tags can easily be replaced. But the camouflage is great and I like the idea of the new (tan) boots."*



**Sgt. Doug Billings**

Company A 164th  
Engineer Combat Battalion  
(Corps) (Mechanized)

*"It's a good idea that they're going toward a combat oriented utility uniform that's ready to wear. The sleeves on the pockets will help when wearing armor. I'm a little concerned about the zippers, they will be difficult to replace and I'm still wondering about noise discipline with the velcro. Overall, it covers all operational areas."*

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## New uniforms the trend

By Sgt. Jonathan Haugen,  
Joint Force Headquarters

The Marines started it and now every branch is jumping on board. The Army Combat Uniform will be joined by the Air Force and Navy sometime in the future. The days of one uniform for all branches seems to be falling.

The Air Force is currently field testing their new uniform and will probably start production about 18 to 24 months from January 2004. The new Air Force utility uniform consists of tan, blue and two shades of green in a pixelated tiger-stripe pattern.

The Navy is wear testing the new Navy Working Uniform with four different patterns in the fleet each with a variety of patterns,



Photo by Tech. Sgt. David A. Jablonski,  
U.S. Air Force



Photo by Photographer's Mate 3rd Class Todd  
Frantom, U.S. Navy

(Above) A close look at the new design of the Air Force Uniform.  
(Left) A look at three of the patterns being tested by the Navy.

## Sprynczynatyk assumes new position at NGB

By Master Sgt. Tim Erhardt,  
Joint Force Headquarters

What's Brig. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk up to these days? A lot. In fact, he answered questions for this interview via telephone during a layover in Minneapolis. He had about an hour before catching a flight to Bismarck after spending four days in Washington, D.C.

Currently Sprynczynatyk is the Director of Logistics (J-4) at the National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C., a position he has held since November 2003. It is his job to advise the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, Lt. Gen. Steven Blum, and the National Guard Bureau Joint Staff on logistic issues.

"Logistics is simply moving people, equipment and supplies more than anything else," said Sprynczynatyk. "But mobilization, engineering and installations are in our area of responsibility as well."

Sprynczynatyk is still a member of the North Dakota National Guard, Joint Forces Headquarters, even though his assignment as J-4 is in Washington, D.C. The most recent position Sprynczynatyk held before Director of Logistics was Assistant Adjutant General for the Army, North Dakota National Guard.

Even with frequent trips to Washington, Sprynczynatyk must find time to devote to his civilian job, a job requiring a lot of devotion. He has been the Director of the North Dakota Department of Transportation since January 2001. As director his job is to provide leadership and oversee the department as it provides a transportation system that safely moves people and goods across North Dakota. His department is also responsible for the licensing of drivers and motor vehicle registration.

In his 32 years in the Guard, Sprynczynatyk has gone from private to general, and he's seen both highs and lows. "A real low point was the loss of our first Soldier during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Specialist Jon Fettig, on July 22, 2003," Sprynczynatyk said, "and every injury and death is another low."

Some high points have been being promoted to brigadier general in June, 2000, being the Military Academy Commandant when North Dakota became the first state to consolidate Phase I of the Officer Candidates School, and watching our Soldiers return from overseas deployments. The opportunity to lead and take care of Soldiers has always been important to Sprynczynatyk.

With his wife and two children, Sprynczynatyk finds time for his family too. "I thank my wife Connie for her support of my military career," he said. "She has always been there with support and helping me along in the Guard, all these years."

"When I thought my military career was about over nearly 25 years ago, Major General Murray Sagsveen, retired, encouraged me to pursue a commission as an officer," Sprynczynatyk said. "Today I hope to continue to serve the National Guard and my country. I will continue serving as long as my experience, knowledge, skills and background contribute to the success of the National Guard."





# Leaders speak on their visions for the future

By Master Sgt. Tim Erhardt,  
Joint Force Headquarters

*"The leader for today and the future will be focused on how to be—how to develop quality, character, mind-set, values, principles, and courage." Frances Hesselbein contributed this assessment of the leader's mission in a book entitled Leadership from the Inside Out.*

*In the following question and answer article, two of our leaders share their focus for the North Dakota National Guard.*

## Brig. Gen. Jerald Engelman, Deputy Adjutant General, Joint Force Headquarters

As Deputy Adjutant General, it is Brig. Gen. Jerald Engelman's job to serve in the place of the Adjutant General if he is unavailable to do so. The DAG oversees the day-to-day operations of the organization and the Special Staff. He is also the National Guard liaison to the 20th Air Force and the 14th Air Force for special Air Force initiatives with the North Dakota National Guard. The DAG's length of service is at the determination of the governor and the adjutant general.

Here are some thoughts concerning the North Dakota National Guard by two of our leaders:

### Q: What are the day-to-day duties of the DAG?

*Engelman:* My day-to-day duties are ever-changing and unpredictable. I spend most of my day responding to issues and doing problem solving. Additionally, I chair many councils and boards for the organization, attend promotions, awards and other ceremonies giving many speeches to a sundry of audiences.

### Q: Where do you work?

*Engelman:* My office is in Building 30 at Fraine Barracks but my work takes me all over the state, with many travels out of state for meetings and conferences.

### Q: Who do you work with?

*Engelman:* I primarily work with the TAG, Chief of Staff, and Vice-Chief of Staff, Joint Staff and Special Staff on a full-time basis, along with the other General Officers and Joint Executive Council members.

### Q: What are your personal ambitions as a member of the National Guard?

*Engelman:* My personal ambitions are to help guide the organization, as best I can, through the transformation that is occurring in the Army and Air Guard, adapting the organization to the resulting changes and leaving the organization better than I found it, well-positioned for the next 20 years.

### Q: What is your favorite part of the job?

*Engelman:* Pro-

viding guidance & leadership for the betterment of the organization, while mentoring members in harmony with the vision & strategic plan of the organization.

### Q: What is the greatest challenge in your job?

*Engelman:* Maintaining a balance of progress & growth of goals & objectives because of the busy schedule and the critical needs of staff during this high ops tempo.

### Q: In your opinion, what is the greatest challenge facing the North Dakota National Guard during this time of War on Terrorism?

*Engelman:* Maintaining a relevant role and focus for both the Army & Air Guard so that we are as strong an organization in 20 years as we are today, coupled with the recruiting and retention challenges that are on our doorstep today.

### Q: What would you like to accomplish that would benefit the individual North Dakota Guard member?

*Engelman:* Whether our Guard members are traditional or full-time, we need to have a strong organization that is relevant and responsive, which provides a backdrop for service and growth to individuals who want to wear the uniform. I joined the Guard because I was encouraged to do so by my stepfather. Originally I looked at the financial benefits. Looking back now some 40 years later, it is as much or more about the fine people who mentored me. It's about leadership and skill development, the fellowship and the pride in serving my country. I want an organization that not only provides relevant and necessary compensation and incentives, but also is so dynamic that our newest recruits feel called to a higher ideal.

### Q: What goal for the North Dakota National Guard have you set as your highest priority?

*Engelman:* The North Dakota National Guard has a Strategic Plan 2004-2009 with goals and objectives. As the DAG, I have sponsorship of a goal for Satisfied Customers (individuals or organization that directly use our products and services) and Stakeholders (people or organizations that have a vested interest in us or have influence on us) which I wholeheartedly support and will undertake objectives to accomplish. (For a description of other goals Brig. Gen. Engelman would like to emphasize, Soldiers can reference the Our Goals and Objectives section of the North Dakota National Guard Strategic Plan 2004-2009 pamphlet recently mailed to members.)

### Q: What is the importance of the concept Joint Force Headquarters to Guard members?

*Engelman:* The importance of this concept for members to understand is that it's the way we will train and fight now and in the future. If you look at Iraq as

## Col. Dennis Jacobson Assistant Adjutant General-Army, Joint Force Headquarters

As the Assistant Adjutant General, Army, Col. Dennis Jacobson is the commander of the Army National Guard Soldiers in Brigade and Troop Command. His major duties are ensure that the adjutant general's policies are executed and all assigned mission's are successfully completed. Jacobson serves on numerous boards and committees. He helps manage the senior officer and enlisted force.

Jacobson feels his most important duty is the management of all Army recruiting and retention activities. He is also responsible for the Army judge advocate general (JAG) and AMEDD (Army Medical Department) activities. Jacobson is responsible for numerous objectives and tasks in the Army National Guard Strategic Plan. He also has the important task of ensuring that the Army National Guard has structure and appropriate strength to serve the needs of the citizens of North Dakota, governor and the nation.

### Q: What are your personal ambitions as a member of the National Guard?

*Jacobson:* I have two goals for the remainder of my career. 1) Develop force structure that will be supportable by the state while bringing value to the Soldiers and the citizens. 2) Develop a recruiting and retention engine that can support our force structure now and into the future.

### Q: What is your favorite part of the job?

*Jacobson:* Observing Soldiers training and doing their jobs and watching leaders develop and succeed. I am extremely proud of the Soldiers from North Dakota. They have proved time and time again that they are the cream of the crop and can do any mission assigned.

### Q: What is your greatest challenge?

*Jacobson:* The transformation of the Army from a Cold War structure is very challenging. We have to anticipate what the Army will look like, what it will need, and what do we have to do to stay relevant. We are not given the specifics of the Transformation Plan so we have to guess and do the best we can with the information we have.

### Q: What is the greatest challenge facing the North Dakota National Guard?

*Jacobson:* We have numerous challenges but recruiting and retention would be right up there at the top. The Optempo is extremely high. The chances of activation are very good for the foreseeable future. Potential recruits are not as numerous and parents are reluctant to allow their children to enlist. The Department of Defense will have to change the way we reward participation. We can't do things the same way and expect different results. Without a steady stream of Soldiers enlisting, it won't matter what the force structure is!



Photo by Chief Warrant Officer Kiel Skager, Joint Force Headquarters

*Brig. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, Col. Dennis Jacobson, Col. Bill Seekins and Command Sgt. Maj. Harley Schwind await the order to pass the colors during the 34th Infantry Division Engineer Brigade change of command ceremony in March 2004.*

### Q: What would you like to accomplish that would benefit the individual Soldier?

*Jacobson:* If I was king for a day and could do anything, I'd give all of our Soldiers free health insurance coverage. I would also give them a retirement check immediately upon retirement and not wait until age 60. We are not the strategic reserve anymore. We aren't the operational reserve either. We are the TACTICAL reserve! The rules have changed for us. If this is the way we can expect to be used, the benefits to the guard force will have to increase.

We have made some progress on the health insurance but we are not there yet. It is an item that has high visibility and needs all Soldiers to help get it accomplished.

### Q: What goal for the guard have you set as your highest priority?

*Jacobson:* My highest goal right now is maintaining force structure. Due to Transformation, North Dakota loses their Engineer Brigade headquarters at the end of this year. We need to find a replacement that is better than we had. We have requested and are lobbying hard to become a Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (MEB) Headquarters. Many other states are losing Engineer Headquarters too so it is an uphill fight.

### Q: What are your other goals?

*Jacobson:* As I stated earlier, we have to stabilize our force structure. There is a lot of chaos right now. We have asked for military Police, firefighters, transportation units, additional aircraft and the MEB. But, we have to be able to fill them so we need a recruiting and retention effort second to none.

### Q: What do you believe the North Dakota National Guard needs to do to keep the organization ready for deployment?

*Jacobson:* We need to get our strength up so we don't cannibalize one unit to fill another. Our Soldiers are some of the best in the Army. Our training doctrine is sound and when called upon, no units have failed in their missions. I'm not worried about the training piece. Training can always be better and it will once our veterans bring back their experience and translate that into more realistic and dynamic training. But, our units have to be full or near full so they can train together as well as deploy and fight together.



Photo by Lt. Col. Bill Prokopyk, Joint Force Headquarters

*Brig. Gen. Jerald Engelman looks at the crowd before his promotion ceremony in January 2004.*



# All in a day's

By Sgt. Stan Brown,  
A Company, 141st Engineer Combat Battalion  
(Corps) (Wheeled)

**FOB O'RYAN, Iraq**- Since the equipment operators of A Company of the 141st Engineer Combat Battalion (Corps) (Wheeled) arrived in Iraq, they have been tasked with varying types of missions and projects.

As part of the support platoon, the equipment section shares responsibility on the Trailblazer mission. Five of the 15 operators in the section are permanently tasked to Trailblazer and two or three additional operators are provided each day to compensate for Soldiers who are on leave, pass or simply have a day off. They also will often times be seen along with the Trailblazers on the main supply route clearing the shoulders and the medians of the road. Because of the mere size that section boasts, they often serve as an entourage for the company commander and first sergeant for their trips to Forward Operating Base (FOB) Speicher for the battalion's battle update brief.

But the majority of the equipment section's work and effort has been poured into FOB improvements; things such as raising bypass roads and parking areas, road maintenance, digging in culverts and draining swamp areas. They

have placed at least five culverts, constructed over a dozen roads and parking areas, placed hundreds of concrete barriers and bunkers for Soldiers' protection, pushed up a couple of miles of berm, filled thousands of HESCO containers with sand and moved dozens of CONEX boxes, just to mention a few things.

Not only have they made improvements on their own FOB, but they have been requested in other bases, as well: Camp Duke near Najaf, FOB Brassfield-Mora near Samarra, and Logistical Support Area (LSA) Anaconda and FOB Paliwoda, both near Balad.



Photo by Pfc. Elizabeth Erste, 55th Signal Company (Combat Camera) Sgt. Jay Wells, and Staff Sgt. Duane Dobitz bulldoze a hole for the debris of the Ramadan 14 building, an old Baath party house located outside the city of Ad Dujayl, Iraq, that is being demolished, May 6, 2004.

Currently, the A Company equipment section is engaged in a route-clearance project that aims to clear Iraq's main highway of many of the possible hiding spots insurgents will use alongside the road for attacks on convoys. If you ask one of the equipment operators their thoughts on their current project or past projects, they are mostly likely to respond, "It's

## Training complete, F Battery begins deployment to Iraq

By Sgt. 1st Class Mike Jennens,  
Joint Force Headquarters

The Soldiers of Battery F of the 188th Air Defense Artillery Battalion have safely arrived in Kuwait and officially started their one year "boots-on-ground" time. They are now awaiting orders to move into Iraq. Upon arrival at Ft. Bliss, Texas the Soldiers trained and validated on tasks such as Military Operations on Urbanized Terrain (MOUT), land navigation, weapons, first aid, explosive hazards, and mounted and dismounted patrolling. They are anticipating performing security and stability operations once they arrive in Iraq.

The following information comes to the Straight Arrow from Sgt. 1st Class George Overby's journal. Overby started his journal when the unit was deployed to Fort Bliss on July 3 until Nov. 18.

Arrived at Fort Bliss today about 11:30 p.m. Got off the plane and walked over to the hanger and signed in, gave up a copy of our orders and got on a bus. We drove a short distance near the rail load yard and turned in our weapons in one of the bunkers. Staff Sgt. Paul Werder was there to receive weapons and issue a Camelback 3 quart backpack. We got on the bus and away we went to McGregor training area.

McGregor Training Area is very isolated, near the New Mexico Border Mountains; it's about 35 miles away from Biggs Army Air Field. Definitely a desert area, lots of small mounds that are created by drifting sand that gathers like snow against plants growing in the area. The main use of McGregor is as a training site for National Guard units, and is very close to the McGregor range complex which is an extremely large area that Air Defense units use for live fire of Stinger, Avenger, and Patriot missiles. There are also a lot of other small arms ranges that are out there to include the NBC (Nuclear, Biological and

Chemical) Chamber.

The barracks are a large tent (Called Modules) that are two large tents with a smaller tent in between that is the latrine. Each smaller tent holds about 450 guys, so you can imagine 900 guys all trying to shower or shave at the same time gets interesting. The one really good thing is that the sleeping tent has air conditioning. The bunks are wooden bunk beds with not much room in between, and when you throw in footlockers between the rows, it gets pretty tight. They are at least clean and bright, just not a lot of privacy.

From July 4-24, we remained at McGregor or FOB (Forward Operating Base) Warrior, undergoing the individual phase of the training/processing. Some of the things we did were: lots of briefings; Soldier readiness processing; including medical checkup, records review, dental review; land navigation course with compass; issued Desert Combat Uniforms (DCU's); Individual and crew served weapons qualification; first aid classes; and explosive hazard training. (Since IED's {Improvised Explosive Devices} are the biggest threat in country, there were many classes on the types of threats, how to deal with them, and how to recognize them).

From July 24 until Sept. 16, we participated in five FOB rotations of collective training. Each rotation was 9 days with a 2-day break in between as a move-set-rest day. The rotation schedule was as follows: at Biggs Army Airfield FOB (El Paso, Texas) we performed dismounted patrolling in urban environment and mounted patrolling; at Dona Anna FOB (N.M.) we began convoy operations. In all of these FOB's we continuously practiced requesting a MEDEVAC (medical evacuation) for wounded Soldiers.

From Sept. 16-26, the main focus was packing our equipment and vehicles and getting them ready for shipment by rail, and eventually air to Iraq. We also packed a separate connex for shipment to JRTC (Joint Regional

Training Center).

From Sept. 26 to Oct. 3, there was time for passes and people had time to relax. We also received our order for the mission at JRTC and began preparations for that.

We arrived at Alexandria, La., airport on Oct. 5, very late in the evening. We were bussed to North Fort Polk, which is about 45 miles away and moved into some temporary tents with wooden floors and cots. The tents hold about 200 Soldiers so we shared one with another unit. It was very humid and hot when we arrived, and it promptly began to rain and continued to rain until Oct. 10 when we left to go out to the box. It was a miserable muddy mess in FOB "Hammer." We had no porta potties and had to dig a slit trench for the first day. After 10 days of nightly mortar attacks, convoys, village searches, meeting with mayors, traffic control points, we came out of the box on the Oct. 20 trained and ready to go. We packed the last connex, cleaned up our gear, and headed out to the Intermediate Staging Base in Alexandria. From Oct. 21-26, our Soldiers all went home on leave for approx 2 1/2 - 3 weeks.

On Nov. 9, approximately 75 of our Soldiers began a two week MOS (Military Occupation Specialty) conversion course to convert from 14M to 14S, since our battalion has had an MTOE change and we will now be an avenger battery instead of a pure stinger battery. The avenger is a Hummvee mounted system that has two pods each with four stinger missiles for eight total. It has many features over the shoulder fired system, such as night vision capability, slew to queue capability, and can shoot on the move. It also has an integrated .50 cal machine gun for ground security and survivability. One of the most useful features is the FLIR (Forward Looking Infrared Radar) which is even used in Iraq on convoys for seeing what's ahead of you.

We are waiting now for the rest of the Bri-

### Adjusting to life in Afghanistan

By Chief Warrant Officer Craig Heuer,  
Detachment 42

Editor's note: The following article is from a letter to the North Dakota National Guard on the status of the unit.

**BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan**- Detachment 42 arrived at Bagram Airbase, Afghanistan on Oct. 6. When we stepped off the C-130, we were greeted by a hot, dust filled, wind and a desolate landscape. After the forty-plus hour trek to get to Bagram it was not the welcome we were looking for.

The first days in Afghanistan were spent seeking out where the local facilities, i.e. bathrooms, were and learning the mission we were about to take over from our counterparts from Kentucky. We knew we were going to be hauling personnel and equipment, but the environment we would operate in would be different from anything any of us had experienced. Afghanistan is mostly mountainous, with many peaks exceeding seventeen thousand feet, so needless to say it is not like flying across the plains of North Dakota. In addition we soon learned that we would be flying to other countries and would have to learn about things like International Diplomatic Clearances.

Kentucky left us on Oct. 15 and we officially took over the mission. So far, it has been an exciting and rewarding experience with many adventures to tell our grand children. Everyone has adapted well and we have learned the ins and outs of selecting the right showers and dining facilities. The part that is not very pleasant is the fact that we are away from family and friends. We do have the capability to e-mail and send mail back and forth, but that doesn't replace watching a dance recital or soccer game in person. We anticipate the Christmas season to be especially difficult so we have been doing our best to decorate our billets and share care packages that show up from time to time. There's nothing like a chocolate chip cookie from somebody's grandmother.

We watch the news over here and find it interesting that not much is mentioned about Afghanistan. Of course we understand that Iraq is of significant interest right now, but there are still 18,000 troops over here doing a great service. Even from our narrow perspective, we see improvements in infrastructure and security. One of our unit members, Master Sgt. John Putz went on a humanitarian mission to a local village and reported that the reception from the locals was warm and inviting.

Of note was the inauguration of President Karzai, the first democratically elected Afghan president in recent history. It makes us proud to believe that our efforts contributed to this event. As we conduct business every day we measure our efforts against the great progress being made in this country and what it means to Americans and these people.





# Armored Falcon flies

By Master Sgt. David E. Somdahl,  
119th Fighter Wing

**Fargo**—The longest North Dakota National Guard mobilization in recent years ended in December.

For the Soldiers of Alpha Company, 141st Engineer Combat Battalion, North Dakota National Guard, this concludes a highly successful effort to perform Air Force security missions at the 119th Fighter Wing, and at the Grand Forks and Minot Air Force Bases. Near Christmas, 2002, 127 Soldiers were notified of an alert for possible mobilization, for what the U.S. Army called Operation Armored Falcon.

Staff Sgt. Matthew Hebl remembers hearing from his cousin, another Alpha company Soldier, about the activation. "His platoon sergeant had talked to him first, and he called me right away, 'Hey did you get the call?' Hebl said the call was "a bit of a shock," but said he felt reassured when he later learned their activation would keep them close to home.

The Soldiers received initial training at Fort Carson, Colo., in February 2003 followed by additional orientation and training after dispersing to the three sites. A total of 32 Soldiers from the Edgeley headquarters unit

were deployed to the 119th Fighter Wing and the 119th Security Forces Squadron. The 141st Soldiers from the Carrington detachment were deployed to Grand Forks AFB and 141st Soldiers from the Wishek detachment were dispatched to Minot AFB.

Staff Sgt. Timothy Callahan served full-time as the supply sergeant for Alpha company at the time of the activation and eagerly accepted his new mission. "It's been a learning experience. It's actually been kind of fun, doing a different job and working with the Air Force and how they do things," Sgt. Callahan said. That training evolved into frequent evaluations and exercises during their 21 months on duty with the Happy Hooligans, adding, "You're training every day because something new is always coming up."

At the end of the first year, Soldiers had the option of requesting release from active duty or remaining for a second year working with security forces personnel. From the Edgeley headquarters, 23 of the 31 enlisted personnel stayed in Fargo and their officer in charge, 1st Lt. Tony Mortrud, accepted an active duty assignment in Alaska.

During their activation, the Soldiers performed entry control, security response team, command and control and other tasks with

their Air National Guard counterparts. They became part of each rotation shift, working events as diverse as the 2003 City of Fargo airshow to protecting air sovereignty alert pilots, maintenance personnel and aircraft. They worked so well together one Soldier, Sgt. Terry Stickel, was honored as a superior performer by the Air Force Inspector General team from Air Combat Command during the August operational readiness inspection.

The 119th Fighter Wing Commander Col. Robert Becklund personally thanked each Soldier at an awards presentation Nov. 23 in Fargo, noting their participation eased a critical shortage of security forces personnel for the Hooligans and for the Air Force at large. Becklund noted that "we couldn't have done this without" and joked that a few might even return as new Air National Guardsmen.

Reflecting back over the last two years, Sgt. Callahan said he and his fellow Soldiers were proud of their accomplishments and their part

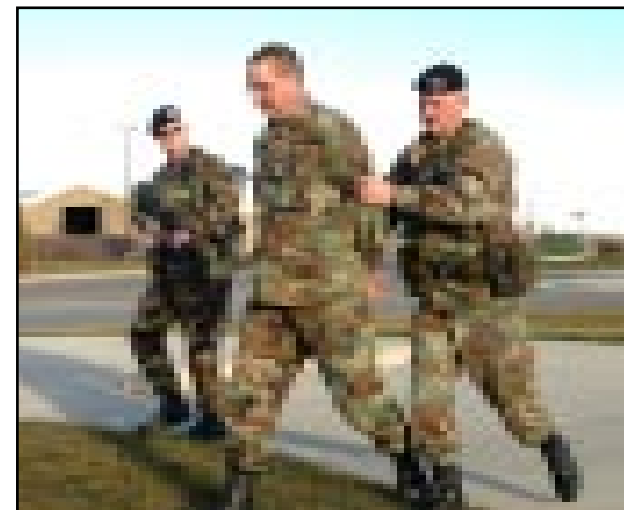


Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David Lipp,  
119th Fighter Wing

Staff Sgt. Kevin D. Hamlin, 141st Engineer Combat Battalion (Corps) (Wheeled), right, restrains Sgt. 1st Class Robert A. Roehrich during an exercise as Tech. Sgt. Jason R. Coalwell, 119th Security Forces Squadron assists at the North Dakota Air National Guard.

in the global war on terrorism. "People may think there isn't a risk here, but you never know, and you have to be prepared to do the mission."

The Soldiers traveled to Fort Carson for demobilization processing prior to starting terminal leave status, moving back home to

## Avenger transforming the Air Defense Artillery

Pfc. Christopher Erickson,  
1-129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The 1st Battalion, 188th Air Defense Artillery (ADA), headquartered in Grand Forks with a detachment in Bismarck, is going through changes to make it more mobile, better trained and ready to support the overall restructuring of the Army.

Maj. Lee Nordin, officer in charge of the 1-188th, stated that for the past several years the ADA community in North Dakota and elsewhere in the reserve component has been structured with a focus on supporting the Separate Infantry / Armor Brigade (SAB/SIB) concept.

The restructure of the unit was brought about to provide a way to protect critical Corps assets.

"Our systems could be task organized anywhere across the battlefield, from the Task Force to the Division level," Nordin said.

Under the new Modification Table of Organization and Equipment (MTOE), the ADA has gone from being a divisional asset assigned to the 40th Infantry Division (Mechanized) in California, manned at a low level (about 10 percent of their requirements), to being configured once again as a unit within the state.

"This leaves us with a Headquarters and Headquarters Battery (HHB) in Grand Forks, Battery A in Bismarck, Battery B in Grand Forks, and Battery C yet to be stationed in the command plan," he said.

"The changes will also include fielding the Avenger Air Defense Weapon System very soon," Nordin said, "which is a sophisticated Stinger missile based air defense system. That takes advantage of the proven technology found in the man-portable Stinger and enhances it by mounting eight missiles on a Humvee platform."

Significant advances in target acquisition technology and increased mobility will greatly increase the lethality of the unit, he said.

Along with improved weapon systems, the unit will also receive six Sentinel Radars. These radars are used to identify aircraft well before they could pose a threat to ground forces and assist the Air Battle Management Center in targeting aircraft identified as hostile.

Finally, under this configuration, the Battalion will be a Corps asset rather than a Brigade or Division asset.

The MTOE was implemented in early September 2004 and the unit has begun receiving some equipment already.

"The Avengers and Sentinels should be arriving soon, and the batteries have converted to a new manning model already, thus demanding significant levels of MOS (Military Occupation Specialty) reclassification through formal military education," he said.

Nordin said new training has already started, with about 74 Soldiers already being formally trained as Avenger crewmembers. The unit expects to have another 60-70 Soldiers complete the training prior to the end of this training year.

One MOS that is posing a significant challenge is found mostly in HHB, the 14-Juliet Air Defense.

"This is a very complex and lengthy MOSQ that brings digitization and systems interoperability to the battalion. HHB, with the Sentinel Radar and the 14J MOS, will become a major contributor to common operational picture and the net-centric warfare concept," Nordin added.

Both Grand Forks and Bismarck have already been affected by the restructure.

Battery E (Stinger) (Light) in Bismarck will convert to Battery A (Avenger). Battery F (Stinger) (Mechanized) in Grand Forks will convert to Battery B (Avenger) upon the completion of its deployment, he said. HHB, also in Grand Forks, will acquire the radar systems and in addition to their inherent sup-

port role, will also assume the responsibility for early warning and airspace command and control, Nordin said.

The new equipment the ADA will be receiving includes not only the Avengers and Sentinels radars, but a host of technical equipment required to ensure these systems are able to interface properly and to maintain a digital link to other information sources, he said.

"Maintenance will be a critical part of ensuring these systems remain operationally ready and there are, or course, some very sophisticated diagnostic tools required to maintain these systems," he added.

The unit is now simply waiting for the equipment to arrive so it can begin that transition. This involves retraining personnel, learning and developing new tactics, techniques and procedures as they relate to the new equipment and roles.

Not only has the unit gotten new equipment and new roles, it has taken steps to ensure that all the new recruits come back from AIT (Advanced Individual Training) as fully qualified Soldiers.

"We've worked with higher headquarters, MEPS (Military Enlistment Processing Station) and recruiters to ensure all Soldiers scheduled for basic training and AIT are placed in an MOS that will support the new MTOE," Nordin said.

Also, now nearly every position in HHB (including Command Sergeant Major or battalion commander) can be filled by either male or female Soldiers and that is a huge plus for the unit, Nordin stated.

Although the changes the ADA are going through are large, they are a small part of total Army restructuring, he said.

This is due to the fluid and dynamic nature of the threat, the constant improvements in technology and the ever-increasing demand for information superiority combined with

### Helipad named in honor of

Story by Sgt. Justin Glasser,  
C Company, 141st Engineer Combat Battalion (Corps) (Wheeled)

**FOB Warhorse, Iraq--** On Sept. 24, 2004, the 1st Infantry Division held a dedication ceremony for Spc. James J. Holmes. Holmes volunteered to deploy with the 141st Engineer Combat Battalion (Corps) (Wheeled), and was slotted with C Company's third platoon as the platoon sergeant's driver. Holmes was injured on May 3 when the vehicle he was driving was struck by an improvised explosive device; he passed away from those injuries on May 7.

Holmes had an intense love and passion for flying, so the 1st Infantry Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team at FOB Warhorse, near Baqubah, dedicated the helipad to Holmes. The ceremony took place at 3 p.m., and during the ceremony two Black Hawk helicopters landed. It was very fitting and thought of as a flyover of sorts for a man who loved to fly.

The idea of an airfield dedicated to Holmes was initiated by C Company Commander Capt. Ralph Romans.

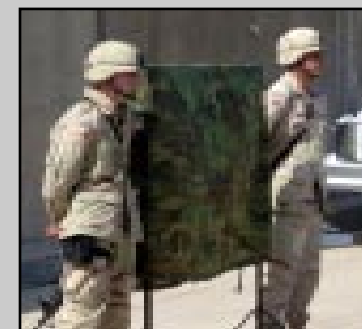


Photo by 1st Sgt. Keith Hertz, C Company 141st Engineer  
Combat Battalion (Corps) (Wheeled)

(Left) Spc. Alvin Beyer and Spc. Herb Quamme prepare to unveil the dedication sign during the September ceremony.

# Camp Gilbert C. Grafton experienced humble beginnings

By Capt. Dan Gaffney,  
1-129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Located in the northeastern part of the state, Camp Gilbert C. Grafton is the premier training facility for the North Dakota National Guard, and one of the best year-round training sites in the Midwest. Thousands of Soldiers, Airmen, and civilian law enforcement agents trained at Camp Grafton during 2003, and with new facilities and expanded training sites that number is sure to grow each year. More than just barracks and woods, Camp Grafton has the accommodations and cutting-edge facilities needed to train today's military for tomorrow's battle.

Today Soldiers call it Camp Grafton, but this military post was established two decades before North Dakota became a state.

When gold was discovered in present-day Montana and Idaho in 1862, prospectors headed west in great numbers. Built to protect those individuals, patrol the surrounding area and police the Devils Lake Indian Reservation, Fort Totten was built in 1867. Formally recognized in 1870, it consisted of more than 11,000 acres within the reservation. The military left in 1890, with the land and buildings to be used for an "industrial training school for Indian youth."

Part of the Fort Totten Military Reservation was turned over to the state in 1894, although National Guard troops actually made their first encampment here in the summer of 1891. At that time it was called Camp Andrew Burke, in honor of the governor. Renamed several times for the governor or other famous persons, the camp got its current name in 1924 in honor of Lt. Col. Gilbert C. Grafton, a North Dakota National Guard Soldier killed in World War



File Photo

*Summer Camp at Camp Gilbert C. Grafton in June, 1931. The large building on the left side appears to be today's training HQ; it was built in approximately 1902 as a warehouse; notice the shore line of Devils Lake.*

I.

The land given to North Dakota was heavily wooded, full of wood fuel and building material. Today's parade field was the camp's first big improvement; that ground was cleared in the 1890's, and the first building (a stone warehouse) was built in 1902. More construction followed, adding housing (for men and horses), a water tank and tower, and a rifle range. Camp Grafton has never really stopped growing, but it saw tremendous growth (thanks to the Civilian Works Administration and Works Progress Administration) between 1934 and 1942. Construction continued after World War II, but a few of the highlights include the construction of Tracy Chapel in 1956, when

the Officers Club burned down in 1964, and when 250 tin huts replaced tents in 1968. By the early 1980's, Camp Grafton had enough all-weather facilities to house an 800-person battalion and its equipment.

In 1983, the North Dakota National Guard bought 10,000 acres in Eddy County 40 miles south of Devils Lake; Camp Grafton South made it possible for large-scale engineer and combat arms training. A live-fire range is also located on Camp Grafton South, officially known as the Major General C. Emerson Murry Regional Live Fire and Maneuver Center, named for the state's Adjutant General from 1975 to 1984. The range is capable of handling

small arms up to the M2 .50 caliber machine gun, the MICLIC training rocket, and up to 160 pounds of explosives.

Devils Lake, on which Camp Grafton sits, has played havoc with the surrounding area ever since the Ice Age. The city of Devils Lake and Camp Grafton were both established when the water level was much lower than it is today. Far from reaching its natural overflow, the lake has risen 25 feet just over the past decade, flooding homes, roads, and parts of Camp Grafton. Its surface area has tripled, and the federal government has spent more than \$350 million to relocate people and build higher roads and levees. One building, the officers club, and a sewage treatment plant were lost to the rising water level, along with more than 400 acres of land, forcing the relocation of an engineer training site.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and North Dakota are each working on an outlet

*Editor's Note: This is part one in a four part Camp Grafton series.*

## Deployed units honored by National Guard Bureau campaign

Story and photos by Pfc. Christopher Erickson,  
1-129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The North Dakota National Guard recently honored the 142nd Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy) and the 957th Multi-Role Bridge Company in Freedom Salute ceremonies held at the various armories across the state.

The ceremonies were held in appreciation of the units' efforts for support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Each Soldier was presented with an encased American flag, a commemorative coin and a "Defender of Freedom" certificate and a lapel pin.

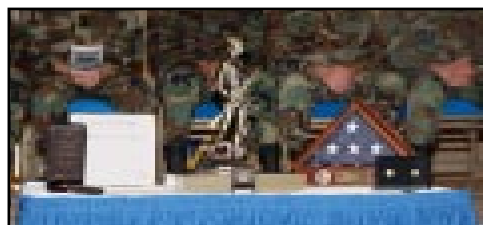
Spouses and employers were also recognized for their support of the Soldiers during the units' deployments, receiving lapel pins and Employer Freedom medals.

The Freedom Salute campaign was started in December 2003 and is designed to publicly acknowledge our Army Guard Soldiers as well as those who have supported them during Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. It was begun by the



*Sgt. Shaun Riveland shakes Command Sgt. Major Daniel Job's hand after receiving his recognition during the 957th Multi-Role Bridge Company Freedom Salute event in November. National Guard Bureau to offer recognition to those Soldiers who have served overseas after previous deployments in past decades. Many of those Soldiers came home with no recognition or thanks.*

Units that have already received this recognition include the 129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, the 133rd Quartermaster Detachment (Water Distribution-Hose), the 3662nd General Support Maintenance Company, the 132nd Quartermaster Company (Water Supply) and the 131st Quartermaster Detachment (Water Purification).



*A display of the awards given out during the Freedom Salute ceremony.*



File Photo

*Summer Camp at Camp Gilbert C. Grafton in 1925.*



Photo by Sgt. Jonathan Haugen, Joint Force Headquarters

## Maintenance ensuring equipment is ready

*Sgt. Dan Iszler, Det. 1 3662nd General Support Maintenance Company, works on a Common Bridge Transport tire. The Field Maintenance Shops (FMS) throughout the state and the CSMS (Combined Support Maintenance Shop) have been working hard to ensure all equipment for the 957th Multi-Role Bridge Company and the 142nd Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy) is fully mission capable. As of publication, the 957th reportable equipment Fully Mission Capable (FMC) rate is at Eighty-six percent and the 142nd FMC rate is at sixty-three percent. The main thing slowing work at the shops is parts availability. "The mechanics have been putting in long days and a lot of hours and the quality of work is of the highest caliber," said Chief Warrant Officer Dave Jundt, Joint Force Headquarters maintenance manager.*





File photo

## New service club to open in May

By Sgt. Justin Vinje,  
1-129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**Camp Grafton** – Soldiers expecting to spend time at Camp Grafton next summer can look forward to some upcoming changes in entertainment scene there.

A new club, for officers and enlisted, called the Multi-use Facility, is slated to open at camp in May 2005, according to Maj. Clark Johnson, Camp Grafton Training Center Engineer.

Soldiers can expect to play pool, darts, and card games, watch movies, and enjoy steak fries and chili feeds, said Johnson. Special events for groups may also be planned.

“We offer blackjack on certain nights at the club, sponsored by a local charitable group,” Johnson said. “When the new club is complete, it will feature a screened-in porch on the lakeside. Patrons can sit outside with a wonderful view of the lake and no hassle of mosquitos.”

A replacement for the Officers Club building, flooded by Devils Lake in 1996, the new club is the result of six years’ discussion regarding the building and location of the new club, ac-

ording to Johnson.

Soldiers from the 142nd Engineer Battalion erected the steel building housing the new club, Johnson said. Guard members on IRT training, state employees, private contractors, and volunteers chipped in on the finishing work.

The new club is run by the Military Service Club, Inc., and that private organization advertises upcoming happenings within the North Dakota National Guard system, Johnson said. Events will mainly target RTI staff and students during the bulk of the year, but the MSC will ensure that its services are available during the summer months as well.

The bar portion of the club, located on the corner of Avenue A and 3rd Street, is off-limits to those younger than 21, though a snack bar serving burgers and bratwursts is open to all, according to Johnson. Normal hours for the bar most summer weekends are from 4:30 p.m. until 1:00 a.m., closing early on slow days.

For more information, contact the club manager at 662-0221.

# JAG Notes

## Legislative Update

By Lt. Col. Dave Thiele  
Joint Force Headquarters

Here we are again off and running with the start of the 59th Legislative Assembly. I am pleased to report that several bills being considered will positively impact Army and Air Guard members and their families.

Gov. John Hoeven has proposed legislation authorizing up to 5 million dollars to provide additional compensation to Guard members mobilized since 1992. If approved, this legislation will provide additional compensation to over 2,400 Army and Air Guard members. North Dakota resident Guard members, Reservists and active duty Soldiers can receive \$100 for every month spent in the theatre of operations, up to a total of \$1,800; and Guard and Reserve members can receive \$50 per month for stateside mobilization service, up to total of \$900. The two can be combined, but may not exceed \$1,800. Anyone who received a purple heart is entitled to \$2,500 and for those Soldiers that lost their lives, their families will receive \$2,500.

This legislation obviously won’t make anyone rich, but is a way for the citizens of North Dakota to recognize the personal and financial sacrifices made by our mobilized members and their families. The bill includes an emergency measure clause which means if the bill is approved we can begin making payments without delay. I can assure you we will have a filing process in place so that we can begin making payments immediately. That does not mean, however, that anyone should go out and

spend money with the idea that this is final. There has been tremendous support in the legislature and the general public for this initiative but, like all legislation, until approved is just a proposal and while unlikely, this could be defeated or significantly modified.

Several other issues will also benefit Guard members. For those going to college, the governor has proposed to add \$1 million to the current tuition reimbursement budget. When we combine federal tuition assistance with the state programs, we feel comfortable stating we will now be able to pay 100% of the tuition and fees for any state college! Also proposed is to make any member of the North Dakota National Guard a resident for college tuition purposes. For those Guard members who are also state employees, legislation has been introduced that will ensure that the agency you work for will pay, upon your return, the full retirement contribution just as if you had never left.

That’s the short version of Legislation 2005. If anyone has any questions or concerns, please contact me at (701) 333-2009 or [david.thiele@nd.ngb.army.mil](mailto:david.thiele@nd.ngb.army.mil).



## Volunteers needed for the North Dakota National Guard Family Advisory Council

By Maj. Jackie Huber,  
Joint Force Headquarters

After a long hiatus, the North Dakota National Guard’s Family Advisory Council has come out of hibernation. Recently, the family advisory council met after nearly a two year absence and voted unanimously to make some very positive changes to the membership of the council that will better serve our National Guard families during these difficult and unpredictable times. Due the high number of deployments, family readiness has become a high priority for Soldier and Airmen, as well as commanders when evaluating their unit readiness.

The advisory council is a “working” board that provides valuable and necessary direction to the state family program. The primary mission of the NDNG family advisory council is to assess the needs of NDNG families, to recommend programs to meet those needs, and to find resources for implementing the programs. The council also assists the state family program coordinator to carry out the state level family program functions and serves as liaison between National Guard families and the adjutant general of North Dakota.

It is essential that this council find committed interested volunteers to represent our families. Many of the positions on the council available to volunteers have previously gone unfilled. Vacant council positions due no service to the unit readiness or family readiness issues. To address the council’s needs and the

needs of our national guard families, necessary changes have been made in the council structure. They were done as prescribed in the council bylaws.

The newly approved council membership is as follows: the state family program coordinator, Air Guard family program coordinator, Army Guard family program coordinator, family assistance non-commissioned officer (NCO), state lead volunteer, Air Guard lead volunteer, the adjutant general’s spouse, assistant adjutant general spouse – air guard, assistant adjutant general spouse – army guard, state command sergeant major, state command sergeant major spouse, state chaplain or family program chaplain, state command chief master sergeant, state command chief master sergeant spouse, recruiting and retention NCO in charge – Army, recruiting and retention NCOIC – Air, 119th Fighter Wing volunteer representative, 68th Troop Command volunteer representative, 34th Engineer Brigade volunteer representative, Joint Forces Headquarters volunteer representative, regional training institute volunteer representative, and two volunteers at-large

Some of the positions are designated by duty position of military members and/or their spouse. There are no term limits for these positions. Individuals will hold their membership on the council through the duration of their or their spouse’s military assignment. Upon movement into a new position or job, the member will transition their replacement

on his or her duties and responsibilities to the family advisory council.

Every one of the major commands have a representative on the council. This representative can come from any of the units that fall under that unit’s chain of command. This unit representative can be a volunteer, the commander, or a military representative of the command. The unit representative will serve a two year term that can be renewable twice for one year at a time. If you are interested in one of these positions, please contact your unit command.

The state family program office is currently advertising for two volunteer at-large positions through the Army and Air family programs. Applications will be made available to all interested candidates by contacting the state family program office and/or the army/air family program offices. The volunteer at-large representatives must possess the following skills and abilities; enthusiasm for and belief in the goals of the family readiness program; desire to actively participate in accomplishment of team program goals; organizational abilities; and the ability to devote the required time serving on the team and actively participating in the program.

The current family advisory board will select the two volunteer at-large members based upon the interested volunteer’s application by meeting the desired skills and abilities as listed above. Applications will be accepted until January 5, 2005. Additional information and applications are available at [www.guard.bismarck.nd.us/familysup/](http://www.guard.bismarck.nd.us/familysup/)

or by calling the State Family Program Office.

If you have questions, please contact the State Family Coordinator, Maj. Jackie Huber at 701-333-2058 or 1-800-242-4940 or the Army/Air Family Program Representatives Chief Warrant Of-



### Recruiter named Chief’s 54



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Janette Fetch,  
Recruiting and Retention Battalion

Sgt. 1st Class Rashad Schaffner, Bismarck, has won the “Chief’s 54” recruiting award for 2004.

This awarded is presented by the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to one recruiter in each state who made the greatest contribution to the recruiting force during fiscal year 2004.

Schaffner received this prestigious award for finishing the year at 120% of his annual recruiting mission.



## What's inside

- 1 Newest unit in North Dakota
- 2 Soldier Talk
- 3 Getting to know our leaders
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- 5 Avenger transforming the ADA
- 4 Humble beginnings
- 7 New service club to open in



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### Time to take a step forward and lead the future

By Spc. Jonathan Haugen,  
Joint Force Headquarters

The state needs you. What for?  
Step forward and take charge of the future of  
the North Dakota National Guard.

How can you do that? By signing up for Of-  
ficer Candidate School (OCS), Reserve Officer  
Training Course (ROTC), or accepting a direct

commission. The other way you could help  
is by becoming a warrant officer.

To apply for any of the programs you first  
need to contact your supervisor and let him  
or her know you are interested. They will  
notify the chain of command of your interest  
and get the ball rolling.

The time is now! Step forward and lead us  
to the future.

# Operation Backpack Iraq in full swing



Photos by Sgt. Amy Dobler,  
Headquarters and Headquarters Company  
141st Engineer Combat Battalion (Corps) (Wheeled)



Operation Backpack Iraq kicked off in October and is still continuing today. The 141st Engineer Combat Battalion (Corps Wheeled) started a campaign to distribute backpacks filled with supplies to school age children in the unit's area of operation. (Center) Chief Warrant Officer Dennis Piker watches an Iraqi boy walk away with the new backpack Piker handed him. Sgt. Ronald Selensky watches from the back of the line as he awaits his turn to hand out a backpack, as well. (Left) Sgt. Chad Smestad helps an Iraqi boy put on his new backpack. "I never expected the kids to be that excited to see us," he said. (Right) Sgt. Angela Magnuson draws a smiley face on a girl's hand. The markings allowed the Soldiers to track which children had received backpacks.