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Joint Force Headquarters North Dakota National Guard

Fall 2005

Hurricane recovery

By Sgt. 1st Class Marvin Baker,
1-129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

BATON ROUGE, La.—Getting the Gulf Coast back on its feet is going to take a long time but there's a team of North Dakota National Guard Soldiers on the ground committed to the task at hand.

Eight Soldiers are currently part of a huge logistics support mission called Joint Task Force Pelican that is trying to get people fed, sheltered and clothed in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Maj. Mark Tibor is one of eight North Dakota Soldiers currently working out of a former shopping center that combines federal, state and local agencies. Tibor said at times there could be as many as 900 people in the building including representatives of FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) and the American Red Cross.

"Our primary responsibility is to fill requests for parishes to support shelters," Tibor said. "It's all of the life-sustaining things they need, so we're kind of the middle man."

That includes ice, water, MREs, setting up catered meal contracts, cots, tarps, baby-care products and toiletries.

Col. Jay Mayeaux, the Louisiana State Logistics Chief, said the North Dakota team is part of the Unified Logistics Element (ULE), which is integrated into the Joint Field Office with FEMA.

"The ULE maintains strategic and operational control of life-sustaining logistics to the affected areas," Mayeaux said. "Whether it's bulk water or actual commodities, it's all done by this element."

According to Tibor, the crew is coordinating with other National Guard units to get commodities out to the parishes, which are the equivalent of counties in Louisiana.

"There are a lot of military uniforms around here," Tibor said. "There's a Pennsylvania National Guard Stryker Brigade here. They are the people in the field driving the commodities around."

According to North Dakota Team Leader Lt. Col. Gary Christianson, "the Pennsylvania Stryker Brigade provided much needed manpower which greatly improved the delivery of the life-sustaining commodities to the disaster victims. Integrating their liaison officer cell with ours effectively completed our command, control and communication."

Tibor said Saturday about 2,500 Ohio and Indiana National Guard Soldiers are to replace the Pennsylvania Stryker Brigade.

Tibor, who will be leaving for home Oct. 14, worked in a similar capacity in April 1997 when Grand Forks was evacuated and flooded. He said this disaster can't be compared to what happened in Grand Forks.

"That was a huge event in North Dakota and this is proportionately 100 times worse," Tibor said. "We've seen towns that were literally flattened. You can't put words to it until you've actually seen it."

Christianson said the scope and magnitude of the affected disaster areas is overwhelming because

of what is happening to all residents in the area of operation.

He said the execution of a distribution plan is essential to success of the victims getting commodities and essential infrastructure to the victims. Christianson added the need for commodities is directly proportional to commercial power.

"If the power is out, the need is there," Christianson said. "The ability to distribute commodities to victims is the controlling factor to determining supply."

Christianson said the situation remains fluid as the Soldiers typically work up to 18 hours per day at a hectic pace. He said their work ethic is shining through.

"The morale of our Soldiers remains high even though they are at times, in a highly stressful environment," Christianson said. "I'm very proud of our North Dakota Soldiers as they are working in a truly 'joint' environment with numerous government and civilian agencies."

And a September visit from President Bush to the work site enhanced the morale of the relief workers who are working desperately to put Louisiana back together.

"He came into the FEMA center, gave a speech, took some pictures and signed some autographs," Tibor said. "It pretty much lifted everyone up. Whenever you get a presidential visit and having that access is kind of cool."

Military police company to return to ND

By Sgt. 1st Class Rob Keller,
Joint Force Headquarters

Fargo, Bismarck and Mayville will soon be home to a new North Dakota Army National Guard unit. The name will even sound familiar. It's the 191st Military Police Company.

The North Dakota Army National Guard began filling the 191st MP Company effective Sept. 1, in preparation for their activation on Sept 1, 2007. The company headquarters will be located in Fargo, with detachments in Mayville and Bismarck.

"We are looking for Soldiers who would be interested in becoming members of this unit... Soldiers who are motivated and ready for a challenge of preparing to stand up a new unit,"



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David Lipp, 119th Fighter Wing
Senior Airman John C. Herman, 119th Fighter Wing, removes sheetrock from a Hurricane Katrina flood damaged home in D'Iberville, Miss. Sept. 14. The sheetrock must be removed because of the molds that grow on it after it was submerged in flood waters of a storm surge.



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David Lipp, 119th Fighter Wing
U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Scott Breidenbach and Lt. Col. Marck Ugelstad, both 119th Fighter Wing, clear damaged trees from the yard of a Waveland, Miss., home following the devastation left behind by Hurricane Katrina Sept. 13, 2005.



Photo by Chief Warrant Officer Shane Arlien, 132nd Quartermaster Co. (Water Supply)



Photo by Sgt. Michael Schilousky, 132nd Quartermaster Company (Water Supply)
(Top) Master Sgt. John Burke, Sgt. Chester Kassa, Sgt. Michael Schilousky, Staff Sgt. Scott Mai, and Sgt. 1st Class Jonathan Burkhart, all of the 136th Quartermaster Battalion, clear away downed trees from a yard in Wiggins, Miss. on Sept. 12. (Bottom) Pres. George W. Bush visits with state and federal emergency management officials in La. The President also had time to visit with logistics team working on the disaster aid.

Prepping for Bosnia



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Rob Keller, Joint Force Headquarters

Chief Warrant Officer Greg Morford, takes time to clean the windshield of his UH-60 Black Hawk prior to a Soldier insertion mission. Twenty-three Soldiers from the Bismarck based 112th Command Aviation Battalion are conducting training at their mobilization station, Fort Hood, Texas. The unit was mobilized on July 11 and deployed to Ft. Hood on July 13 with their four Black Hawks. After the unit completes its training requirements, it will deploy to the Balkans to support NATO "Enduring Mission." The unit is expected to be in the Balkans for one year.

Employers receives Five-Star Status for Military Support

Submitted article by Andrea Blowers,
Staff Writer for Basin Electric Power Cooperative

Going "above and beyond the call of duty," Basin Electric has exemplified continued support for its military employees and, in turn, has obtained the highest accolade an employer can achieve from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) committee – Five-Star Recognition.

On Aug. 10, the ESGR committee recognized Basin Electric for achieving the five distinct levels of support of its employees who serve in the National Guard and Armed Forces Reserve. "The Five-Star level is a relatively new degree of recognition," says Vern Fetch, executive director of ESGR. He says Basin Electric is the first organization in western North Dakota to receive it.

"Basin Electric has taken a lead we hope other employers will follow," Fetch says.

Ron Harper, Basin Electric CEO and general manager, signed the statement of support for the Five-Star Recognition. Wayne Child, president of the Basin Electric board of directors, was at Harper's side during the ceremony with the other Basin Electric board members in attendance.

"It is a very humbling experience to lead an

organization that has the policies ... and the people committed to our nation's security," Harper says.

Four uniformed employees of Basin Electric and Dakota Gasification Company who have served on active duty were present during the ceremony. Dan Job, building superintendent, Darrell Schulz, general mechanic II, Lowell Rader, equipment attendant at Leland Olds Station and DGC employee Doran Link, field technician, were asked to step forward as the crowd gave them a standing ovation.

Representing ESGR were Vern Fetch, Maj. Gen. Mike Haugen, Adjutant General of the North Dakota National Guard, Dr. Curt Juhala, Ambassador to the U.S. Army Reserve, Lt. Col. Scott Boespflug, Troop Command, N.D. Army National Guard, Lt. Col. Maria Jensen, Commander, 439th Engineer Battalion, U.S. Army Reserve, Glen Hoffer, ESGR Public Relations and Don Huber, Bismarck Area ESGR Chair.

Basin Electric earned its Five-Star Recognition by:

- Signing a statement of support and demonstrating to the community that it stands behind its employees; for example, the banner at the entrance of headquarters that reads "We are proud of our military personnel for their service at home and abroad."
- Promising to safeguard job positions, continuing benefits, granting leaves of absence for

military service and reviewing human resource policies to ensure the company complies with the provisions of the Uniformed Services Employment Rights and Reemployment Act.

- Training its managers and supervisors to effectively manage their Guard and Reserve employees.
- Adopting 'Over and Above' policies that provide Guard and Reserve member employees more support than is required by law; for example, voluntary contributions of care packages and letters for the troops from company employees.

- Supporting ESGR with its time, energy, effort and contributions.

ESGR was established in 1972 as a volunteer organization within the U.S. Department of Defense. Its mission is to gain and maintain support of the National Guard and Reserve from both public and private employers. The organization provides education, consultation and, if necessary, mediation for employers of Guard and Reserve members.



Submitted photo by Dennis Gad, Basin Electric Power
Dr. Curt Juhala, Ambassador to the U.S. Army Reserve, Wayne Child, Basin Electric Board President, Maj. Gen. Mike Haugen, and Vern Fetch, executive director ND-ESGR, look on as Ron Harper (seated) Basin Electric chief executive officer and general Manager, signs a statement of support for the Five-Star Recognition.

Editor's note:

In addition to Basin Electric, three employers have signed similar statements of support. Those employers are North Dakota State University, Bethany Homes, and Cass County Electric Cooperative. All three employers are based in Fargo.

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Photo by Sgt. Jonathan Haugen, Joint Force Headquarters
Maj. Gen. Walter Pudlowski Jr., Special Assistant of the Director, Army National Guard, speaks about the future force of the Army National Guard at Camp Gilbert C. Grafton Training Center. Pudlowski was addressing the leadership of the North Dakota Army National Guard.

By Sgt. 1st Class Marvin Baker
1-129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

CAMP GRAFTON – For the first time in several years, a force management conference was held here Aug. 20 and 21 with 185 Soldiers from across the state attending.

Company and battalion commanders, platoon leaders, first sergeants, sergeants major, the state's recruiters and the top leadership attended the conference that was designed to show what the Guard has done in recent years and to reinforce the notion that recruiting and retention are key to this organization's future.

Assistant Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Dennis Jacobson organized the event and brought the state's leaders together. He said he had three messages that all pertained to recruiting new members into the Guard.

No. 1: Several barriers to recruiting were recently eliminated and in the last year, the

will take the National Guard to the next level.

No. 2: Jacobson told the Soldiers that a better future will be developed for Guard members and a new Web site will continually be updated with new information for Soldiers and families.

No. 3: "We have to take care of our young Soldiers," Jacobson said. "They are our future leadership."

Maj. Gen. Michael Haugen said recruiting and retention must be at the forefront of everyone's thinking in order to keep the National Guard as strong as its been. He compared recruiting and retention to successful business enterprises.

"Recruiting is everyone's business, retention is everyone's business and Soldiers are everyone's business," Haugen said. "The business world changes faster than we do and industry has helped us out. We have to take those innovative new ways and figure them out."

Haugen also talked about the fact that in

Planning the future

state's recruiting staff has met its quota.

"We have to understand from the foxhole up to the top what the intent is,"

Jacobson said. "We have to understand and execute."

Jacobson said working with the public is the next step that

some businesses, there can be four generations that can lead to differences in opinions and goals.

In some cases, Guard units can have three generations working together. He said generational differences are recognized and we all need to work on closing the gaps.

"We don't need to change the rules, but we need to understand the game," Haugen told the leaders as he talked about young Soldiers.

"When it comes to patriotism, I don't think that's changed. In a lot of cases, it's stronger than with us Baby Boomers."

Haugen said young Soldiers want to be challenged and they want to see how their unit and the Guard are going to help their career goals.

He added that in addition to patriotism, the unit family is as important to the young Soldiers as it is to those who have been around a long time.

"We've got to listen to the Soldiers," Haugen said. "We have to go the extra mile."

With that, a paperback book was given to all the attendees. "When Generations Collide," by Lynne Lancaster and David Stillman, gives insight into traditionalists, Baby Boomers, Generation Xers and Millennials.

The book is designed to help leaders better understand generational differences.

In addition to Haugen and Jacobson, Maj. Gen. Walter Pudlowski, special assistant of the director of the Army National Guard, spoke to the Soldiers about the National Guard and the importance of North Dakota's role.

Several others spoke about recruiting and retention, each battalion had a break-out session, the family of the year was recognized and Aug. 21 was devoted to a family program.

Public affairs detachment creates media frenzy in Utah

By Pvt. Nantena Beller,
1-129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The media frenzy began after lunch, when two reporters and a photographer entered the Expeditionary Medical Support System (EMED). They found their own way to the emergency room, asking questions about patients there, the photographer taking any shots he could find.

While the first herd of media was rounded up, a 'CNN' reporter equipped with a microphone walked in accompanied by a camerawoman with wandering eyes.

The photographer shot pictures of the vital sign monitors, the reporters managed to learn names of victims and other confidential information, and there was video footage of medical operations in progress.

The first five minutes after the North Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers of Det. 1-129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment (MPAD) arrived as civilian media during Patriot Exercise 2005 at Dugway Proving Ground, Utah were very stressful for the others involved. Col. Vincent Dang, commander of the California Air National Guard's 163rd Medical Group, drove the stampeding media into a cluster.

Once the situation was under control, the MPAD Soldiers began interviewing Dang. When the media began to press questions not concerning the EMED or what the 163rd was doing in Utah, he guided the topic of conversation elsewhere.

"He was very calm about it," said Maj. Jocelyn Baker, 129th commander and member of the press for the exercise, referring to how Dang handled the situation. "He understands the importance of handling the media."

Lt. Col. John R. Kirk, director of medical training for the Combat Readiness Training Center in Alpena, Mich., coordinated the event after a public affairs briefing by the 129th.

Students need both classroom and real-life training, Kirk said. Classroom training provides the basic curriculum in a non-threatening environment, while this training is like the graduate program.

"Some say never talk to the press, but that is a mistake," Kirk said. "They need to learn the parameters—what they can and cannot say."

Most medics are not given classes on how to deal with the media, Kirk said. The press will listen to what a servicemember has to say.

"I think it's good for the families. It keeps them informed and keeps them in the Soldier's life more," Baker said about media during wartime. "Any news [the families] can get about where their Soldier is at is good news."

The training was not only for the 163rd. The Soldiers in the 129th sharpened their skills as well.

"It was good for the journalists to practice their interviewing skills," Baker said. "I think we tried to make it realistic for the conditions they were in."

After the chaos was over and two banished members of the press were allowed back in, the media was introduced to the 163rd as the 129th.



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

Col. Vincent Dang of the 163rd Air Evacuation Squadron briefs members of the civilian media (Staff Sgt. Gary Bailey, Pfc. Drew Balstad, Maj. Jocelyn Baker, and Pvt. Nantena Beller, 129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment) on a mock aircraft accident during the Global Patriot 2005 training exercise at Michaels Army Air Field, Dugway, Utah. July 12. This training is as essential for medical personnel so they will have an understanding on how to work with the media.

The status review showed that the situation was handled very well, with some minor bumps along the road.

"Murphy was an optimist," Kirk said during the review. "Everything that could go wrong did go wrong."

Are you interested in writing, public affairs, or photojournalism? The 1-129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment has openings for eager recruits. Contact 2nd Lt. Dan Murphy at 333-2129 for more information.

Changing of the guard at Troop



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

On July 23, the 68th Troop Command held a change of command/change of responsibility ceremony at the Bohn Armory in Bismarck. Col. Michael J. Hall took command of the 68th Troop Command as Col. Robert G. Kilber stepped out of the position to become the United States Property and Fiscal Officer for the North Dakota Army National Guard. Hall was recently promoted to the rank of colonel on June 1.

The occasion also included a change of responsibility ceremony. Command Sgt. Maj. Jack W. Cripe Jr. turned over his

responsibilities to Command Sgt. Maj. William M. Leach. Cripe is now the State Command Sergeant Major of the North Dakota Army National Guard.

(Above) The commanders prepare for the change of command ceremony. (Right) New commander Col. Michael Hall hands the flag to Leach marking the change of responsibility.



Eagle mural decorates new Fargo storefront



Submitted photo

Sgt. Kate Naujokas, 188th Army Band, stands next to her mural in the Fargo storefront recruiting office. The recruiting and retention battalion has opened storefront offices in Fargo and Bismarck with plans to open offices in Minot and Grand Forks. Naujokas painted the eagle mural this past summer while assisting the recruiters in Fargo.

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141st recognized for their service in Iraq

By Sgt. Ann Knudson,
Joint Force Headquarters

On July 22-24 and Aug. 12-14, a series of Freedom Salutes were held to honor the 141st Engineer Combat Battalion's service in Operation Iraqi Freedom. In Valley City, Jamestown, Bismarck, Williston, Dickinson, Mott, and Hettinger, Soldiers heard speeches of thanks from military and community leaders, received keepsakes, shook hands with VIPs, and saw videos of their service and return.

"They're very deserving," said Mavis Arne, grandmother of Spc. Paul Rohrer.

"It's nice that the Soldiers get recognized – it's a nice recognition," said Sgt. 1st Class Roger Nelson.

The 141st assured mobility for the 1st Infantry Division in central Iraq. Alpha Company alone patrolled more than 86,000 miles, sanitized 288 miles of road, and found 123 improvised explosive devices. Soldiers in the battalion located and destroyed nearly 9,000 pieces of ordnance during the first six months of Operation Trailblazer. In addition, humanitarian missions included Operation Backpack and Operation Teddy Bear.

The Soldiers worked in temperatures over 140 degrees and under daily threat of attack. Spc. James Holmes, Spc. Philip Brown, Staff Sgt. Lance Koenig, and Spc. Cody Wentz made the ultimate sacrifice. Twenty-three Purple Hearts were awarded before July to Soldiers of the 141st for wounds received in combat, two more were presented during the Freedom Salutes, and three more are pending at the 1st Infantry Division.

The 141st was alerted in November 2003 and mobilized in December 2003. They trained for two months at Fort Carson, Colo., flew to Kuwait in February 2004, then moved forward into Iraq. They returned in 2005 after 375 days on foreign soil and 430 days away from their families, friends and communities.

Their communities did not forget them while they were away. School children wrote to them. Athletic teams dedicated seasons and championships to them. Col. Charles Wagner, Joint Chief of Staff and emcee of the Freedom Salutes, estimated that the unit received more than 40,000 pieces of mail and more than 10 tons of packages from home. "Rumor has it," said Wagner, "they received enough beef jerky to supply an entire division, along with everything else one could send in a package."

In recognition of that support, Soldiers' team members received lapel pins and future Soldier kits. Employers and family support group members also received awards.

"It's very exciting," said Kari Melland. "When they had the sendoff, I couldn't wait for this one when they came home."



Photo by Sgt. Jonathan Haugen, Joint Force Headquarters

Lt. Col. Bob Fode, Commander of the 141st Engineer Combat Battalion, talks with Staff Sgt. Jack Willson Jr., Headquarters and Headquarters Company.



Photo by Sgt. Ann Knudson,
Joint Force Headquarters

Staff Sgt. Jeff Haugen, Co. A 141st Engineer Combat Battalion pins a Team Member pin on his wife, Amanda.

Conrath supports Recruiting at NASCAR events



Submitted photo

Spc. Corey Conrath poses with Lt. Gen. Dennis Cavin; Gen. George W. Casey Jr.; Sgt. Maj. Martha; Spc. Lourdes Hurtado, Calif. National Guard; and Spc. Eli Eleyi, Massachusetts National Guard at the Richmond International Raceway in May 2004. Conrath was a part of a national recruiting team that traveled to NASCAR races to promote becoming a member of the National Guard. The team assists local recruiters with interested candidates in signing up with their local units.

www.ndguard.com launched



A new public Website for the North Dakota National Guard was launched on October 1. The new site is an upgrade over the old site by allowing Soldiers and Airmen to subscribe to newsletters and complete surveys on line.

The Web address is www.ndguard.com and is a joint endeavor between the Air and Army National Guard.

F Battery supporting Iraqis

Story and Photo by Sgt. Luke M. Rodgers,
F Battery 188th Air Defense Artillery

FOB Warrior, IRAQ – I was reading a local newspaper from home when I saw a section called "In My Humble Opinion." As I was reading it the author stated her disappointment in all the media coverage of the bad things happening in Iraq. That article inspired me to write this article. And I hope it gets out to every reader in my home state and others so they can see that good people are doing good things over here every day.

Members of Fox Battery 188th Air Defense Artillery, 1st Platoon, took time from their busy schedule to hand out food, candy, shoes, and toys to local Iraqi kids. The need for this effort was noticed by the Soldiers of Fox Battery on their every-day missions.

"We see these kids everyday, and they don't have any shoes. They walk or run in the ditch just to wave at you, give you the thumbs up or the peace sign," says Sgt. Peter Masset. "You just want to help these kids."

"We don't want to be feared," said Sgt. Kenny Kachena. "We want these people to know that we are here to help, and it is nice to do something for these kids who have so little."

Fox Battery is on the tail end of its 18-month tour. Mobilized June 28, 2004, Fox Battery has helped with Iraqi Army training, terrorist searches, and election securities among other things during its tour. They are scheduled to leave Iraq and be back home by at least Christmas.



Sgt. 1st Class Gary Delorme and Fatti (Iraqi interpreter) hand out shoes and toys to Iraqi children near Kirkuk, Iraq.



142nd Supports Operation Alaskan Road

Story and photos by Maj. Richard C. Sater,
U.S. Air Force Reserve

CAMP WY-WUH, Annette Island, Alaska – Fargo, the North Dakotans will tell you, is flat, no matter how you look at it. The rugged terrain and beautiful scenery provided free of charge in Alaska offer an exciting change of pace in more ways than one.

The 142nd Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy), N.D. Army National Guard, arrived in late May to begin the first of four two-week rotations in support of Operation Alaskan Road.

The 142nd will do two rotations back-to-back, take a month-long break, and return for two more consecutive turns, pushing this Alaskan road further north and further south.

Heavy is the kind of work the 142nd does best, the kind of work it spent a year doing in Iraq between the springs of 2003 and 2004. Supporting OAR is the unit's first annual tour since demobilizing from that deployment. Approximately 80 members of the unit are part of the first contingent, assigned to the Headquarters Support Company in Fargo.

The road mission is "a good opportunity for our Soldiers

to get equipment training," says Capt. Ken Gudgel, 142nd civil engineer officer. And it's training with some extra edge: "There's a lot more rock here than we're used to dealing with."

When completed, the 14.5-mile road here will facilitate travel for the island's Metlakatla Indian community to Ketchikan, across the bay, and all the opportunities afforded by a good-sized city. Metlakatla will be connected to a ferry dock that will be built on the northernmost point of the road, permitting quick transport in any kind of weather.

The road was promised nearly 60 years ago by the Alaska Department of the Interior and the Army Corps of Engineers, and Joint Task Force Alaskan Road is making good on that promise. Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine units – Reserve, Guard, and active-duty – rotate through here every two weeks with one mission to accomplish.

Perhaps the best part of the tour is the fact that "we're doing a real project," says Staff Sgt. Janice Jones, a squad leader here. "It's not just 'battle rattle.' I love this mission."

Real road-building necessitates real work. "We're getting a lot of 'stick' time up here," according to SPC Linda Hawn.

That means hours in the driver's seat pushing dirt and rock, operating excavators, bulldozers, compactors, and front-end loaders. The rocky terrain and steep hills can be "a little unnerving to drive," she admits, but safety comes first, and the work presses ahead.

The 142nd effort has been focused primarily on the road to the north, dozing, digging, grading, compacting, installing culverts and more.

Meanwhile, at the Hemlock Bay maintenance facility, a dozen mechanics from the 142nd also find "plenty of work to keep us busy," according to Chief Warrant Officer Jerry Strande, the maintenance officer.

"You name it, we're doing it," he says. The rocky terrain here is particularly rough on vehicles of all sorts, from the Chevy Blazers to the old-and-infirm bulldozers and graders.

"It's tough on tires, brakes, ball joints,"



Sgt. Nick Kane operates a road grader.



A view of the road in Alaska being built by Innovative Readiness Training Soldiers.

Strande says. Even traveling at the posted speed of 15 m.p.h. "eats vehicles up. It's not like rolling down the interstate."

Several mechanics spent several days installing new transmissions in two five-ton trucks, and that's "something we haven't done too much of."

Working on old vehicles is like "refresher training," he says. "It's a challenge to keep the old stuff running. But we're enjoying it. We get wrench time from morning to night every day."

Other unit members assist in the camp dining facility, and supply. It's a team effort, integrating with the duration staff.

"Helping the native population gives us a purpose here," says Strande. "Five to 10 years from now, if we can come back, we'll be able to say 'I helped build that road.'"

Quartermaster supplying the water in Egypt



Photos by Sgt. Kelly Karnopp, 132nd Quartermaster Co. (Water Supply)

(Above) Sgt. 1st Class Jim Jansky, 132nd Quartermaster Company (Water Supply), uses a SMFT (Semi-mounted fabric truck) to fill an onion skin (water bladder) at the CSH (Combat Support Hospital). (Top right) Sgt. Michael Weigel fills an onion skin at the Task Force log Base. (Bottom right) Sgt. 1st Class Charles Olson tests water coming out of a ROWPU (Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Unit). The 136th Quartermaster Battalion is deployed to Egypt in support of Operation Bright Star. Bright Star is a mobilization training exercise that takes place annually.



Puerto Rico trains in North Dakota



Photos by Sgt. Jonathan Haugen, Joint Force Headquarters

Soldiers from the 130th Engineer Combat Battalion (Corps Wheeled), Puerto Rico National Guard, trained at Camp Gilbert C. Grafton Training Center in July. The training the unit went through included bridging operations, demolitions, Military Operations Urban Terrain (MOUT), and several Innovative Readiness Training projects. (Above) Soldiers from C Company place a cross beam into a medium girder bridge. (Right) Spc. Melvin Rodriguez, A Co. support platoon, uses a tamper while another Soldier shovels out excess dirt on a culvert project.

Veteran's Cemetery receives grant to enhance the grounds

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

Construction recently began at the North Dakota Veterans cemetery.

Gov. John Hoeven announced earlier this year that the state had received a \$3.1 million grant to expand the facilities and enhance the grounds at the site.

The additional funding will cover 100 percent of the permissible costs of an expansion of the visitor center, chapel and maintenance building. It will also fund site improvements to the grounds, including addition of roads, curbs, gutters, sidewalks and sprinkler system.

"This expansion reaffirms our state's commitment to honoring and remembering those who, in war and peace, in the active duty military, reserves, and National Guard, dedicated themselves to defending the cherished values of our nation," Hoeven said. "Some of them made the ultimate sacrifice, all of them devoted themselves to preserving our nation's freedom. Here they may rest in honor and dignity for generations to come."

"Through partnership with North Dakota, VA is able to honor our commitment to the men and women who have served in uniform," said the Honorable R. James Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. "This partnership provides a final resting place for North Dakota's veterans that meets the high standards of a national shrine."

Hoeven thanked Nicholson, the N.D. Na-



Photo by Chief Warrant Officer Kiel Skager, Joint Force Headquarters

The North Dakota Veterans Cemetery from the entrance on Memorial Day 2005.

tional Guard, the N.D. Veterans Cemetery Foundation, Maj. Gen. Michael Haugen and Master Sgt. Phil Miller for their hard work over the past three years to secure the grant from the US Veterans Administration. Haugen and the Foundation oversee the management and perpetual care of the cemetery, and Miller is the cemetery manager. Hoeven also thanked Sen. Byron Dorgan for inserting enabling language for the grant in the FY2002 VA-HUD Appropriation bill, which made 30 states

eligible for the funding.

The North Dakota Veterans cemetery is in its 13th year of operation, and as of June 30, 2005, there were 2,641 internments.

The cemetery was established by an act of the 1989 Legislative Assembly. It was opened in July 1992, and is operated by the Adjutant General of North Dakota. It is located six miles south of Mandan on N.D. Highway 1806 on a 35-acre tract of land in the southwest corner of Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Marvin Baker,
1-129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Family of the year named

By Sgt. Ann Knudson,
Joint Force Headquarters

Staff Sgt. Jeff Sayler, Bismarck, and his wife, Paula, were honored as the North Dakota Army National Guard Family of the Year on Aug. 21 at the force management conference at Camp Grafton, ND. Jeff is the supply sergeant for Battery A, 1-188th Air Defense Artillery Battalion, Bismarck. Paula works nights as a certified nurse assistant at St. Vincent's Nursing Home. They have one daughter, Kayla, age 2.

"I was pretty excited (when we got the award)," Jeff said. "Paula does family support for the unit. She arranges picnics and Christmas parties. About every other weekend she brings pizza and cookies to drill. If we've got a bus ride, she sets up pizza. If we're in the field, she brings hot chocolate. I help her out with the picnics and parties, and I'm also rifle NCOIC (Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge) for the honor platoon."

Jeff will be deploying with Battery A this fall, and Paula is the lead volunteer for the family support group.

Keepsake coming for troops

By Sgt. Jonathan Haugen,
Joint Force Headquarters

A call to service. Many Soldiers and Airmen from the North Dakota National Guard have answered a call to service for the global war on terrorism.

Now, the important thing of this call is to tell the story for posterity.

"The story of our Soldiers and Airmen while they are deployed is important. But just as important is to collect their memories and save them for the history of the deployments," said Brig. Gen. Jerald Engelman, Deputy Adjutant General.

The project was a suggestion by Gov. John Hoeven's office at about the time the 142nd Engineer Combat Battalion and the 957th Multi-Role Bridge Company were returning from Iraq. The idea behind it was to give each Soldier a keepsake from their deployment. After several meetings, the idea grew to include every mobilized Soldier and Airman from Sept. 11, 2001 until March 2005.

"The concept now is tell every unit's story and give a copy to every member of the North Dakota National Guard," said Engelman. "We are in the process of making 5,000 copies of the two DVD's that are compiled. I anticipate that we should get this done and sent out to the members by Christmas."

The DVD's will comprise stories of the deployments overseas and within the United States.

Conquering Recruiting



Photo by Jennifer Kuhn,
Recruiting and Retention Battalion

The Recruiting and Retention Force attended the annual Lewis and Clark Challenge in Cour d'Alene, Idaho August 29-31.

The Lewis and Clark Challenge started in 1980 as a way for RRAC 6 (Recruiting and Retention Area Command), which consists of eight states in the Northwest, to make recruiting into a fun challenge between the states. States included in RRAC 6 include Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, South Dakota and North Dakota.

Maj. Gen. Michael Haugen and Brig. Gen. Dennis Jacobson attended the event and helped the North Dakota Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Force accept its well deserved awards.

Over the recruiting challenge period, April - July, 171 people became members of the North Dakota Army National Guard, helping lead North Dakota to the Lewis and Clark Challenge victories.

New service club open and doing great business



Photo by Sgt. Jonathan Haugen,
Joint Force Headquarters



Photo by Sgt. Jonathan Haugen,
Joint Force Headquarters



Photo by Capt. Deb Lien,
Joint Force Headquarters

The Military Service Club at Camp Gilbert C. Grafton opened on May 26, 2005. The club is funded by donations and was built by Soldiers, Airmen and Retirees from the North Dakota National Guard. The club is a multi-use facility with a full kitchen.

JAG Notes

By Warrant Officer Amber Wilson,
Joint Force Headquarters

A critical aspect of individual Soldier readiness is family readiness. Recent mobilizations have revealed frequently asked questions about family care plans and child support payments. Soldiers with specific questions should not hesitate to contact their unit administrator, commander, or the office of the Staff Judge Advocate. Central to family readiness are family care plans and financial support for children.

What is a family care plan? Family care plans are designed to ensure that Soldiers have a specific plan in place for the care of their families—particularly dependent children—upon mobilization. Family care plans assist the spouse, commander, rear detachment commander, Family Assistance Center, or next of kin in providing care for dependent family member in the event the spouse is injured, ill, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to provide care for the dependent family member. Most critical are Soldiers who are single parents or who are “dual military couples” with minor children.

Who needs to fill out a family care plan? Regulation mandates that certain Soldiers must prepare a family care plan. Specifically, the following Soldiers are required to have a family care plan:

- A pregnant Soldier who has no spouse, is divorced, widowed, or separated, or is married to another service member;

- A Soldier who has no spouse, is divorced, widowed or separated, or is residing apart from his or her spouse, who has **joint custody and physical custody** of a minor family member or an adult family member that is incapable of self-care;

- A Soldier who is divorced (not remarried) and who has liberal or extended visitation right by court decree which would allow the family member to be solely in the Soldier's care in excess of 30 consecutive days;

- A Soldier whose spouse is incapable of self-care or is otherwise physically, mentally, or emotionally disabled so as to require special care or assistance;

- A Soldier categorized as a half of a dual-military couple of any service;

Any Soldier with family members can complete and maintain a family care plan even if not specifically required to do so by regulation. Family care plans include a power of attorney, permitting an agent to make healthcare and other important decisions for the dependents of a mobilized Soldier. Importantly, neither the family care plan nor the power of attorney will supersede a court order.

CHILD SUPPORT

Soldiers mobilized or anticipating mobilization should contact the Child Support Enforcement office as soon as possible 328-5440 or 1-800-231-4255. Child Support Enforcement will issue income withholding instructions to the Defense Finance & Accounting Service (“DFAS”) for Soldiers subject to income withholding. Non-custodial parents should also be aware that there may be a delay before the income withholding to DFAS takes effect. Accordingly, Soldiers should be prepared to make interim payments to the State Disbursement

Unit (“SDU”), P.O. Box 7280, Bismarck, ND 58507-7280. **Soldier's should attempt to pay one to two months advance support to avoid arrears**, as the withholding from civilian employment to DFAS may take time, and the difference in pay periods can have an effect on the payments. Payments made to the SDU must include the non-custodial parent's identifying information (social security number or person number). To receive credit for payments, the payments must be processed by the SDU; the non-custodial parent **should not** make payments directly to the custodial parent.

An authorization to release information must be completed if you want Child Support Enforcement to communicate about your case with another person in your absence. A form can be downloaded from the Department of Human Services web site <http://www.state.nd.us/humanservices/services/childsupport/> go to Military Call to Active Duty to find State Form Number 1059 (Authorization for Release of Information Form)

If a Soldier's income level has or will change as a result of mobilization, the Soldier may be eligible for the review and adjustment in the amount of the support order. If a Soldier's support payments are being withheld from civilian pay, the state agency can ensure the withholding is transferred to DFAS on a timely basis to prevent or minimize missed payments. Soldiers with civilian pay withholding should ask their civilian employer to notify the state agency of the deployment.

In simple terms, Soldiers must make proper arrangements with Child Support Enforcement, the civilian employer, and DFAS to ensure that child support payments are made in a timely manner to avoid arrears in payments. Arrears are triggered by past-due payments in the amount of \$2,000 or two times current or most recent monthly support obligation, whichever is less. The possible penalties for arrears include:

- 1) Delinquency report to the Credit Bureau;
- 2) Sanctions for contempt of court;
- 3) Court issued Orders of garnishment;
- 4) Income withholding;
- 5) Judicial or administrative suspension of a driver's license;
- 6) Denial of a passport;
- 7) Public disclosure; and
- 8) Interception of federal and state tax refunds.

Finally, Soldiers called to active military service are subject to punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (“UCMJ”). Under Army Regulations, Soldiers who fail to provide adequate support can be subject to judicial punishment under the UCMJ.



Co. A begins training for Iraq

Story and photo by
Spc. Steven Clark,
Company A 164th Engineer Combat Battalion (Mechanized)



Spc. Darrick Davidson takes aim with a M249 Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW).

FORT RILEY, Kan. — Soldiers from Alpha Company 164 Engineer Combat Battalion (Mechanized) have begun their train up period for their deployment to Iraq. Since their arrival at Fort Riley, on August 13, Alpha Company has been busy undergoing medical screenings, common Soldier training tasks, and also engineer specific training.

Company A has recently finished weapons training after a week long period of spending some long days out on the firing ranges. The ability of the Soldier to successfully fire their weapon and engage targets are vital skills that are stressed during the time on the ranges. Alpha company has been praised for their success on the ranges by members of the range cadre for their shooting abilities.

Along with spending time on the firing ranges, Alpha Company has just finished a few days of demolitions training. The company's ability to safely use demolitions is of vital importance with engineering missions. Every

Soldier of the company had the task of arming and disarming live land mines. This is done to help Soldiers gain confidence with explosives. Other demolitions training completed were urban demolitions and a review of basic demolitions.

Spc. Darrick Davidson said, “I enjoyed learning the urban demolition.”

“Training started out a little slow,” said Staff Sgt. Lonnie McCombs, “But has recently picked up and expects it to remain busy through the completion of the unit's training period.”

Alpha Company will continue to undergo training essential for their unit's mission overseas.

Chaplain's Corner



By Chaplain (CPT) Steve Cooper,
164th Engineer Battalion (Mechanized)

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd,

I shall lack nothing.

He makes me lie down in green pastures,

He leads me beside quiet waters,

He restores my soul.

He guides me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil,

For You are with me;

Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. (NIV)

Late 1988 was without a doubt the lowest time of my life so far. I had some wonderful active Army career plans, plans in which I placed much hope and excitement (and even a measure of arrogance as I remember). As it turned out those plans hit rock bottom, turning my dreams into a colossal collapse. I was miserable.

That Thanksgiving, my wife and I drove from Fort Rucker, Ala. to Fort Campbell, Ken. (actually to Clarksville, Tenn. just outside the gate). We spent the holiday with my sister, her husband, and one of my cousins. It was certainly nothing out of the ordinary, and I cannot put my finger on as to why, but that time with just a small portion of my family was an absolutely wonderful respite

from the turmoil I was going through. It was an emotional retreat, a warm and tender time in the midst of turbulence.

Psalm 23 is similar. It is an oasis in the midst of turbulence. People desperately cling to Psalm 23 in troubling times, in times of emotional wounds, in times when hearts are breaking. Psalm 23 is like God wrapping His loving arms around you, reassuring you, “it'll be okay.”

Scholars do not know when David wrote this; in what stage of life he was; what exactly the situation was. They surmise, but they do not know. What we do know is that it exudes feeling of extreme calm at a time when the polar opposite seems called for. It is a psalm of comfort, confidence, and trust; trust in God's goodness and His strength. It is not a passage bound up in time. It is grace for all the ages. It speaks of the soul-rest for which we all clamor (and can find only in Jesus Christ).

Psalm 23 is perhaps the most well-known, beloved passage in the Bible. Why? Because it is so very personal. Each reader/hearer makes these his/her very own words. They strike a spiritual chord deep within our being. They become not the words of a shepherd boy, or of a mighty king some 3,000 years ago. They become *my* words, to and about *my* God, my comforting, sovereign God! I imagine for you it is similar.

There are some harsh things in Scriptures to be sure. But, ya know? Sometimes we just need to crawl up on God's lap, let Him hold us and tell us, “everything will be all right.” That is why He put passages like Psalm 23 in His Scriptures. Today, whether you are at home, in Iraq, in Afghanistan, in our own hurricane-ravaged South, or wherever you find yourself, allow God to wrap His Almighty arms of comfort around you, and then rest.



What's inside

- 1 Military Police unit to return
- 2 Employers sign 5-star statement
- 3 Change of command at Troop
- 4 141st recognized for service
- 5 142nd builds road in Alaska
- 6 Cemetery receives grant

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BISMARCK, ND
PERMIT NO.
314
PENALTY FOR
PRIVATE USE \$300



Lest we forget... our fallen comrades



Spc. Jon Fettig
957th Multi-Role Bridge Company
Died July 22, 2003



Sgt. Keith Smette
957th Multi-Role Bridge Company
Died Jan. 24, 2004



Staff Sgt. Kenneth Hendrickson
957th Multi-Role Bridge Company
Died Jan. 24, 2004



Spc. James Holmes
Co. C 141st Engineer Combat Bn.
Died May 8, 2004



Spc. Phil Brown
Co. B 141st Engineer Combat Bn.
Died May 8, 2004



Staff Sgt. Lance Koenig
Co. B 141st Engineer Combat Bn.
Died Sept. 22, 2004



Spc. Cody Wentz
Co. A 141st Engineer Combat Bn.
Died Nov. 4, 2004