

JET LETTER

North Dakota Air National Guard
Online Version

February 2007



North Dakota waves
goodbye to F-16s

JET LETTER

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CONTENTS

Feature

4

Simply outstanding...for the 11th time!

North Dakota Air National Guard gets 11th outstanding unit award.

5

First North Dakota C-21s arrive in Fargo

Hooligan C-21 pilots land unit's first C-21 in Fargo.

6-8

Hooligans celebrate 60th anniversary

Send off of F-16s and introduction of Predator and C-21 highlight 60th anniversary celebration event.

9

Annual outstanding enlisted honors awarded

Best of the 119th Wing recognized at annual enlisted banquet.



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

Four North Dakota Air National Guard F-16s fly in formation over the state capitol building in Bismarck, N.D. as part of a 60th anniversary celebration of the North Dakota Air National Guard. Three of the F-16s in the photo continued on to Tucson, Ariz., to be retired to the Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Center (AMARC), better known as the boneyard Jan. 16. Story on pages 6-8.

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Departments

3

Commander's comments

Hello from Iraq

3

Bulletins

Ski weekend offered; Make your hotel reservations; FOCUS training in February; TRICARE briefing offered; We are the 119th Wing; Happy Hooligans featured at Fargo Air Museum

7

Hooligan News

Retirements, Promotions, New Members, 2006 UTA Schedule

8

Afterburner

North Dakota Air National Guard family of the year is awarded to Hooligan husband and wife team.

Commander's comments

Hello from Iraq

By Lt. Col. Ron W. Solberg

119th Mission Support Group commander

Recently, all of the commanders went over to the Marine Support Brigade to meet them and to get briefed on the spies at the DFac (dining facility) so we know who they are, where they are, what they can do for us, etc. Part of the briefing was in regard to the TCNs (Third Country Nationals) on the base and the steps we are taking to control them, basically reiterating that we need to practice good OPSEC not only because they MIGHT be spies but because it's a good bet some of them ARE spies or at the very least are working both sides!

Our briefing from the Marines was followed by a tour and a "meet and greet." As part of this "meet and greet," we received a really nice tour of the Marine portion of the base including going up in the air traffic control tower (which was pretty neat because of the view). This place is huge and from the tower you can get a pretty good handle on just how big it is. We also went through the Marines EOD shop and some of their other shops. We got to check out the bomb suit (you really couldn't pay me enough to do that job) and all the different vehicles they use to defeat the IED threat. All in all, it was a pretty good tour!

Today, as I sit at my desk after work, a couple of jets just took off. Sitting in my office, it sounds like I'm sitting right alongside the runway! It also sounds like that from my bedroom but I am getting used to that now when I sleep (everyone says it takes a week or so and that's exactly what I'm finding). New Years Eve came and went here. No fireworks except for the usual afterburners of the aircraft taking off or the helicopters dropping flares off in the distance. I went for a walk after work today and had a little of everything going on—helicopters, jets, flares, etc. It was a great day today...about 60°, sunny, no wind. Tonight is the same only a bit cooler...also a big full moon. It's rising to a big yellow harvest moon and very light outside. When I first got here there was no moon and absolutely pitch black outside. I ran into the barriers surrounding our workplace a couple times because it was so black!

Well, that's it for now. Thanks for the notes from everyone and I hope you are all having a great 2007 so far.

Bulletins

Ski weekend offered

Feb. 24 & 25 is Military Appreciation Weekend at Spirit Mountain Ski Resort in Duluth MN. This offer is for all current and past military members and/or their immediate families. Must show military ID to qualify. www.spiritmt.com (800)-642-6377

Make your hotel reservations

NDANG members who live outside the commuting distance are responsible for making their own hotel reservations for guard drill weekends. On the SVF Sharepoint site: <https://sharepoint.ndfarg.af.mil/services/default.aspx>, under Documents and Lodging, there is a list of authorized hotels. Forms are also located at this site that members need to fill out so that they will not be responsible for the cost of the lodging. Remember to never use your government travel card to pay for hotel rooms on guard drill weekends. Please submit any questions you have to billing@ndfarg.af.mil or call Servies at Ext 680/687.

FOCUS training in February

February drill is FOCUS training. This is a reminder that Chem-Refresher training requires everyone to report to the LG auditorium at his or her group's designated time in **MOPPL Level 2**. Please ensure **you have all your required GCE** (Ground Crew Ensemble) equipment ready.

TRICARE briefing offered

There will be a TRICARE and TSP briefing in Fargo at the AFRC Theater (Room 119) on Tuesday Feb. 20 at 8:00 a.m. These briefings are intended for all NDNG AGRs including Air and Army. All AGRs and their spouses are welcome and encouraged to attend to hear the latest on these programs. If you have any questions, please contact SFC Cody Hertz (AGR Benefits NCO) at (701) 333-3370.

We are the 119th Wing

We are no longer the 119th Fighter Wing, the home of the Happy Hooligans is now the 119th Wing.

Happy Hooligans featured at Fargo Air Museum

Check out the Hooligan History exhibit at the Fargo Air Museum. Pictures, memorabilia, awards and video documentation honoring the last 60 years of the Happy Hooligans are currently on display.

Simply outstanding...for the 11th time!



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

Maj. Gen. David A. Sprynczynatyk, the North Dakota adjutant general, places the outstanding unit ribbon on the staff of the North Dakota Air National Guard unit flag on Jan. 14 in Fargo, N.D.

Story by 1st Lt. Penny Ripperger
119th Wing public affairs officer

The 119th Wing has just won the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award an eleventh time! The award is given for exceptionally meritorious service or outstanding achievement that has clearly set the Happy Hooligans apart from similar fighter units. The formal citation states the award was given to the unit for the continuing actions of Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Happy Hooligans deployed 292 personnel for a total of 32,392 days to 14 countries and maintained mission-ready aircraft on five-minute alert

defending our nation's capital. The ND Air National Guard also responded to the call for aid after Hurricane Katrina by deploying personnel in less than 48 hours. The 119th Civil Engineering Squadron established a tent city for relief workers and the 119th Services Flight served meals during the 60-day deployment.

The Wing also extended its extraordinary safety record in high performance fighter aircraft to over 34 years, over 144,000 flying hours and over 100,600 sorties without a mishap. The distinctive accomplishments of the Happy Hooligans reflect great credit upon themselves, the North Dakota Air National Guard, and the United States Air Force.

First North Dakota C-21s arrive in Fargo

Story by 1st Lt. Penny Ripperger

119th Wing public affairs officer

The first official 119th Fighter Wing (Happy Hooligans) C-21 aircraft arrived in Fargo on Tuesday, Jan. 9. This aircraft marks the beginning of an exciting future for the Happy Hooligans as the unit transitions from the historic F-16 Fighting Falcon mission to the C-21 and MQ-1 Predator Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Missions.

"The Happy Hooligans have proven themselves as the best of the best in every mission they have been assigned," said Gov. John Hoeven. "The C-21 mission along with the new Predator mission will ensure that the N.D. Air National Guard continues to play a vital role in the security of our state and nation."

"The 119th Fighter Wing will receive a total of eight C-21 aircraft and will be experiencing the largest transformation in their 60 year history" said Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk. "Personnel have been training diligently for the past year to ensure that they are prepared for these new missions that will ensure that our Air National Guard remains relevant and vital to the defense of the nation."



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

Hooligan C-21 pilots step onto the flight line upon landing the first North Dakota Air National Guard C-21 in Fargo, N.D. Jan. 9.

A Hooligan pilots flies a North Dakota Air National Guard F-16 along side one of the first C-21 (Lear Jet) aircraft to join the Happy Hooligan ranks as it flies into Fargo Jan. 10.



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

Hooligans celebrate 60th anniversary



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Bradly A. Schnieder, 119th Communication Flight

Story by 1st Lt. Penny Ripperger

119th Wing public affairs officer

In honor of the 60th anniversary of the N.D. Air National Guard, Gov. Hoeven proclaimed Jan. 16, 2007 as "Happy Hooligans Day".

In conjunction with the announcement of this proclamation, the "Happy Hooligans" celebrated its anniversary during a ceremony at the 119th Fighter Wing by observing the final flights of the historic F-16 (Fighting Falcon) aircraft and the official presentation of the C-21 (Lear Jet) aircraft and the MQ-1 Predator Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV).

"Today's ceremony will celebrate the exciting future of the N.D. Air National Guard and at the same time recognize the tremendous legacy left by all members of the Happy Hooligans past and present," said Gov. Hoeven.

"The 119th Fighter Wing enjoys a fantastic reputation that was earned with distinction and by their dedication to duty," said Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk. "They are certainly very deserving of this proclamation honoring their service to the State and Nation."

The F-16 formation departed Fargo following the ceremony and flew over the N.D. State Capital building in Bismarck en route to the Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Center (AMARC) in Tucson, Ariz. This F-16 formation symbolized the final F-16 flight for the Happy Hooligans, officially ending the 60-year fighter mission for the N.D. Air National Guard.

During their final flight, the F-16's conducted mid-air refueling operations with the KC-135 tankers from the 319th Air Refueling Wing, stationed at the Grand Forks Air Force Base (GFAFB), Grand Forks, N.D. Since 1990, the Happy Hooligans and their active duty partners have



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Bradly A. Schnieder, 119th Communication Flight

Clockwise from upper left, Maj. Gen. David A. Sprynczynatyk, the North Dakota adjutant general, addresses the audience during the 60th anniversary ceremony in the hanger at the North Dakota Air National Guard Jan. 16.

North Dakota Air National Guard pilots walk from the hanger to the awaiting F-16s for the flight to Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Center (AMARC), better known as the boneyard.

Lower right, a life-size model of the MQ-1 Predator unmanned aerial vehicle is on display in the hanger during the 60th anniversary ceremony Jan. 16.

enjoyed a successful relationship by working together in a myriad of real-world and training scenarios.

"The GFAFB has always provided outstanding support to the Happy Hooligans," said Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk. "This final refueling mission symbolizes the end of an era with our F-16 mission and opens the door to our future relationships as we embark upon the Predator mission."



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Bradly A. Schnieder, 119th Communication Flight

Four North Dakota Air National Guard F-16s get refueled by a 319th Air Refueling Wing KC-135 over North Dakota as three of the fighter aircraft depart for Tucson, Ariz., to be retired to the Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Center (AMARC) Jan. 16.



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

North Dakota Air National Guard F-16 number 82-0951 departs for the last time as it flies it to the Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Center (AMARC), better known as the boneyard Jan. 16. Aircraft 82-0951 is covered by unit member signatures which are authorized since the aircraft is being sent to AMARC for retirement.



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

Hooligans recognized in U. S. Congress

Story by 1 Lt. Penny Ripperger
119th Wing public affairs officer

Jan. 16 was designated as Happy Hooligans Day in the city of Fargo and throughout the state of North Dakota. At the 60th anniversary ceremony U. S. Senator Byron L. Dorgan presented a document which has been entered into the United States Congressional Record and is summarized as follows: Mr. President, January 16, 2007, is a special day for North Dakota. It is the 60th birthday of the North Dakota Air National Guard. On that day the 119th Fighter Wing will conduct a ceremony honoring the final flight of their F-16s, closing out an illustrious history of the flying fighter aircraft in defense of our country. The 119th Fighter Wing will also introduce the public to its two new missions; operating Predator unmanned aerial systems and flying light transport aircraft.

The North Dakota Air National Guard began on January 16, 1947.

Duane Larson was the squadron commander during the 1950s. He was nicknamed "Pappy" because he was the senior fighter pilot. The squadron started calling themselves Pappy Larson and his Happy Hooligans after an old comic strip. The squadron has been called the Happy Hooligans ever since. The Happy Hooligans began operations with the P-51D Mustang. They flew the Mustang until 1954. After that they flew F-94s, F-89s, F-102s, F-101B Voodoos and F-4D Phantoms. Since 1990, they have flown f-16s.

In 1998 the Happy Hooligans established a permanent alert detachment of F-16s, pilots and ground crews at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia. Their mission was to provide air defense for Washington, DC, and other locations along the eastern seaboard. That mission came to an end on October 12, 2006.

I cannot talk about the Happy Hooligans alert mission without mentioning the events of 9/11.

The attack on the World Trade Center in New York precipitated an order for the fighters of the 119th Fighter Wing's alert detachment to scramble from Langley. Three North Dakota Air National Guard F-16s took to the air. In the shock of that morning, I have to tell you that I will never forget what it meant to look up to the bright blue September morning sky and see F-16 fighter planes flying air cover over the Nation's Capital. We found out later those were the Happy Hooligans from Fargo, ND.

For almost 60 years the Happy Hooligans have ranked with the best fighter pilots in the world. Several years ago, USA Today wrote about the Happy Hooligans. It called them the "Godfathers of air superiority." It said, "When you strap one of these senior fliers into the cockpit of an F-16 Fighter Falcon, the younger boys get out of the way because these are the best air-to-air combat fighters in the world." That article was about one of the three times that the 119th Fighter Wing won the Air Force's William Tell competition.

William Tell is the U.S. Air Force's foremost air-to-air competition. It is the Super Bowl of air superiority. F-16 units are not supposed to win it. Reserve component units are not



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Bradly A. Schneider, 119th Communications Flight

U. S. Senator Byron L. Dorgan presents a document which has been entered into the United States Congressional Record to the 60th anniversary ceremony audience Jan. 16.

supposed to win it. F-15 teams from active Air Force wings are supposed to win it. But someone must have forgotten to tell this to the Happy Hooligans.

So this National Guard unit from Fargo, ND, has brought the William Tell Award home to Fargo, ND, three times, as proof that they are the best fighter pilots in the world. The Happy Hooligans have also won the Hughes Trophy twice. That award recognized the outstanding air-to-air unit in the country. The 119th is the only F-16 unit that has ever won it. Alongside their flying record, the Happy Hooligans also have an unmatched safety record. Since 1973, they have flown more than 150,000 hours without a single major accident. That is the longest continuous period of safe fighter aircraft operations for any Air National Guard fighter unit and one of the best safety records in U.S. Air Force history.

All those trophies and records are a testament to the thousands of men and women who have served in the North Dakota Air National Guard since 1947. The pilots make the headlines but they would not get off the ground without all the other people in the unit.

The role of the Happy Hooligans is going to change. But make no mistake about it: the 119th Wing will still lead the way, doing its job for America.

The Happy Hooligans are going to accept their new missions of controlling unmanned aerial vehicles and flying the future Joint Cargo Aircraft with the same enthusiasm and professionalism as they flew fighters. And they will perform those missions better than anyone else in the country. Because that is the way they do everything.

Annual outstanding enlisted honors awarded

Story by 1 Lt. Penny Ripperger

119th Wing public affairs officer

The N.D. Air National Guard Outstanding Airman of the Year (OAY) banquet was on Jan. 13. Following a social, the ceremony kicked off with the Posting of the Colors by 119th Honor Guard members and the National Anthem sung by Sheila Childs. A POW/MIA presentation was performed by Junior Enlisted Advisory Council (JEAC) members. Tech. Sgt. Art Bakke energized the audience as the Master of the Ceremony.

The guest speaker of the event was Maj. Gen. Michael Haugen (ret.), former Adjutant General of N.D. Remarks were also made by Gov. John Hoeven and the current Adjutant General of N.D., Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk.

After a gourmet dinner, a video highlight was shown and the 2006 119th Fighter Wing Awards were announced and distributed. The recipients of the Fighter Wing awards: Base Honor Guard Member of the Year is Master Sgt. Cherié J. Elliott, Base Honor Guard Program Manager of the Year is Master Sgt. Susan Schroeder, Unit Career Advisor of the Year is Tech. Sgt. Kristopher J. Mack, First Sergeant of the Year is Master Sgt Paul E. Tangen, and the Military Family of the Year was awarded to Master Sgt. Chris Heise and Master Sgt. Monica Heise.

Following the video, the anticipation mounted as the 2006 Outstanding Airmen of the Year winners were announced, bringing the fun-filled evening to an end. The 2006 Outstanding Airmen of the Year: Airman of the Year is Senior Airman Joshua C. Bartholomew, Noncommissioned Officer of the Year (NCO) is Tech. Sgt. Jacy J. Voglewede, and Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year (NCO) is Master Sgt. Duane R. Kangas.



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

Members at the ceremony congratulate winners on at the Outstanding Airman of the Year banquet on Jan. 13.

Senior non-commissioned officer of the year

Master Sgt. Duane R. Kangas is the Senior non-commissioned officer of the year. After serving in the U.S. Air Force, he joined the NDANG and has obtained several advanced degrees and worked in a variety of jobs for the 119th Wing.

picture removed

Non-commissioned officer of the year

Tech. Sgt. Jacy J. Voglewede is the 119th Wing non-commissioned officer of the year. She is a member of the 119th Maintenance Squadron. Tech. Sgt. Voglewede is currently pursuing her Master's degree in business administration.

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Airman of the year

Senior Airman Joshua C. Bartholomew is the 119th Wing airman of the year. Airman Bartholomew currently attends college pursuing a major in Biology with a Pre-health Science emphasis.

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Meet the chiefs

By Chief Master Sgt. Barb G. Olerud

119th Medical Group

I became a Happy Hooligan in April of 1978 and I will be retiring 1 April of this year. My first 6 years were spent as a traditional guardsman in the 119th USAF Clinic as a medical administrative apprentice. I became a full-time employee in 1984 serving as the base Publications Distribution Manager. In 1988 I returned to the Clinic as an Associate Health Technician. After a few years I became the base Career and Education Manager which transitioned to Retention Office Manager and Family Program Coordinator. In 1999 I became the Recruiting and Retention Superintendent. In 2001 I landed my final position back in the Medical Group, this time as the Senior Health Technician.

I graduated from Fargo North High in 1978, NDSCS, Wahpeton in 1980, and NDSU in 1982 with a bachelor's degree in business administration. I have also earned two Community College of the Air Force degrees in medical administration and personnel administration.

My husband Eric and I celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary this past summer. He works full-time for the Army National Guard as a field maintenance shop chief and on the military side he is a First Sergeant. Nicklaus, our 23 year old son, is a full-time employee at Microsoft in Fargo. Erica, our 20 year old daughter is attending MSUM seeking a degree in elementary education. She is also a Happy Hooligan working in the military personnel office.

I have spent my entire career working in high profile customer service positions. I would recommend that you all reflect on a few thoughts regarding customer service:

- Treat EVERYONE with respect and dignity
- When dealing with a "jerk," kill them with kindness
- It's easy to say no it can't be done; it takes a little extra work to find a way to say yes
- You never know if today's customer is tomorrow's selecting supervisor
- Think before you speak; some things should remain unspoken

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

Chief Master Sgt. Barb G. Olerud, 119th Medical Group, holds a baby at the OSU Orphanage in Accra, Ghana on her recent deployment to Africa. Chief Olerud was one of several Happy Hooligans to donate some time to caring for the the children at the orphanage.

- If you become angry take time to cool down and evaluate the situation
- Smile, the sky isn't falling
- It really isn't better to be lucky than good
- You are applying for your next job every day you go to work

These are just a few things I have learned along the way from my many wonderful mentors (too many to list, you know who you are).

Finally, I am being asked by everyone what I am going to do when I retire. I plan to start ice fishing next season. I am also going to work full-time as an office manager for Psychiatry Networks, opening soon in Fargo. Good luck to all of you during this transformation. I will see you at the Auger Inn, the BX, and maybe even the fitness center.

Comm Post Vistas

By Master Sgt. John W. Noone (ret.)

119th Communications Flight

As I write this, Microsoft Windows Vista is upon us. Beginning Tuesday, January 30, 2007 you can waltz into Best Buy, for instance, and walk out with a brand-new PC loaded with the brand-new (although delayed for more than a year) Operating System. Opinions among members of the base Network Control Center are mixed. We have Linux heads, old hands, and younger computer nerds among us, but as true computer geeks, we all really want to take a look

at it. As far as supporting it goes though, we are definitely taking a wait and see approach. If you plan on giving it a try on your own, the realistic system requirements are hefty (depending on which of the six implementations you desire). The street appraisal of system requirements are as follows: A processor speed of at least 1.8 GHz and at least 1Gbyte of RAM (2 preferred). These estimated requirements are about double Microsoft's official recommendation. The most important component is the video card. It should have 1Gb of Video RAM and a host of other capabilities like being DirectX 9.0, Pixel Shader 2.0 compatible. When shopping for a PC to run Vista Premium (the recommended level to get the "full" experience) be diligent about making sure you have a video card that can do the job. We won't be converting to Microsoft Vista for a while, so the Network Control Center won't be supporting it initially. Informal technical support will be available at the Auger Inn. Bring your wooden nickels.

Retirements, Promotions, New Members

178 FW

Promotions

Capt. Krapp, Jerrad A.

119 SFS

Promotions

SSgt Green, Jessica

New Members

SSgt. Schenck, Bradley D.

119 CES

Promotions

SSgt. Herman, John C.

SSgt. Lettenmaier, Kali M.

SSgt. Boerger, Jason D.

119 SVF

Promotions

SSgt. Bartz, Paul J.

119 AMS

Retirements

MSgt. Johnson, Shannon D.

Promotions

SMgt. Schreiner Robert J.

TSgt. Buntrock, Andrew J.

TSgt. Appletoft, James T.

119 AGS

Promotions

SMgt. Kram, James P.

MSgt. Rockwell, Robert C.

TSgt. Fluge, Joseph D.

119 MXS

Retirements

MSgt. Walth, Gordon E.

Promotions

MSgt. Renville, Charles L. Jr.

MSgt.. Schwagel, Mark A.

SSgt. Shumate, Paul L.

119 OSF

Promotions

TSgt. Storhoff, Brett A.E.

119 LRS

Promotions

MSgt. Koski, Brian L.

MSgt. Solberg, Daniel G.

119 SF

New Members

AB Sprague, Brian S.

Retirees' corner

By retired Chief Master Sgt. Jack Tietgens,

119th Fighter Wing

On January 16th, a robust representation of retirees attended the 60th anniversary of the NDANG. Many dignitaries expressed their thoughts of appreciation of the many accomplishments of the Happy Hooligans.

Following the ceremonies and the flyover of four F-16s, lunch was served at the Auger Inn.

The Blue Angels will bring their demonstration team to the air show in Fargo on June 16th & 17th. The Auger Inn management has expressed their interest in hosting another Hooligan reunion. Further information will be available as the date draws closer.

The Fargo Air Museum presently has a display of 119FW and Happy Hooligan photos, awards and other historical material, including a video of Hooligan activities at deployed locations.

The monthly Fargo-Moorhead area breakfasts are scheduled on the first Wednesday of each month at the Valley Kitchen in Fargo (I-29 & Main Ave), 7:00 a.m.

The monthly breakfasts in Mesa, AZ, are held on the FIRST Thursday of each month, 9:00 a.m., at Sossaman's On the Green Restaurant, Sunland Village East.

The next breakfast in Detroit Lakes will be on Saturday, February 17th, at 8:00 a.m. at the Detroit Lakes Holiday Inn.

2007 UTA Schedule

Family program



Air Force One Source is now Military One Source and can now be found on the internet at www.militaryonesource.com. Military One Source is free for all and has been created for a variety of Department of Defense and family issues. It is available twenty-four hours a day, seven days per week by telephone at 800-342-9647. October is take a stand against domestic violence month.

2007 Auger Inn Events

February 10 - Chili Cookoff

April 27 - Fish Feed

September 14 - Pork-alo Feed

December 8 - Children's Christmas

2007 Auger Inn Events

Saturday, 10 Feb

Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes w/
Beef Gravy, Salad Fruit
Fudge Stripe Cookie Salad

Sunday, 11 Feb

BBq Chicken Breast, Macaroni
and Cheese, Scandinavian
Vegetables, Caesar Salad, Fruit
M&M Bar

Afterburner



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

119th Wing member accepts a plaque during the North Dakota Air National Guard Outstanding Airman of the Year Banquet.

JET LETTER

119th WING
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