



## Meet an Air Guard Member

### Logan Balvik

Computer engineering major, North Dakota State University  
Member, North Dakota Air National Guard

Logan Balvik considered a wide range of options for his future after high school in West Fargo. “I considered colleges and the U.S. Air Force Academy. Then I met a North Dakota Air Guard recruiter at our school,” he says. “My parents and I visited the base and it was clear this was the right option for me.”

### Reassurance for parents

His mom, Heidi, recalls: “I was hesitant at first, yet the North Dakota Air Guard staff members eased us through the entire process. I could call our contact anytime with any type of question and quickly get answers. For instance, she talked me through the list of things needed for Basic Training to help us prepare Logan for that phase. It was very helpful and so reassuring.”

Logan’s dad, Jason, who also serves as the school resource officer at Sheyenne High School, has had recurring contact with the recruiter. He also knows a co-worker—a teacher and coach—who serves in the ND Air Guard. “We were so impressed with the quality of people, the possibilities and potential for Logan. It’s clear he is surrounded by other hard-working, responsible people who have made this an excellent experience.”

### Nearly endless possibilities for students

Now an NDSU student majoring in computer engineering, Logan appreciates the opportunities to get paid tuition, earn a paycheck and prepare for his future.

“At one point, Airmen met with Logan and researched areas that may be a good fit for him,” Jason says. “That was very valuable and one of the reasons the North Dakota Air Guard has earned our faith and trust in guiding our son.”

Logan plans to possibly commission into the ND Air Guard. Heidi adds: “Logan has realized he likes the ability to work in intelligence yet return home each night. That may change, but then he has options as his goals change.”

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## Valuable connections

Logan's experiences at Basic Training in Texas then technical training and now in guard drills and service have helped him form valuable connections. "I've learned a lot, and made friends from all over the country. Right here at the Fargo base, I have Airmen who have guided me through many issues and situations."

"Logan has connected with a wide variety of people at all levels," Jason says. "Wherever he ends up, those will be valuable connections."



***"The Air Guard takes the time to make sure the entire family is comfortable with the decision."***

-Jason Balvik, dad to ND Air Guard member and NDSU student, Logan

## Advice for other parents

Logan's parents encourage fellow parents to consider the North Dakota Air Guard for its balance of paid tuition, education, training, positive peer groups and career potential. "Go visit the base," Jason urges. "Ask lots of questions and call the contacts anytime when you need other guidance. They will help you every step of the way."

In addition, Heidi encourages families to attend Basic Training graduation if possible. "Travel and time away from home is valuable, yet being at Logan's graduation was an incredible experience. If you can, go."

Meanwhile, Logan's advice for other high school students? "Take a look at the North Dakota Air Guard. You'll leave college with no debt, regular paychecks, great experiences and lots of possibilities. That's a very good thing."

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