DAKOTA PACK

MAGAZINE OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD • SUMMER 2010

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Guardsmen fight flood in Northeast South Dakota

« DEPLOYMENTS

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South Dakota NATIONAL GUARD

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DAKOTA PACK

Magazine of the South Dakota Army and Air National Guard

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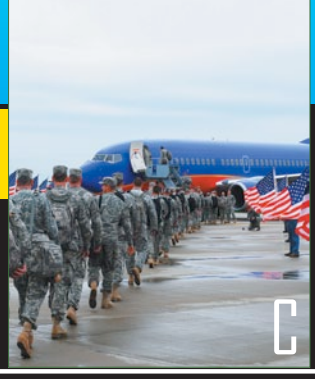

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On the cover

The South Dakota Army National Guard's 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade leaves South Dakota for their one-year deployment to Afghanistan. (Army photo by Spc. Julieanne Morse)

TRICARE: Enhancing Guard and Reserve Access to Behavioral Health Care

Story by Brian P. Smith
Triwest Healthcare Alliance

Whenever and wherever, Reserve Component members and their families now have more tools to get the behavioral health support they need. TriWest Healthcare Alliance is giving TRICARE beneficiaries a safe, easy and secure way to access remote counseling, assistance and support.

"We are pleased to have the ability to offer expanded access to behavioral health support for the National Guard and Reserve members and families we serve in the 21 states of the TRICARE West Region," said David J. McIntyre, president and CEO of TriWest Healthcare Alliance. "Our new Online Care Program will provide those we are privileged to serve with access to care and much needed support services when and where it is most convenient for them. They deserve this enhanced level of support, without the added worry of external perceptions or judgment. We're pleased to assist the military in standing up this new benefit, because it's the right thing to do."

An overview of TriWest Online Care services and beneficiary eligibility can be found at www.triwest.com/onlinecare. TriWest Online Care offers Guard and Reserve members multiple ways to access these TRICARE resources and services:

TriWest's trained professionals can help you understand your TRICARE behavioral health options. You can chat live with a TriWest Behavioral Health Contact Center (BHCC) representative 24/7 (**www.triwest.com/onlinecare**) or call 1-888-TRIWEST (874-9378).

The TRICARE Assistance Program (TRIAP) offers a 24/7 option for private, non-reportable, face-to-face videoconference counseling. TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) enrollees, Service members eligible for Transitional Assistance Management Program (TAMP) and their families may use the TRIAP services. Active duty Service members, their spouses and other family members 18 years of age and older are also eligible.

This counseling is a non-medical discussion of personal life issues. Issues can range from relationships to stress management, all the way to crisis intervention. In the TRICARE West Region, eligible beneficiaries will use Skype, a videoconferencing application, to connect to a counselor.

TRS and other TRICARE West Region benefit information and news, specific to Reserve Component member families, can be found at the Guard and Reserve Resource Center (**www.triwest.com/ngr**).

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SD Guardsman named Truman Scholar

Story by OC Chad Carlson
Public Affairs Office

Spc. Matthew Tysdal, a member of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 196th Regional Training Institute (RTI) and a junior at the University of South Dakota (USD), was selected as South Dakota's Truman Scholarship winner.

Spc. Matthew Tysdal

The Truman Scholarship Foundation recognizes college juniors with exceptional leadership potential who are committed to careers in government, nonprofit or advocacy sectors, education or other careers in public service; and to provide them with financial support for graduate study, leadership training and fellowship with other students who are committed to making a difference through public service.

Tysdal is a political science and economic double major with a minor in mathematics. He is involved in student government and USD College Democrats and has interned with U.S. Senator Tim Johnson. He enlisted in the South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) in 2006.

"Since joining the military, veterans' issues have been of particular significance to me," said Tysdal. "When I was deciding what to write my application's policy proposal on, I really came to that realization. They are issues that I can get passionate about, because people who have donned the uniform all share a special bond that those outside our ranks cannot possibly understand. The military is a unique form of national service that calls on you to potentially give everything in service to something greater than yourself. I want to make sure that the people who voluntarily commit to this are taken care of, and that is why I want to work to improve veterans' welfare."

Tysdal has not only gained an appreciation for veterans' issues since joining the Guard, but enjoys the benefits on both collegiate and personal levels.

"First, there is the obvious monetary investment that the Guard makes in its Soldiers," Tysdal said. Federal tuition assistance and the G.I. bill, coupled with the scholarship dollars I receive from the University of South Dakota cover my education expenses and provide a modest budget to live off of, meaning I do not have to have a job while going to school. It really helps to be able to focus solely on education, and the Guard has been a huge help with that.

"But apart from the money, being able to say I'm in the National Guard has really been a great resume booster. Every time I interview for something, be it an internship on Capitol Hill or a national scholarship competition, the line on my resume that says "enlisted" has always helped to set me apart," said Tysdal.

The SDARNG and the 196th RTI in Sturgis reap benefits from having enlisted Soldiers like Tysdal.

"I have been so impressed with Specialist Tysdal," said Maj. Deb Bartunek, 196th RTI Logistics officer. "He is an extremely intelligent young man with great communication skills and is very personable. His critical thinking skills and desire to do great things makes him exactly the kind of Soldier who can effect positive changes for the future of our organization. The South Dakota Army National Guard is very lucky to have this caliber of Soldier."

Students were elected by 16 independent selection panels on the basis of leadership potential, intellectual ability and likelihood of 'making a difference.' The 60 Scholars were selected from among 576 candidates nominated by 245 colleges and universities.

"The sky is the limit for Specialist Tysdal," said Sgt. 1st Class Tom Martin, 196th RTI Logistics NCO. "He has so much potential for advancement. He will be a great leader someday; both military and civilian; both personal and professional."

While Tysdal isn't completely sure of his specific plans with the National Guard, future education and career choice, he is sure that his time in the Guard has been a great benefit.

"Being selected as the South Dakota Truman scholar is a tremendous honor, and I could never have achieved it without the help of some great people around me," Tysdal said. "Ultimately, I owe a lot to the fact that I am enlisted, because it showed the Truman Foundation that I do have a real commitment to public service. Regardless of how long I end up in the National Guard, I can easily say that enlisting was one of the best decisions I have made."

ENLISTED SPOTLIGHT

Sgt. 1st Class Lorissa Wetzler

NAME: Sgt. 1st Class Lorissa Wetzler aka "Lo"
UNIT: 1978th Contingency Contracting Team
AGE: 37
FULL-TIME POSITION: Logistical Mobilization Officer

HOMETOWN: Burke, S.D.

FAMILY: Husband, Myron, 41, daughters, Bailey, 16, Joell, 12, and twin sons, Jett, Jace, 6.

PETS: Pooky, one ornery dachshund (just like his mom!)

WHEN I'M NOT AT WORK YOU'LL FIND ME: I like to hang out with my friends and family and laugh until our guts hurt.

THE ONE THING I TREASURE THE MOST: Happiness and success in others. I am extremely fond of the individuality and strengths of each of my family members, friends and acquaintances. I appreciate their support and their encouragement to be better.

HEROES: My heroes are all people who are real and stand behind what they believe. My hero is someone who is courageous, loyal, generous and honest.

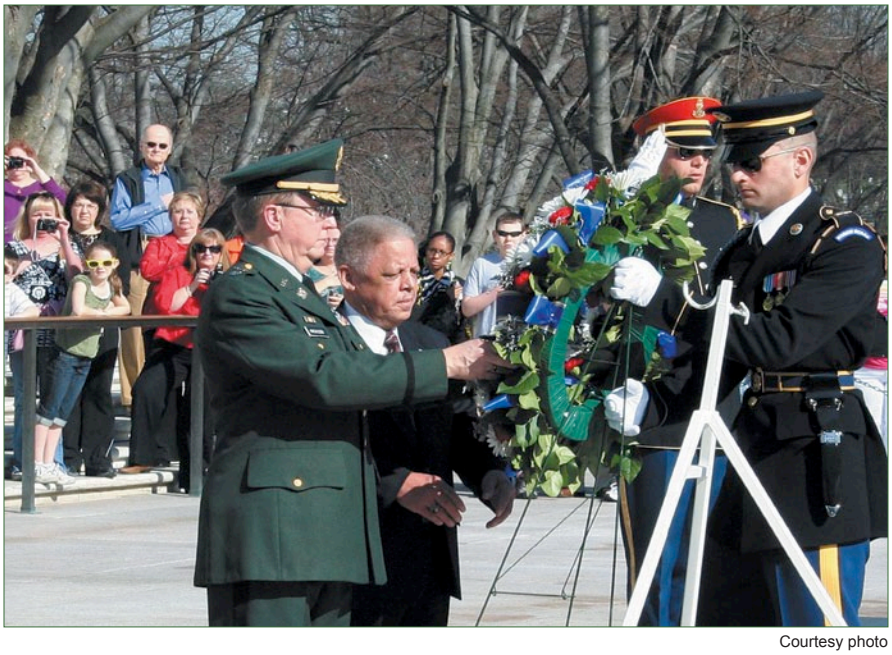
NOBODY KNOWS THIS ABOUT ME BUT: If there is something nobody knows about me, no one probably ever will! I keep my secrets close at hand.

THE ONE PERSON (ALIVE OR NOT) I'D MOST LIKE TO HAVE OVER FOR DINNER & WHY: Well since laughing is my favorite, and Wedding Singer is one of my favorite comedies, I would have Adam Sandler over. He could sing me goofy songs.

IF I WIN THE LOTTERY TOMORROW I'M: I would definitely quit work as soon as possible; go on vacation with my family and friends. Those that do go on vacation with me would be set for life...or at least receive a really nice gift! I would hire a chef and personal trainer!

THE BEST ADVICE I EVER GOT: Education and service are key ingredients to success.

THE BEST ADVICE I HAVE TO GIVE: I have some rules I live by and I can narrow them down to a few words of "Lo" wisdom. Always keep an open mind and always strive for better. Be there when people need you; in order to have friends you must first be one. Nothing is impossible and never give up on your dreams. You only fail when you fail to try. Never compromise your standards for anyone, do it for you. Remember that laughter makes the world go round; life is too short to be unhappy.



Courtesy photo

South Dakota Soldier lays wreath at sacred shrine

Lt. Col. Emil Magnuson (left) of Rapid City, S.D., was selected to place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery, March 20, pictured with National Association of Postal Supervisors Vice President Mr. Louis Atkins. The National Association of Postal Supervisors (NAPS) selected Lt. Col. Emil Magnuson of Rapid City from a pool of more than 35,000 NAPS members

WASHINGTON, D.C. – A South Dakota National Guardsmen was selected to place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns, also known as the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, at Arlington National Cemetery, March 20.

The National Association of Postal Supervisors (NAPS) selected Lt. Col. Emil Magnuson, Rapid City, from a pool of more than 35,000 members.

NAPS is a membership organization representing active and retired supervisors, managers and postmasters of the United States Postal Service.

Magnuson has served in the military for the past 34 years and has worked for the USPS for 30 years.

"I believe I was chosen because of the number of years I have served while balancing both my military and postal service careers," said Magnuson.

The tomb contains the remains of unknown American Soldiers from World Wars I and II, the Korean Conflict and until 1998, the Vietnam War. Wreath ceremonies take place each day to honor the fallen service members.

NAPS representatives from each state meet in Washington, D.C., once a year to work on issues concerning the USPS. It was during this meeting Magnuson was able to lay the wreath.

> "It was a great honor. To place a wreath at our nation's most sacred shrine is one of the greatest honors of my military career."
>
> - Lt. Col. Emil Magnuson

SD Public Affairs Soldiers place in national media contest

RAPID CITY, S.D. – The South Dakota Army National Guard placed high among military journalists in the 2009 National Guard Bureau (NGB) Media Contest and the Maj. Gen. Keith L. Ware Public Affairs Competition.

Judges reviewed 406 entries from the Army National Guard and 290 from the Air National Guard before making their final decision. The contest has been running for more than 30 years and includes entries from more than 1,000 Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen from 54 states and territories, according to the National Guard Bureau website.

Capt. Anthony Deiss, Rapid City, South Dakota National Guard Deputy Public Affairs Officer, placed first in the NGB category, contribution by stringer-writer, for his story titled "Pride of the Dakotas" on the history of the artillery in the South Dakota Army National Guard.

Staff Sgt. Lance Schroeder, Rapid City, 129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, placed third in the NGB feature category for his story titled "Laid to Rest" about a Korean War veteran's remains returned to South Dakota after 59 years.

"Laid to Rest" also placed third in the Maj. Gen. Keith L. Ware competition which recognizes military and civilian-employee print and broadcast practitioners for journalistic excellence.

"It is always great to be recognized and compete with the best in the department of defense," said Schroeder. "It's an honor to have this story reach a broader audience through this competition."

"I'm extremely proud of the work that our public affairs and mobile public affairs detachment members do for us," said Maj. Brendan Murphy, South Dakota State Public Affairs Officer. "It's great to know their hard work, talent and dedicated efforts are being noticed nationally."

Air Guard Command visits Camp Rapid

Photo by OC Chad Carlson

South Dakota Army National Guard's Lt. Col. John Holter, deputy chief of staff for operations (center), Rapid City, discusses the various emergency response task forces with the newly appointed assistant adjutant general for the South Dakota Air National Guard, Brig. Gen. Wayne M. Shanks (left), Sioux Falls, and newly appointed State Command Chief for Headquarters South Dakota Air National Guard, Chief Master Sgt. James M. Welch, Sioux Falls. Shanks and Welch anticipate their visit will foster lines of communication, providing additional opportunities for the Army and Air Guard to train and work together with more frequency.

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OFFICER SPOTLIGHT

Lt. Col. Mark Harder

NAME: Lt. Col. Mark Harder
UNIT: JFHQ-SD
AGE: 44
FULL-TIME POSITION: Lead Radiation Therapist, John T. Vucurevich Cancer Care Institute, Rapid City Regional
HOMETOWN: Huron

FAMILY: I've been married for 16 years to the love of my life, Jennifer, and we have two awesome daughters, Mariah, 9, and Averie, 3.

PETS: Believe it or not, we have two guinea pigs (Sweet and Molly) and a dog, Riley.

WHEN I'M NOT AT WORK YOU'LL FIND ME: With my family, fishing, golfing, hunting, volunteering, enjoying movies and just keeping busy.

THE ONE THING I TREASURE THE MOST: Is Life! I enjoy raising our children with my wife, Jenni. I love watching them experience new things and seeing the reactions they have. I enjoy teaching them the values of respecting others and oneself along with the joys that come with selfless service and accomplishments.

HEROES: My stepfather, Elwood Harder, whom I consider my real father, for I would not be a fourth of the person that I am today without being able to have shared his zest for life, and most importantly his integrity, I have and forever will take great pride in the adoption of the Harder family name.

NOBODY KNOWS THIS ABOUT ME BUT: I was a dweeb in high school, lol. Ok, so maybe some of you are saying, "Hey Mark, what's changed?" but yes, I was a 160-lb dweeb!

THE ONE PERSON (ALIVE OR NOT) I'D MOST LIKE TO HAVE OVER FOR DINNER & WHY: Other than my father, due to the fact he is my hero, I would have to go with God. Could you just imagine the discussions? I would have a plethora of questions. Yes, I know what a plethora is.

IF I WIN THE LOTTERY TOMORROW I'M: Staying in the SDARNG of course, paying off debts owed, stashing away a little extra in my children's names for college, weddings, and etc...., and starting a couple of my own businesses. Oh, I have big plans!

THE BEST ADVICE I EVER GOT: No one will take care of yourself for you, so it is up to you. Set your goals, research what is needed to reach them and GO FOR IT!

THE BEST ADVICE I HAVE TO GIVE: Embrace what you have, strive for that which you yet seek, never stop learning or experiencing new things and most importantly; have extraordinary amounts of fun in all your endeavors. P.S. When you get older and start reaching your goals – don't forget to readjust and set new ones!

Guardsmen fight flood in Northeast South Dakota

Story by Staff Sgt. Theanne Tangen
Public Affairs Office

Photo by Staff Sgt. Theanne Tangen

Soldiers of the 139th Brigade Support Battalion, Detachment 2, Company A, and the 740th Transportation Company, South Dakota Army National Guard, throw sandbags onto a raft for transport to areas near Aberdeen, March 25.

The South Dakota Army National Guard mobilized Soldiers and sent equipment to the Aberdeen area to assist Brown County emergency management sandbagging operations in response to spring flooding in late March.

More than 63 Guardsmen from units across the state helped fight the flood. SDARNG's Palletized Load Systems (PLS) and Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Trucks (HEMTTs) were used in the sandbagging operations.

Brown County officials requested state assistance in order to help residents protect their homes from flood damage. Officials in the state Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Pierre coordinated the mobilization of National Guard members and a group of minimum security inmates from the state Department of Corrections (DOC).

"It's kind of a partnership between the Guard and the Department of Corrections," said Kristi Turman, director of the South Dakota Office of Emergency Management. "We had inmates in Sioux Falls filling the bags and the Guard had equipment for transporting sandbags. National Guard personnel then took those bags into the flood subdivision to help residents protect their homes."

Waubay residents were also in need of state assistance. Sixteen Soldiers and a group of minimum-security inmates helped sandbag the perimeter of lift stations, which are used to pump sewage and wastewater.

"The lift stations are vital to our sewer system. If damaged, people won't be able to do all the things they take for granted, such as laundry, dishes and taking showers," said Rick Rudebusch, Waubay resident.

The Guard also helped Northwestern Energy, in the Camino Real area north of Aberdeen, by protecting transformers that were submerged in water. The Guardsmen would fill rafts with sandbags and then walk the raft in waist high water to the transformer. Once a wall of sandbags was built, they were able to use a pump to remove excess water surrounding the transformer to maintain electrical power.

"We didn't have the manpower to get the water low enough around the transformers to keep the power on," said Bob Zerr, Northwestern Energy. "We were about to let the power go out on one particular house until the Guard came to help."

Once Soldiers finished sandbagging the transformer, the Brown County Incident Commander sent them to Tacoma Park, near Aberdeen, to help local resident Bill DeMarce save his cabin from the rising James River.

"The water was right up against the cabin on the north side about 6 to 8 inches high. The Guard came out and helped place sandbags to divert the water," said DeMarce. "I appreciate their help. I don't know what we would have done without them."

SDARNG Maj. Aaron Jordan, Sturgis, Director of Military Support at the State EOC in Pierre said, "The Soldiers supporting this operation put their lives on hold and volunteered to assist our citizens in their time of need."

According to the U.S. Geological Survey the James River hit a record level peaking at 20.08 feet compared to last year's record of 19.98 feet.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Theanne Tangen

Soldiers of the 139th Brigade Support Battalion, Detachment 2, Company A, and the 740th Transportation Company, place sandbags to prevent water from damaging a transformer in order to keep the power on for a home near Aberdeen.

Photo by Maj. Brendan Murphy

Soldiers of the 139th Brigade Support Battalion, Detachment 2, Company A, and the 740th Transportation Company, Milbank, and Detachment 1, Aberdeen, stack sandbags to protect a cabin against the rising James River in Tacoma Park, near Aberdeen.

CITIZEN-SOLDIERS FACE YEAR-LONG DEPLOYMENT

Story by Capt. Anthony Deiss
196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade

196th MEB Soldiers depart South Dakota, May 8, to report to Fort Hood, Texas, for approximately 30 days to complete all required mobilization training before heading to Afghanistan.

Photo by Spc. Julieanne Morse

Families, friends and employers of the Soldiers in the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, South Dakota Army National Guard, can finally start counting down the days until their Soldiers return. Their one-year deployment officially began May 8, at an activation ceremony at the Elmen Center on the Augustana College Campus in Sioux Falls.

Two days later the Soldiers departed Sioux Falls to report to Fort Hood, Texas, for approximately 30 days to complete all required mobilization training before heading to Afghanistan.

"We have been training and preparing for this deployment for more than a year and we are ready," said Brig. Gen. Ted Johnson, commander. " These men and women are some of the best in the National Guard and I know they will serve our state and nation well."

Senior leaders from the 196th have conducted a recon in Kabul, Afghanistan, during the month of March, to help the unit prepare for its upcoming deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The 196th, made up of members from both eastern South Dakota and the Black Hills region, will operate as the Area Support Group (ASG) Command for the Kabul Base Cluster (KBC) and will provide guidance, policy and oversight for 11 military bases operating throughout the capital region. The 196th, under the command of Brig. Gen. Ted Johnson, will work for U.S. Forces Afghanistan (USFOR-A), commanded by Gen. Stanley McChrystal, and will provide support for the KBC on a multitude of levels.

"Many of the bases within the Kabul Base Cluster operate independently and have varying levels of support," said Johnson, of Rapid City, S.D. "To set the conditions for future success, these bases need a single command to be responsible for security, logistical and administrative requirements."

The new ASG Command will provide this support in areas relating to operating procedures, policy guidance, force protection, security, infrastructure development, training requirements, administrative and logistical needs.

"Right now the best thing we can do to help win this war is to support those fighting it," said Johnson. "If our Soldiers don't have the proper security, training, equipment and facilities, they can't be successful."

The nearly 200 members of the 196th from Sioux Falls, S.D., will be one of the first Army National Guard units to head up such a mission.

The ASG will oversee the standard operating procedures (SOP) and policies for base operations, base support groups (BSG), camp support groups (CSG) and national support elements (NSE). The BSG, CSG and NSE are the organizational elements that support U.S. forces operating on the myriad of bases. The 196th will command three BSGs, six CSGs and two NSEs, as well as a battalion of U.S. security forces (SECFOR) and approximately a company minus of NATO SECFOR.

These SOPs will cover master expansion plans, billeting plans, tracking plans for contracted services, force protection improvement plans and improved supply procedures and efficiencies for the entire Kabul Base Cluster.

Much like its name, the cluster of bases brings its own unique set of challenges and requirements: varying in size, number of forces, infrastructure and operational

Photo by Staff Sgt. Theanne Tangen

Stacy Sanders (right) embraces her husband, Pfc. Joseph Sanders, Sioux Falls, at the activation ceremony for the South Dakota's Army National Guard's 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, May 8, at the Elmen Center, Augustana College campus in Sioux Falls.

Capt. Brian Dreyer, Rapid City, holds onto his daughter, Mackenzie, at the activation ceremony for the South Dakota's Army National Guard's 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, May 8, at the Elmen Center, Augustana College campus in Sioux Falls.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Theanne Tangen

control. With the surge of forces to support McChrystal's strategy, an influx in troop population will surely need to be accounted for long-term success.

"The Kabul Base Cluster is truly representative of all NATO partners' involvement in this mission," said Gerlach, of Pierre, S.D. "The capital of Kabul will be the face of Afghanistan in the future and it is important our unit helps to develop both the military and civilian infrastructure to make it successful."

What makes the National Guard well suited for such a mission is the number of civilian skill sets they bring to the fight and the services they will provide for Soldiers, Airmen, Marines and Sailors stationed throughout the KBC.

With responsibility such as resource management, public works, emergency services information management and security, the Guard brings practical experience in operating cities, counties or other governmental agencies back home – which should be an advantage in operating bases that function much in the same way.

"The base camps need services that you find in cities; emergency services such as firefighters; public works for adequate living and working spaces; resource management for new construction and maintenance," said Maj. Jason Kettwig, a city administrator in Milbank, S.D.

To set the conditions for success, Kettwig, a logistics officer for the 196th, says planning is critical to ensuring synergy amongst the different services.

"The base camps, as with many municipalities, rely on detailed master plans that provide a road map for ensuring essential services are well thought out, and can handle any expansion or growth improvements," said Kettwig. "Directorates need coordination and prioritization so they do not hinder the objectives of other departments."

The 196th will be directly in control of garrison operations at the three largest bases of the Kabul Base Cluster; Camp Phoenix, Camp Eggers and New Kabul Compound, along with oversight, guidance and support for the remaining eight.

Located on several of these bases are the Headquarters for the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and USFOR-A, the lead organizations that provide command and control for all U.S. and NATO forces throughout the country.

"WE HAVE A TREMENDOUS RESPONSIBILITY WITH THIS MISSION. WE ARE NOT ONLY SUPPORTING THE COMPOUNDS OF GEN. MCCHRYSTAL AND THE UPPER ECHELONS OF LEADERSHIP FOR THE WAR, BUT ALSO THE SERVICE MEMBERS THAT LEADERSHIP IS RELYING ON TO EXECUTE THEIR PLANS. IT IS IMPERATIVE THE ASG COMMAND SETS THE CONDITIONS FOR FUTURE SUCCESS."

BRIG. GEN. TED JOHNSON

26TH ANNU

The South Dakota National Guard hosted its 26th annual Golden Coyote training exercise in the southern Black Hills on June 14-26, providing relevant training opportunities in support of overseas contingency operations and homeland defense.

Created in the mid 1980s by the South Dakota National Guard, with the cooperation of the National Forest Service and Custer State Park, the Golden Coyote training exercise allows more than 2,200 service members to conduct combat support and combat service support missions in a realistic training environment and provide valuable services to the public.

Local residents receive numerous benefits of the many engineering projects being conducted during the training exercise. Engineering units transport timber cut in remote areas to those who can use it as firewood, identify hazardous wilderness areas and make them safe for public use and re-surface local roadways that have fallen into disrepair.

Members of 40 units representing 12 states, were brought together into a combined joint task force with

Photo by Spc. Kevin E. Marvig

Three tactical vehicles with crew-served weapons mounted on top drive down a "convoy lane" during training at Golden Coyote, a two-week South Dakota military training exercise. The Soldiers were patrolling for simulated improvised explosive devices and training on how to react to gunfire and civilian populace concerns.

Photo by 2nd Lt. Sam Otto

Military firefighters from Illinois, Massachusetts and South Dakota participate in hands-on firefighting training at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., during this year's Golden Coyote training exercise.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Theanne Tangen

Left to right: Spc. Julieanne Morse, South Dakota Army National Guard's 129th MPAD, Rapid City, Staff Sgt. Dana Ruth (in sked), Sgt. Joel Moore (back) and Sgt. James Nalin, of the 1245th Transportation Company, Oklahoma National Guard, get Combat Lifesaver certified during Golden Coyote.

JAL GOLDEN COYOTE

the mission of providing force protection, humanitarian aid, and infrastructure improvement.

Units participating in the exercise come from multiple branches of military service – Army, Navy, and Air Force – working together to create an invaluable training experience. Participating units train on their equipment and employ tactics to complete various projects that help improve the forest and infrastructure of many local communities.

In addition, individual units in the task force are able to participate in numerous warrior training tasks and battle drills, such as urban combat operations, land navigation, survival, escape and evasion, first aid, casualty evacuation, and day and night convoy operations. Golden Coyote provides a valuable opportunity for units to train on skills needed for any future overseas deployment.

Missions for the 2010 Golden Coyote training exercise were conducted throughout the Black Hills of South Dakota and the surrounding area, both in local urban areas and remote wilderness sites.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Shannon Crane

Military firefighters from Illinois, Massachusetts and South Dakota participate in hands-on firefighting training at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., during this year's Golden Coyote training exercise.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Theanne Tangen

Sgt. Joseph Meyer, a water purification specialist assigned to the South Dakota Army National Guard's Company A, 139th Brigade Support Battalion, tests the water at Rapid Creek during the 26th Annual Golden Coyote training exercise, June 13, 2010. The 139th BSB, based out of Watertown, S.D., provides potable water to nearly 2,200 personnel attending the event throughout the Black Hills of South Dakota.

Photo by Spc. Julieanne Morse

Sgt. Daniel McVey takes a bearing with a compass during land navigation training June 14 at West Camp Rapid. McVey, a truck driver with the Nevada National Guard's 593rd Transportation Company, during the 26th annual Golden Coyote training exercise in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

114th Closes Mission with Success

On Feb. 18, the 114th Fighter Wing closed out more than 26 months of Air Sovereign Alert around-the-clock duty at Langley AFB, Va. The Langley Alert Detachment started due to airplane conversions at other Air National Guard units on the east coast. It was a hybrid operation shared with the 158th Fighter Wing of the Vermont Air National Guard.

The 114th provided the airplanes and 75 percent of the alert pilots while the 158th supplied the onsite personnel and remaining pilot manning. It was a very lean undertaking that exemplified Air Force Smart Operations while supporting the number one mission priority of the Secretary of Defense.

With the exception of 8 pilot and 10 maintenance personnel "man years" and associated travel expenses, the 114th accomplished this mission with no additional overhead. During this time frame, the 114th provided four Full Mission Capable jets at Langley under the existing 18 primary aircraft assigned construct while still maintaining a baseline home station daily flight schedule of 8 turn 8. The 114th Maintenance Group's outstanding aircraft availability rate earned several enviable remarks from other F-16 units. The 114th averaged 250 flight hours per year in support of the ASA mission. Even with this significant "out of hide" commitment of aircraft and flight hours, the unit suffered zero months of reduced pilot readiness.

Operation Iraqi Freedom: Dece

Newer F-16s destined for Sioux Falls

Air National Guard and U.S. Air Force senior leaders announced that nearly two dozen newer F-16 fighter jets will arrive at Joe Foss Field in Sioux Falls.

The 175th Fighter Squadron of the South Dakota Air National Guard's 114th Fighter Wing has been flying Block 30 F-16 aircraft since 1991. Those jets will be retired and replaced by newer Block 40 F-16s. The 22 replacement jets are scheduled for transfer from Hill AFB, Utah, to Sioux Falls between April and September.

"The South Dakota Air National Guard's fighter aircraft have provided outstanding contributions to our nation's defense and global interests for more than 62 years," said Gov. Mike Rounds. "This latest aircraft conversion will secure the Air Guard's operational capabilities for many years to come."

The assignment of Block 40 F-16s will ensure that the 175th Fighter Squadron remains fully combat capable. The abilities of the Block 40 F-16s are very similar to those of the squadron's currently assigned aircraft, which have had numerous system upgrades.

"The assignment of Block 40 F-16s provides strong affirmation by U.S. Air Force and National Guard leaders of their confidence in the contributions of the S.D. Air National Guard to our nation's defense," said Colonel Russ Walz, commander of the 114th Fighter Wing. "This aircraft conversion will ensure that the 175th Fighter Squadron remains ready and relevant for many years to come."

ember 2009 to February 2010

South Dakota welcomes home 147th Field Artillery

Story by Spc. Charlie Jacobson
Photos by Staff Sgt. Theanne Tangen
129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Soldiers from 1st Battalion of the 147th Field Artillery, South Dakota Army National Guard, were joined by friends and family as state and military officials honored the unit during deactivation ceremonies March 30-31, in Yankton, Mitchell, Aberdeen and Watertown.

The Soldiers returned in mid-March from a year-long deployment to Kuwait where they performed a number of security missions; all of which were critical to our nation's success in the global war on terrorism.

The 147th received mobilization orders in September of 2008 for their mission in Kuwait. The unit, who typically specializes in providing high-mobility automatic firing systems to suppress and counter enemy activity, arrived in Kuwait for a security force mission in July of 2009.

While being faced with an unfamiliar mission in an unfamiliar country, the 147th was able to integrate with Kuwaiti allies, third country nationals and members of the U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard to accomplish an intense security mission.

Lt. Col. David P. Chase, Battalion Commander of the 147th Field Artillery, addressed the crowd at the Barnett Center and spoke of the importance of the battalion's mission in Kuwait.

"Through our two facilities which we were responsible for providing security for, 90 percent of the ammunition, equipment and personnel that support the global war on terror flowed through those ports," Chase said. "Hundreds of thousands of Soldiers' lives depended on our ability to keep those ports safe."

As Chase expressed his gratitude to the Soldiers of Alpha Battery for their performance in successfully accomplishing their mission, he described the characteristics of his troops' performance.

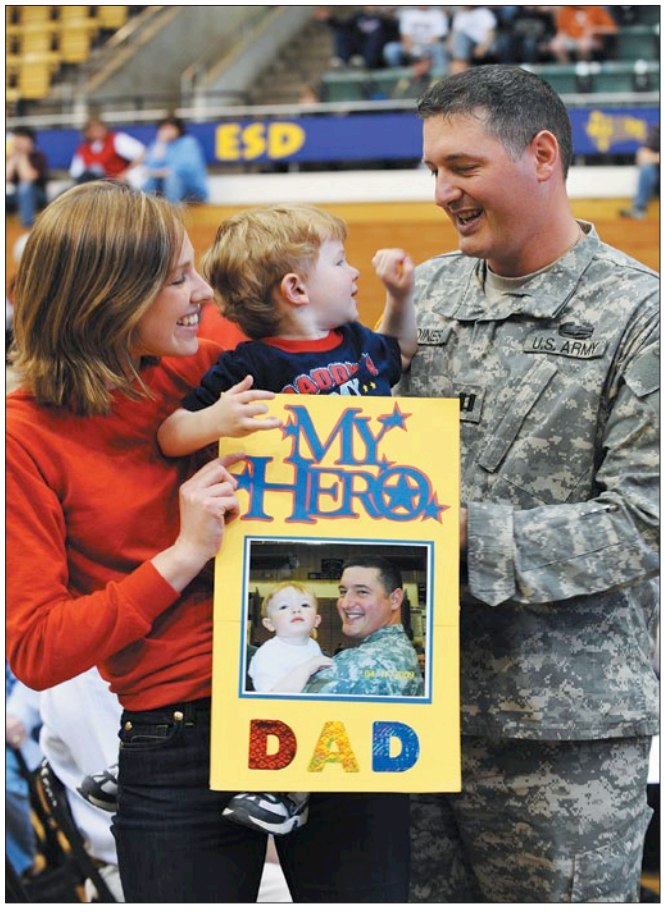
"Our mission was truly the most important mission in the Southern theater of operations," Chase said. "Motivation, discipline, hard work and professionalism were at the heart of the success of our mission."

The Soldiers of the 147th were responsible for successfully performing over 200,000 individual searches and more than 80,000 vehicle searches while stationed in Kuwait. The unit's quick reactionary force reacted successfully to 263 missions, while the unit's area reactionary force traveled over 60,000 miles in performing 377 missions. Chase pointed out that no security violations and no major incidents or accidents occurred during the unit's time in Kuwait.

Governor Mike Rounds, who joined the troops of the 147th and their families for the ceremonies, offered his perspective on the accomplishments of the unit. "You have done something that very few other people in the world ever do, you went into a place of war, and you came out safely after having accomplished what you set out to do."

Governor Rounds was also eager to recognize the importance each Soldier's family played in the successful trip to Kuwait. "We recognize that if it was not for your families who supported you, this would not have happened. They stuck with you and supported you in your mission."

While Soldiers of the 147th had the support of their families back home, their support for each other in the form of teamwork was a key factor in the success they experienced during their deployment.



WATERTOWN, S.D. - Capt. Dave Hoines, Sioux Falls, is welcomed home by his two-year-old son, Carson, and wife, Amy, at the deactivation ceremony, March 31, for the South Dakota Army National Guard's Headquarters Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery at the Watertown High School.

"Our teamwork was great over there," said Cpt. Collin Enstad, commander of Alpha Battery, Aberdeen. "We seamlessly integrated three units into one. Our NCOs (noncommissioned officers) took charge and really allowed us to work well with the Kuwaiti Navy and U.S. Navy. Overall, the amount of effort everybody put in to make the mission a success was unbelievable."

Members of the 147th were also successful when they had time to focus their efforts on activities other than the mission.

"We won over 26 MWR (Morale-Welfare-Recreation) tournaments including volleyball, flag football and basketball," Enstad said. "To see them work together as a team both on the job and off the job was truly amazing."

Maj. Gen. Steven Doohen, South Dakota National Guard adjutant general, who had the opportunity to visit the 147th during their deployment, also spoke of the 147th's teamwork while stationed in Kuwait.

"I was very impressed with the good working relationships you had set up at that camp. It really impressed me how you addressed the issues of the day and found solutions for them. I could tell the morale was very high," Doohen said.

Many factors contributed to the 147th's morale while deployed.

Living conditions, job stress, free time and communication with family, are just a few of the items that make deployments either a memorable or a forgettable experience.

Staff Sgt. Josh Nicolaisen, who acted as a platoon sergeant for Alpha Battery, 147th, thought the morale was good for a few simple reasons.

"Of my three deployments, the living conditions this time were probably the best," Nicolaisen said. "We had air-conditioned rooms, wireless internet and were able to play video games and work out."

Now that the 147th is home safe and morale is undoubtedly high, it is back to life as they once knew it and time to transition back to their families.

Governor Rounds offered words of wisdom to the troops as they transition home.

"We are proud of you, we want you to transition back right. Take the time to get to know each other again. Take the time to understand that it is not going to be easy. Do not forget that you have buddies that have been in it with you that you can talk to anytime. Do not be afraid to share with each other the challenges that you have. We want you to remember this (experience) with honor."

Staff Sgt. Jared Preszler, Aberdeen, connects with his two-year-old daughter, Abbigayle, at the deactivation ceremony held at the Barnett Center, Aberdeen.

Sgt. Jeff Hauck, Watertown, holds his six-month-old son, Elijah, at the deactivation ceremony held at the Watertown High School.

DEPLOYMENTS:

How lives are changed; the proof is in the pictures.

A lot can change in one year, especially in the life of a child. Sgt. Aylsia Adams (left photo) holds her one-year-old son, Raymond, at the activation ceremony for the 147th Field Artillery, April 18, 2009. One year later (right photo), Adams once again holds Raymond at her deactivation ceremony, March 30, 2010.

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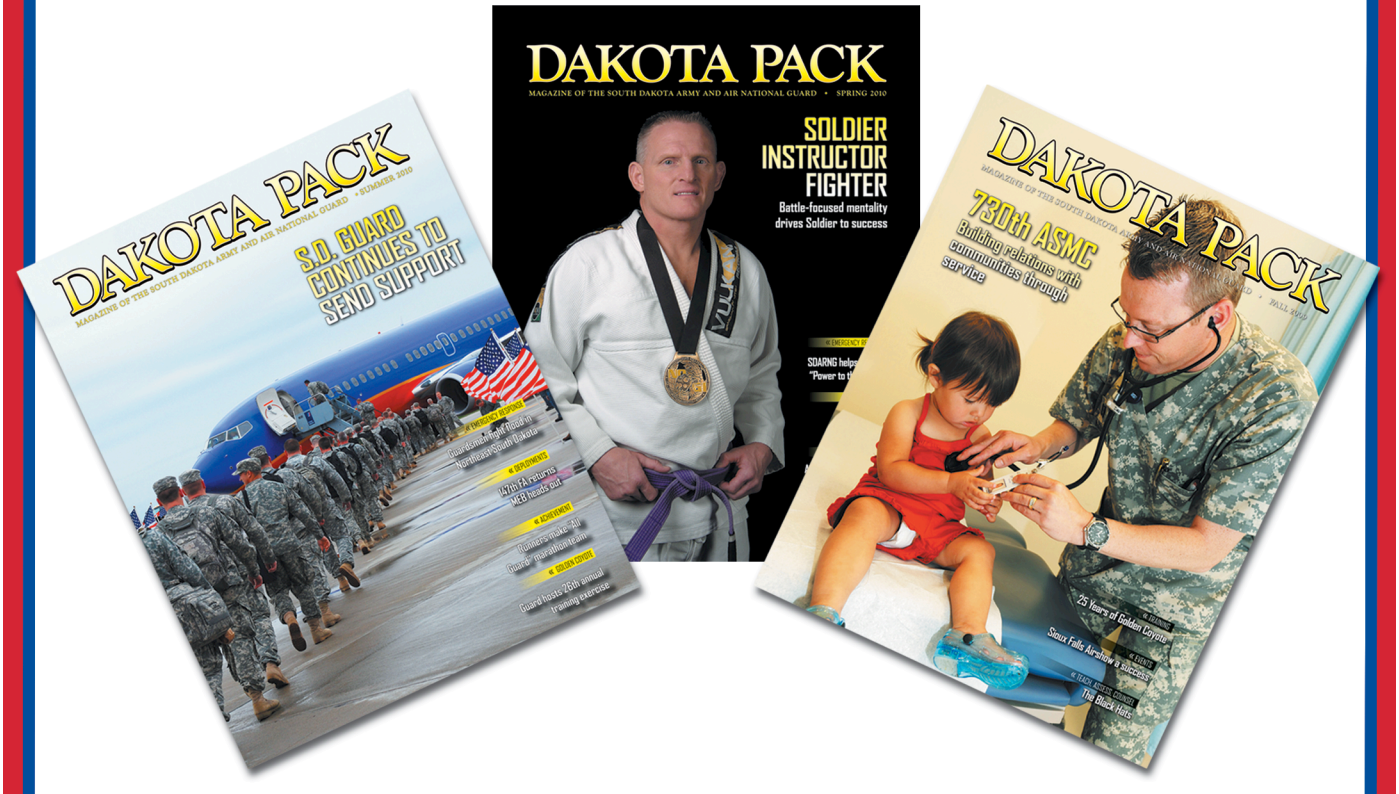

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Theanne Tangen

Right to left: Gloria Doohen, Linnae Soldatke, Chris Monger, Marianne Englund and Lil Heil are members of the Red Hat Ladies Militia of South Dakota. The ladies were present at the activation ceremony for South Dakota's Army National Guard's 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, May 8, at the Elmen Center, Augustana College campus in Sioux Falls to hand out their Burden Bears to children of deploying Soldiers. The Burden Bear comes with a note saying "Hi! I am your Burden Bear; talk to me, when you feel sad. Snuggle with me, I'll make you glad!"

RED HAT LADIES RECOGNIZED FOR SUPPORTING TROOPS

Story by OC Chad Carlson
Public Affairs Office

The Red Hat Ladies Militia of South Dakota will travel to New Orleans, La., in August to accept the Family Program Community Purple Award. The award is presented annually to a community group or organization that best exemplifies the true meaning of the purple concept within the Joint Family Program, by working with both Air and Army Guard activities.

The Red Hat Ladies Militia was formed in April 2003 with the mission of sending all South Dakota military serving overseas needed supplies and mail. To date, they have sent more than 3,000 boxes and 8,000 letters to deployed service members.

"The mission is the only reason I joined the group," said Chris Monger, Red Hat Ladies Militia queen. "As a civilian, I saw it as a way to support our troops at a local level."

Their goal is to remain active as long as there are South Dakota military members serving overseas.

"Most Red Hat groups are pretty much based on having fun socially and I was looking for something more meaningful," said Linnae Soldatke, Red Hat Ladies Militia vice queen. "I joined the Red Hat Ladies Militia because of the many projects that supported our military personnel overseas."

The Red Hatters have not only provided numerous packages, cards and letters to South Dakota's Air and Army National Guard members, but to service members serving in all branches of the service. If they live within the borders of South Dakota, it's likely they have reaped the benefits of the kindness of this group.

Numerous packages have been sent with socks, phone cards, letters, greeting cards (service members can send back home) and jerky are just a few of the items sent to troops. With all mail sent, coordination with mailroom personnel is done to give the mail first to service members that are not receiving much or any mail. Additionally, to ensure it has a personal touch, mailroom personnel are asked to place the service member's name on the mail as well.

A young Soldier, who received no mail or packages, was sent a Christmas box and mail from local students. He wrote back to the Red Hatters telling them how much the mail had helped him.

When he was lonely, afraid or just tired from battle, he would

See RED HAT, Page18

Red Hat, continued from page 17

pull the letters from his pocket and know that students from South Dakota that he didn't even know, loved him.

One South Dakota commander serving overseas received 150 coins from the Red Hatters with a spiritual saying. The coin was an inspiration to unit members who carried it, helping get them through some trying times such as when they suffered casualties. Additionally, sympathy cards were sent to the unit when those casualties (KIA and WIA) were sustained.

Now that the ability to get supplies overseas has improved, South Dakota service members have asked the group to focus more on their families.

The Red Hatters started the Burden Bear project one year ago. The group gives away handmade bears with a note of hope and encouragement. A Burden Bear is given to younger children on deployment day. The Red Hatters attend each unit activation (both Army and Air) to share this gift of love. This project requires a great deal of coordination and planning to ensure the Red Hatters have enough bears for each deploying unit. Since the beginning of this program, more than 700 bears have been made and given away.

"I love to see the smiles on the faces of the children receiving the teddy bears at the deployments. It's so rewarding to know we brought a little happiness at a very stressful time," said Soldatke.

True to their giving, patriotic spirit, the Red Hatters also recognize and assist veterans who have served our country. One of South Dakota's veterans' hospitals received an outdoor patio set. All 150 residents at the State Veterans' Home received quilts. The shooting club at the home received shotgun shells to help maintain that program which gets veterans outdoors and keeps them active. When the home desperately needed bedding, the Red Hatters organized the drive to ensure new bedding was received.

Soldatke said her dream is that the Mideast conflict would come to an end and their services could shift to veterans here at home, but until that time comes she hopes they continue to have the resources to keep sending packages, cards and letters, and providing Burden Bears.

No service member, family member or veteran is forgotten. No project is too large. These ladies have an unending amount of energy, dedication and commitment to military members and their families. Their good works have improved the lives of many in service to our country and made that service a bit more bearable. Their efforts have touched so many, from a family needing groceries for a holiday meal to a child hugging a bear to help ease the separation from their parent to a veteran who needed that gift of hope – a hand up, not a hand out.

"We have received several awards at the state and local level, but the most rewarding is receiving letters and notes from the troops, it always tears me up. The Soldiers and their families are what drives us," said Monger.

"There are so many people that have made our mission possible, from the school children that write letters, to the five- and ten-dollar donations from citizens across the state. Our families who pitch in on most of our projects and continually support our mission in so many ways are so important; without their help we could not have continued this mission all these years. This award is for all South Dakota citizens who support our troops."

Save-A-Date
2010 Officer Symposium

We want you to consider becoming an Officer in the South Dakota Army National Guard.

For your convenience, we are holding two information symposiums, one in Rapid City and the other in Sioux Falls.

August 27: Rapid City - 1300 to 1600 hours
Officer Symposium at the Duke Corning Armory Theatre on Camp Rapid located at 2823 West Main Street, Rapid City, SD.

September 10: Sioux Falls - 1300 to 1600 hours
Officer Symposium at the RTI Theater, located at 803 West National Guard Drive, Sioux Falls, SD.

You won't want to miss this great opportunity to get information about the OCS Program, the ROTC Program and the Warrant Officer Programs.

For more information contact:

Cpt. Robin Flint
Redfield, SD
Cell: (605) 848-1568

1st Lt. David Larson
Sioux Falls, SD
Cell: (605) 848-0708

1st Lt. John Hilton
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Runners make "All Guard" Marathon Team

South Dakota National Guard Marathon team members ran in the 2010 Lincoln/National Guard Marathon. Pictured are (back row, left to right) Lt. Col. Timothy Moran, 2nd Lt. Joshua Lien, Sgt. 1st Class Michael Streff, Sgt. Dan Murtha, 1st Lt. Johann Stokes and CW3 Robert Steadman. Front row, left to right: Capt. Rebecca Hoffman, Sgt. 1st Class John Mallinger and 1st Lt. Maria Fritza.

Story by OC Chad Carlson
Public Affairs Office

Approximately 8,000 runners hit the street, May 2 in Lincoln, Neb., for the 33rd annual Lincoln/National Guard Marathon.

The National Guard had 260 runners representing 47 different states and territories in the annual qualifying event for the "All Guard" Marathon Team.

The S.D. Army National Guard sent two marathon teams, who placed 5th and 24th out of 38 teams and had five runners make the "All Guard" Team.

Missions of the "All Guard" Marathon Team include promoting the National Guard to enhance and increase its strength, instilling physical fitness, self-discipline, and esprit de corps among National Guard members from all fifty states and U.S. Territories.

"I learned two things from my experience;" said Sgt. Dan Murtha, the first-time marathon runner, "First - how difficult yet rewarding it was to run a marathon. Second - I was surprised to see how many people from the Guard were participating and shared many of the same experiences I have with running and fitness."

"Having the opportunity to participate in the Lincoln Marathon as a member of the South Dakota Marathon Team is something that gives me great pride," said 1st Lt. Maria Fritza. "Those that participate as members of a National Guard team represent some of the best Soldiers and Airmen in the Guard. It is an honor to be among some of the best runners in South Dakota, as well as the National Guard.

This year's National Guard Marathon included some course changes, most notably a new finish line. For the first time in race history the finish line was on the 50- yard line of the University of Nebraska Lincoln's Memorial Stadium with images of the runners showing on the stadium's big screen for the crowd to enjoy.

The 5th place team:

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Streff,
1st Bn, 196th Regiment - 2:47

CW3 Robert Steadman,
HHS 1st of 147th FA - 3:14

2nd Lt. Joshua Lien,
Det 1, 200th - 3:15

Lt. Col. Timothy Moran,
JFHQ - 3:40

Capt. Rebecca Hoffman,
1742nd Trans- 3:43

The 24th place team:

Sgt. Dan Murtha,
Btry C, 1st Bn 147th FA- 3:20

Sgt. 1st Class Corey Rabenberg,
Recruiting and Retention Bn - 3:41

1st Lt. Johann Stokes,
Btry C, 1st Bn 147th - 3:50

1st Lt. Maria Fritza,
Det 1, Co B 139th BSB 3:57

CW3 Robert Steadman, Capt. Rebecca Hoffman, 2nd Lt. Joshua Lien and Sgt. 1st Class Michael Streff will represent South Dakota on the highly prestigious "All Guard Marathon Team".

Sgt. 1st Class John Mallinger, RR Bn and CW2 Seth Mendel, Det 2 Co A 1/112th Avn, represented South Dakota in the half-marathon event.

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Theanne Tangen

ESGR BOSS LIFT

Taking employers on an adventure

Twenty-four employers flew from Sioux Falls to Fort Hood, Texas, May 19, on a "boss lift" to see first-hand the type of training their citizen-Soldier employees are going through before deploying to Afghanistan. Employers met with their employees, all members of the South Dakota Army National Guard, 196th MEB, toured their living quarters and observed and even took part in training.

Story by Staff Sgt. Theanne Tangen
Public Affairs Office

Employers of South Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers had the only ticket in town to participate in and observe their citizen-Soldier employees training before deploying for one year to support operations in Afghanistan.

The 24 employers took part in an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) boss lift May 19-20, taking them from Sioux Falls, S.D. to Fort Hood, Texas, to meet with Soldiers from the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade.

"The ESGR boss lift transports employers from their workplace to military training sites where they observe the type and quality of training their employees receive," said Capt. Lona Christensen, South Dakota ESGR executive director.

Employers began their day by boarding a KC-135 Stratotanker military aircraft. On the way to Fort Hood, they experienced a refueling mission and had the opportunity to watch the KC-135 boom operator transfer fuel in mid-air to a South Dakota Air National Guard F-16 Fighting Falcon multi-role fighter aircraft.

"I have just been in awe. I can't believe civilians get to do this," said Connie Tveidt, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor. "It's just been amazing," referring to observing the refueling mission.

Tveidt, who was able to meet with her employee, 1st Lt. Cody Byrum, said she couldn't wait to get home to spread the word about her military experience.

Tveidt and some of the other employers had the opportunity to assist in the 196th MEB urban operations training as Afghani civilians on the battlefield. They dressed in traditional Arabic garb, representing local population, to enhance the realism of their Soldiers' training.

Many of the employers said getting to see and participate in the training is better than hearing about it.

Employers had the opportunity to observe a Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer, or HEAT, that teaches troops how to survive a rollover in top-heavy, up-armored vehicles. They also tested their shooting skills with the Engagement Skills Trainer 2000, a military weapon simulator system. This system displays an electronic combat scenario similar to video games.

Employers ate at the dining facility with their citizen-Soldiers, viewed their sleeping quarters and donned some of the equipment the Soldiers wear in combat.

"This is an excellent way to get the employers and the Guard on the same page to better understand each other," said Tim Reiffenberger,

Photo by Staff Sgt. Theanne Tangen

Sgt. 1st Class Brandon Voss, 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, South Dakota Army National Guard helps his employer Gary Black, Ductz Indoor Air Professionals, Sioux Falls, S.D., don a ballistic vest, a clothing item designed to protect the Soldier from shrapnel and explosives.

who works at the Sioux Falls Veterans Affairs Hospital Laboratory.

The ESGR boss lift is an excellent way to show the importance that is placed on every employer and the support they provide to the military said Christensen.

"We appreciate all the sacrifices the employers make," said Christensen. "Employers are inextricably linked to our nation's defense by sharing their most precious asset, their employee."

Gary Black, owner of Ductz Indoor Air Professionals, Sioux Falls, said it is tough to lose one of his key employees like Sgt. 1st Class Brandon Voss, because he is one out of four employees in his workforce.

"Brandon is also my good friend; it's like losing my right arm," said Black. "It's going to be tough to replace somebody of his caliber, but we will work through it and his position will be waiting for him when he gets back."

As part of the boss lift, employers also signed a Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserve as a public proclamation of their support for their employees' military service.

"The boss lift is one of the best things we do at ESGR," said Don Kelpin, South Dakota ESGR state chairman. "It's a win-win situation for the Guardsmen, their employers and ESGR."

Kelpin added that the employers gain a greater appreciation for what the citizen-Soldier does, and service members are reassured knowing their employers are supporting them.

The ESGR program has a logo stating "We all serve," said Kelpin. "Whether it's the service member, family member, employer, or even fellow employees who have to pick up the extra hours at work to fill in for the citizen-Soldier at war. In reality we all serve."

The South Dakota National Guard is on Facebook! Come and join the SDNG's official social media and networking site, and receive the latest in news and information on issues that concern both its Army and Air National Guard members, their families, employers and retirees.

The SDNG's Facebook fan page has more than 2,500 fans and contains everything from press releases and photos to videos and messages. You'll also find links to other National Guard related Facebook pages and web sites.

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Warrant Officer and Lieutenant of the year

Courtesy photo

Brig. Gen. Timothy A. Reisch assistant adjutant general (left) awards CW3 Terry Beckler, 147th Army Band, with the Chief Warrant Officer Michael F. O'Conner Award, April 24, naming him South Dakota Army National Guard Warrant Officer of the Year.

Story by OC Chad Carlson
Public Affairs Office

Chief Warrant Officer Terry Beckler, 147th Army Band, was presented with the Chief Warrant Officer Michael F. O'Conner Award, April 24, naming him the South Dakota Army National Guard's Warrant Officer of the Year.

The Chief Warrant Officer Michael F. O'Conner Award was established to recognize the most outstanding Warrant Officer of the Year from the South Dakota Army National Guard. Selection is based on exceptional qualities of technical knowledge, leadership, dedication and initiative.

"I take it as an honor to be selected from among the outstanding Warrant Officers in South Dakota," said Beckler. "I hope that receipt of this award is at least somewhat due to the great work that my unit has done. I feel very fortunate to be associated with such a professional group and am very proud of their accomplishments."

"For the past year, I have had the privilege of working closely with Chief Warrant Officer Beckler," said Maj. Aaron Jordan, 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion commander. "Terry is a dynamic leader with attributes that far exceed the normal Warrant Officer. His expertise, maturity and common sense are unsurpassed by his peers. I attribute his uncanny abilities directly to his common sense approach to problem solving and his military and civilian experiences."

Other noteworthy achievements, awards or commendations, combat service, civilian work and family accomplishments are also considered when selecting the winner.

"I take it as an honor to be selected from among the outstanding Warrant Officers in South Dakota. I hope that receipt of this award is at least somewhat due to the great work that my unit has done. I feel very fortunate to be associated with such a professional group and am very proud of their accomplishments."
-Chief Warrant Officer Terry Beckler

Beckler's work in the music department at Northern State University in Aberdeen added to his list of accomplishments that have benefited the National Guard.

"Chief Beckler's civilian career as a college band director and his military career as commander of the 147th Army Band mesh very well," said Jordan. "His experiences in one area benefit the other in a very positive way. His PhD in Music is an outstanding example of a highly trained Warrant Officer. The research he accomplished to publish his dissertation, "A History of the 147th Army Band," provided new insights into the history of the unit. He is very active with numerous high school bands, which raise the visibility of the South Dakota Army National Guard within the state. In addition, he led a group of more than 350 high school musicians on a tour of Europe, where during the opening concert he conducted the band in his military Dress Blue uniform."

"Over the years I've tried to improve my skills with civilian education which seemed to work well because my civilian occupation and my Army position complement each other," Beckler said.

"Chief Beckler is an outstanding Warrant Officer. In my 25 years in the military, he has been one of the best Warrant Officers with whom I have served and he has earned this award," Jordan added.

Courtesy photo

Brig. Gen. Timothy Reisch, assistant adjutant general (left) awards 1st Lt. Duston Mullen, 196th Regional Training Institute, April 24, with the LTC John J. Steele Award, naming him South Dakota Army National Guard Lieutenant of the Year.

First Lieutenant Duston Mullen, 196th Regional Training Institute, was presented with the LTC John J. Steele Award, on April 24, naming him the South Dakota Army National Guard's 2010 Lieutenant of the Year.

The Lieutenant Colonel John J. Steele Award was established in 1968 to annually recognize the most outstanding lieutenant in the South Dakota National Guard. Selection is based on exceptional qualities of leadership, values, and performance.

First Lieutenant Mullen's performance this past year was outstanding, serving as the full-time officer-in-charge for 1st Battalion, Officer Candidate School, since May 2009 and as a senior TAC (Teach, Assess, Counsel) officer for the Officer Candidate School program on the traditional side since January 2010," said Maj. Orson Ward, administrative officer for the 196th Regiment in Sturgis.

"Lieutenant Mullen joined the regiment after serving a majority of the year as a traditional Soldier with the 139th Brigade Support Battalion (BSB) where he served as the battalion maintenance officer. The 139th BSB commander and the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade commander share our command's opinion of Duston as they nominated him for the Lieutenant Colonel John J. Steele Award in 2008 and 2009," said Ward.

"I look back at the names of the previous award winners and I see a lot of people that share the same attributes that I do," Mullen said. "I see leaders who work hard, are dedicated to our organization, exemplify the Army values and put the mission and the well-being of their Soldiers first. It's an honor to be included in this group." Mullen explained that an award like this isn't something you accomplish on your own. He said his wife, Cindy, and their children, Cassie, 19, Nicole, 15, Jordan, 13, and Christopher, 10, have allowed him to dedicate the time and energy he does to the South Dakota Army National Guard.

"My wife and children have each made their own sacrifices. They allow me to spend the time and energy necessary to make sure that I'm doing to best job that I can. They've been very supportive and I wouldn't be able to what I do without their sacrifice and support."

"You will not find a more dedicated and loyal officer in our organization than Duston Mullen," Ward said. "His inspirational work ethic and commitment to our organization was demonstrated over the past year by typically attending two, sometimes three, drill weekends a month to ensure the success of the regiment and the BSB.

"He is a behind the-scenes hero for our Army National Guard Officer Corps."

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AXTMAN, DAVID — 730TH ASMC
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MILES, ANTHONY — JFHQ
SYMONDS, MATTHEW — 1978TH CCT
TEMPLETON, LEEJAY — HQS 196TH RTI

CAPTAIN

FRYE, MICHAEL — 114TH FW
SCHNIEDER, PATRICK — 114TH MXS
SKOVLY, MARTIN — DET 2, CO A, 1/112TH

FIRST LIEUTENANT

AYLWARD, JUSTIN — 114TH MDG
BACKAS, SCOTT — 114TH MXS
BARNETT, TRAVIS — 114TH STUF
BIERLE, BILLI JO — 881ST TC
BYRUM, CODY — 740TH TRANS CO
ERPENBACH, MATTHEW — 114TH MDG
FRANKLIN, NICHOLE — 114TH FW
KEATING, ARIEL — 114TH AMXS
MILLER, MARVIN — DET 1, 1742ND TRANS CO
SIEMONSMA, BRIAN — 114TH MDG
TOBIN, ERIC — 82ND CST

SECOND LIEUTENANT

BRYANT, KEITH — 82ND CST

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER (1-5)

CW3 JOHNSON, MICHAEL — JFHQ
CW3 RODRIGUEZ, JOSE — DET 48, OSA CMD
CW2 HECKEL, ROBERT — DET 3, CO A, 641ST AV
CW2 HENRICKSON, CARRIE — 881ST TC
CW2 SAUDER, SCOTT — C 1/189TH AV
CW2 SCHAVE, JOHN — C 1/189TH AV
CW2 STEEN, JASON — C 1/189TH AV
CW2 SULLIVAN, BARRY — DET 2, CO A, 1/112TH
WO1 JORGENSEN, TRAVIS — 109TH RSG

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR/SERGEANT MAJOR (E-9)

SGM DEBLONK, JACK — 109TH RSG
SGM LAKNER, PHILLIP — JFHQ

CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT (E-9)

BOONE, TODD — 114TH MDG
LEE, BRUCE — 114TH OSF
UTHE, KEVIN — 114TH FW

FIRST SERGEANT (E-8)

MAHONEY, DOUGLAS — 730TH ASMC
SPAANS, TERRY — JFHQ

MASTER SERGEANT (E-8)

DEVRIES, GARY — HHC, 196TH MEB
MALLON, JASON — HHC, 153RD EN BN
MONTILEAUX, AUDREY — 109TH RSG
ROSENKRANZ, SCOTT — JFHQ
SLATER, JAY — 109TH RSG

SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT (E-8)

GACKE, JEANNE — 114TH SFS
GROSS, MICHAEL — 114TH LRS
HORNSTRA, ZONA — 114TH MDG
PARKE, BLAKE — 114TH AMXS

SERGEANT 1ST CLASS (E-7)

BROOKBANK, MICHAEL — 152ND CSSB
CARTER, MICHAEL — HQS 196TH RTI
LITZEN, JENNY — JFHQ
YOUNG, ROBERT — DET 2, 129TH MPAD

MASTER SERGEANT (E-7)

CARDA, TAMMY — 114TH LRS
CHESSER, BRYAN — 114TH MXS
DOWNS, ANDREW — 114TH MXS
EICKMAN, PAUL — 114TH MXS
JOHNSON, DANIEL — 114TH MXS
LAUCK, CYNTHIA — 114TH MDG
PUNT, ADAM — 114TH FW
SCHMIDT, JOHN — 114TH LRS
TOBIN, DANIEL — 114TH MXS
VANDRIESSEN, MICHAEL — 114TH FW
WEBER, WILLIAM — 114TH MSG

STAFF SERGEANT (E-6)

BLOOM, DONNA — JFHQ
HAGER, LINDA — JFHQ
KAUWALUSCHULTZ, CHRISTOPHER — 1742ND TRANS CO
KUHLMAN, ADAM — DET 1, 1742ND TRANS CO
RHOADS, ANGELA — JFHQ
SANTIAGO, STACEY — JFHQ
SIRVAS, CHRISTOPHER — DET 1, 740TH TRANS CO
TANGEN, THEANNE — DET 2, 129TH MPAD

TECHNICAL SERGEANT (E-6)

BENSON, COLLIN — 114TH MXS
DOTY, DAVID — 114TH MOF
GAPP, BARRETT — 114TH MXS
HILLBERG, DAVID — 114TH MXS
HUMMEL, MATTHEW — 114TH MXS
KWANDT, JESSICA — 114TH FSS
LARSON, JESSICA — 114TH FSS
LIMKE, ANDREW — 114TH AMXS
MADSEN, RYAN — 114TH MXS
PAVEL, JAMES — 114TH CES
POPHAM, DREW — 114TH OG
RICHARDSON, SCOTT — 114TH MXS
RIES, THOMAS — 114TH MXS
SISSON, JUSTIN — 114TH AMXS
SWIER, CHRISTOPHER — 114TH MXS
THESENVITZ, CHRISTOPHER — 114TH AMXS

SERGEANT (E-5)

BORNS, TYLER — 740TH TRANS CO
BREESCHOTEN, JOHN — DET 1, 740TH TRANS CO
COVEY, YORAIDYL — 1742ND TRANS CO
DELL, DILLON — C 1/189TH AV
EHNES, TYLER — DET 1, 740TH TRANS CO
HAIVALA, ERIK — 82ND CST
HANSEN, LEANN — 147TH ARMY BAND
ICENOGLE, CORY — 200TH ENGINEER CO
LAPOINTE, DEREK — 1742ND TRANS CO
LUDWIG REED — 1742ND TRANS CO
NELSON, STEVEN — 740TH TRANS CO
ROSS, DEIDRE — JFHQ
STATEMA, BENJAMIN — 147TH ARMY BAND
STOLTENBURG, MAXWELL — 441ST ENG BN (FF TEAM)
THASING, ABRAHAM — DET 1, 1742ND TRANS CO
THOME, STEPHANIE — 881ST TC
WARMBEIN, JERRY — DET 1, 1742ND TRANS CO

STAFF SERGEANT (E-5)

BANNWARTH, NICHOLAS — 114TH AMXS
BASSETT, TYLER — 114TH SFS
BEKAERT, AMBER — 114TH MDG
CARTER, MEGAN — 114TH MDG
CHRISTIANSEN, TYLER — 114TH MXS
GERLEMAN, JARED — 114TH SFS
GLIDEWELL, RYAN — 114TH CES
GOMEZ, NATHAN — 114TH AMXS
JONES, SARA — 114TH MDG
KREIN, JIMES — 114TH AMXS
LAWRENCE, BRENDA — 114TH MDG
LINDER, ELIZABETH — 114TH SFS
MCINNIS, MALLORI — 114TH FS
MEISENHOELDER, JOSHUA — 114TH AMXS
ORDAL, PATRICK — 114TH LRS
PALSMA, EVAN — 114TH CES
RAVENSCROFT, BRANT — 114TH FW
ROLLINGER, ROSS — 114TH MXS
SIREK, JOSEPH — 114TH AMXS
SORENSON, ALON — 114TH LRS
STAHL, MATTHEW — 114TH LRS
STANGA, ANDREW — 114TH LRS
WILLIAMS, CORY — 114TH MXS

AWARDS

LEGION OF MERIT

SGM AUKER, TAD
MSG BAILEY, JOHN
CSM BEKAERT, MICHAEL
SGM DEBAERE, BRYAN
SGM DEUTSCHER, JAY
SGM HALL, GEORGE
COL JACOBSON, SCOTT
LTC JAEGER, DENNIS — JFHQ
COL SANCHEZ, ANTHONY

PURPLE HEART

CPT ABRAHAM, HEATH — 211TH EN CO (SAPPER)
SPC CLEMENS, PATRICK — 211TH EN CO (SAPPER)
SPC DEBUHR, TRAVIS — 211TH EN CO (SAPPER)
SPC DUNBAR, CLINTON — 235TH MP CO
SPC FLEEK, JONATHAN — 211TH EN CO (SAPPER)
SPC HOUSTON, JUSTIN — 235TH MP CO
SGT IRVIN, TODD — 211TH EN CO (SAPPER)
SGT LEE, ROBERT — 211TH EN CO (SAPPER)
PFC NUSSBAUM, KEVIN — 211TH EN CO (SAPPER)
SGT PONCELET, MARK — 211TH EN CO (SAPPER)
SPC VISSIA, JACOB — 211TH EN CO (SAPPER)

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

MAJ AAKRE, ELMER — HSC 153RD EN BN
CMSGT ANDERSON, BRUCE — 114TH FW
MSGT AUSLAND, NANCY — 114TH FW
SFC BENSEN, BRIAN — JFHQ
CW4 BOUTCH, RONALD — DET 3, CO A, 641ST AV
SMSGT DELLMAN, MICHAEL — 114TH LRS
1SG DEYO, DIANN — JFHQ
CW5 DUBA, JERRY — JFHQ
MAJ GOSHORN, DOUG — 881ST TC
MSG HEIN, JAMES — TRNG SITE
CMSGT HILLBERG, DEAN — SDANG HQ
SMSGT HOFER, JEFFERY — 114TH AMXS
LTC JAEGER, DENNIS — JFHQ
MAJ JERZAK, PETER — 82ND CST
CPT JOHNSON, DONALD — JFHQ
MSG JONES, MICHAEL — 1/196TH RTI
LTCOL KNUTSON, ERIC — 114TH OPG
SSG LEFEBRE, DALE — JFHQ
LTCOL LIMKE, RUSSELL — 114TH OSF
SSG MALLINGER, ANTHONY — 2/196TH RTI
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MAJ MORIARTY, BRAD — MED CMD
MAJ MORTINSEN, ROY — MED CMD
CMSGT MUNGER, LANE — SDANG HQ
MAJ MURPHY, JONETTE — MED CMD
CW3 NORRIS SANDRA — JFHQ
COL OMMEN, TERRY — 196TH MEB
SMSGT PHELPS, DEBRA — 114TH LRS
COL SHANKS, WAYNE — 114TH MG
MSGT SHRIVER, VERONICA — 114TH CF
SFC THOMAS, MARK — JFHQ
MSGT TIMM, BARBARA — 114TH MXS
COL WALZ, RUSS — 114TH FW
MSGT WELCH, BRIAN — 114TH CES

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

CW2 ADEL, BRIAN — JFHQ
SFC ALBERS, JON — JFHQ
SSG BACHMAN, JAMIE — JFHQ
SSG BARRS, STEVE — 881ST TC
SFC BIRD, DARYL — JFHQ
SFC CARR, PATRICK — JFHQ
SFC CUSENBARY, NICHOLAS — JFHQ
CPT DEISS, ANTHONY — 196TH MEB
CPT DIRK, KATHLEEN — 129TH MPAD
CPT FLINT, ROBIN — JFHQ
SFC FORBES, THOMAS — JFHQ
SFC HAALAND, CHAD — JFHQ
MAJ HANSEN, WYATT — 196TH MEB
MSG HINKER, TIMOTHY — 82ND CST
MAJ JACOBSON, JOSEPH — JFHQ
SFC JUELFS, NATHAN — JFHQ
1LT LARSON, DAVID — JFHQ
MAJ LINQUIST, SCOTT — JFHQ
MSG MAHONEY, DOUGLAS — 109TH RSG
CW2 MOORE, TASHIE — JFHQ
SSG MORGAN, BRIAN — JFHQ
SFC MURTHA, DAVID — 881ST TC
MAJ NORRIS, COREY — JFHQ
LTC PETERSON, JAMES — TRNG SITE
CPT PORTER, JERAMIE — JFHQ
CW3 POTTER, COLIN — 935TH AV
SFC ROBERTS, CARL — JFHQ
SSG ROGERS, SEAN — JFHQ
SFC SERNA, GRANT — JFHQ
SFC SMITH, JODY — JFHQ
1SG SPAANS, TERRY — JFHQ
SFC TEDFORD, CAROLYN — JFHQ
SFC WEISS, DEAN — JFHQ
SFC WEYRICH, MICHAEL — 82ND CST
SFC WHEELER, KENNETH — 881ST TC

AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL

SRA GROFF, ADAM — 114TH CES
MSGT KUHNHERT, MICHAEL — 114TH LRS
MSGT MOLSTAD, MICHELE — 175TH FS
MSGT PUNT, ADAM — 114TH FW
MSGT SCHULTE, THOMAS — 114TH MDG
MSGT STAEFFLER, BRIAN — 114TH LRS

ARMY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

SSG BIERMAN, JACKIE — HHC, 152ND CSSB
SSG BROOMFIELD, KENNETH — JFHQ
SSG BRYANT, KEITH — 82ND CST
SSG BUCKLEY, JENNY — JFHQ
SSG CAMPBELL, TYLER — JFHQ
SFC CHAPMAN, PATRICK — JFHQ
PFC JACKSON, THEODORE — HHC, 152ND CSSB
SFC JOST, CASEY — JFHQ
SGT KELLER, PHILIP — JFHQ
SGT LAFORTUNE, BRENT — JFHQ
SFC MAESCHEN, ERIC — JFHQ
SFC MALLINGER, JOHN — JFHQ
SSG RICHARDT, CORY — JFHQ
SFC RICHTER, JARED — JFHQ
CW2 SCHAVE, JOHN — C 1/189TH AV
SSG SCHULDT, STACEY — JFHQ
SGT STERKEL, CORY — JFHQ
SPC WOLFE, KELLEY — 109TH RSG

AIR FORCE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

2LT BACKUS, SCOTT — 114TH MXS
LTCOL CHESTER, DARREN — SDANG HQ
SSGT DEBOER, LUKE — 114TH FW
MSGT FERGUSON, KEVIN — SDANG HQ
SSGT GRIEME, JONATHAN — 114TH FW
TSGT HOLDEN, TODD — 114TH FW
TSGT JOHNSON, DANIEL — 114TH MXS
2LT KEATING, ARIEL — 114TH AMXS
MSGT KNUTSON, KIMBERLY — 114TH FW
SSGT LINDER, ELIZABETH — 114TH MG
SSGT LOEN, KRISTY — 114TH FW
MSGT NELSON, ANTHONY — 114TH MG
MSGT VANDENHOECK, RICK — 114TH MG
SSGT WEELDREYER, CHAD — 114TH MXS

ARMY GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

SSG HENSTEIN, BJORN — JFHQ
SFC INGERSOLL, CHRISTOPHER — JFHQ
SGM KOCER, ROMAINE — JFHQ

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WO1 KELLEY, MICHELLE — C 1/189TH AV
PV2 LEADER, PRESTON — 730TH ASMC
SGT PARADEIS, THOMAS — 1742ND TRANS CO
SGT ROBINSON, RYAN — 1742ND TRANS CO

BASIC AVIATION BADGE

PFC ALLARD, DANIEL
SSG COX, CHRISTOPHER

SNAPSHOTS

A look at South Dakota's citizen Soldiers and Airmen on the go...

Photo by Staff Sgt. Theanne Tangen

Sioux Falls, S.D. - A South Dakota Air National Guard pilot flies his F-16 Fighting Falcon multirole fighter aircraft under a Nebraska Air National Guard, KC-135 Stratotanker to receive fuel during a refueling mission as part of an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Boss Lift May, 19-20.

The Dakota Pack would like to share your photos from the flight line or field. Please e-mail high resolution photos for consideration, along with photo descriptions, to include names, dates, location and a brief explanation of the event to theanne.tangen@us.army.mil.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Sara Bierman

MILBANK, S.D. - Pfc. Matt Wellnitz (left) and Spc. Steve Spores, members of the 740th Transportation Company, load discounted items onto a flat-bed trailer during the annual City-Wide Clean-Up, May 1.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Theanne Tangen

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. - Staff Sgt. Carl Lere holds his five-day-old daughter, Summer, as his wife Sara, looks on at the activation ceremony for South Dakota Army National Guard's 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, May 8, at the Elmen Center, Augustana College campus in Sioux Falls. The 196th deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom to operate as an area support group command for the Kabul Base Cluster and will provide guidance, policy and oversight for 11 military bases operating throughout the capital region.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Theanne Tangen

ABERDEEN, S.D. - Soldiers of the 139th Brigade Support Battalion, Detachment 2, Company A, and the 740th Transportation Company, South Dakota Army National Guard, place sandbags to prevent water from damaging a transformer in order to keep the power on for a home, March 25.

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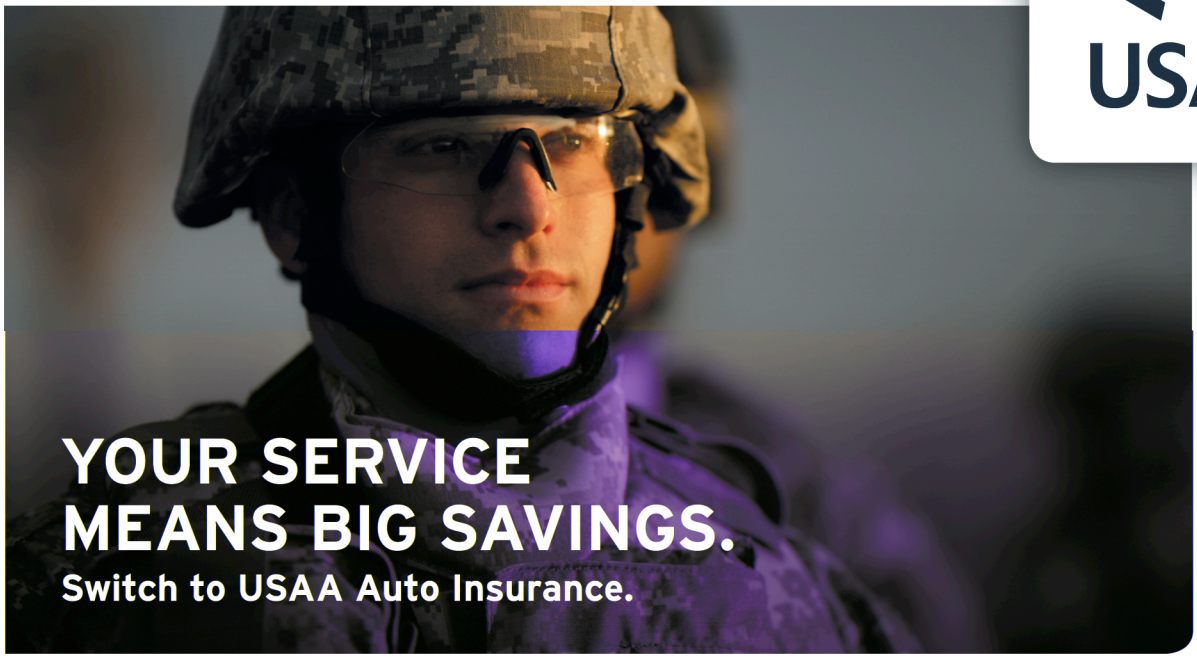

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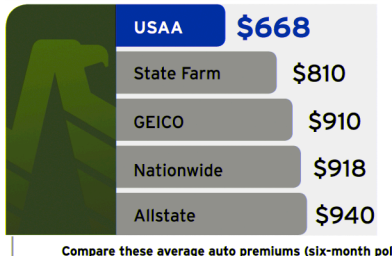

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