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# DAKOTA PACK

MAGAZINE OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD • SPRING 2009

## Pride of the Dakotas

South Dakota artillery continues lineage of service

147



« ACCOMPLISHMENTS

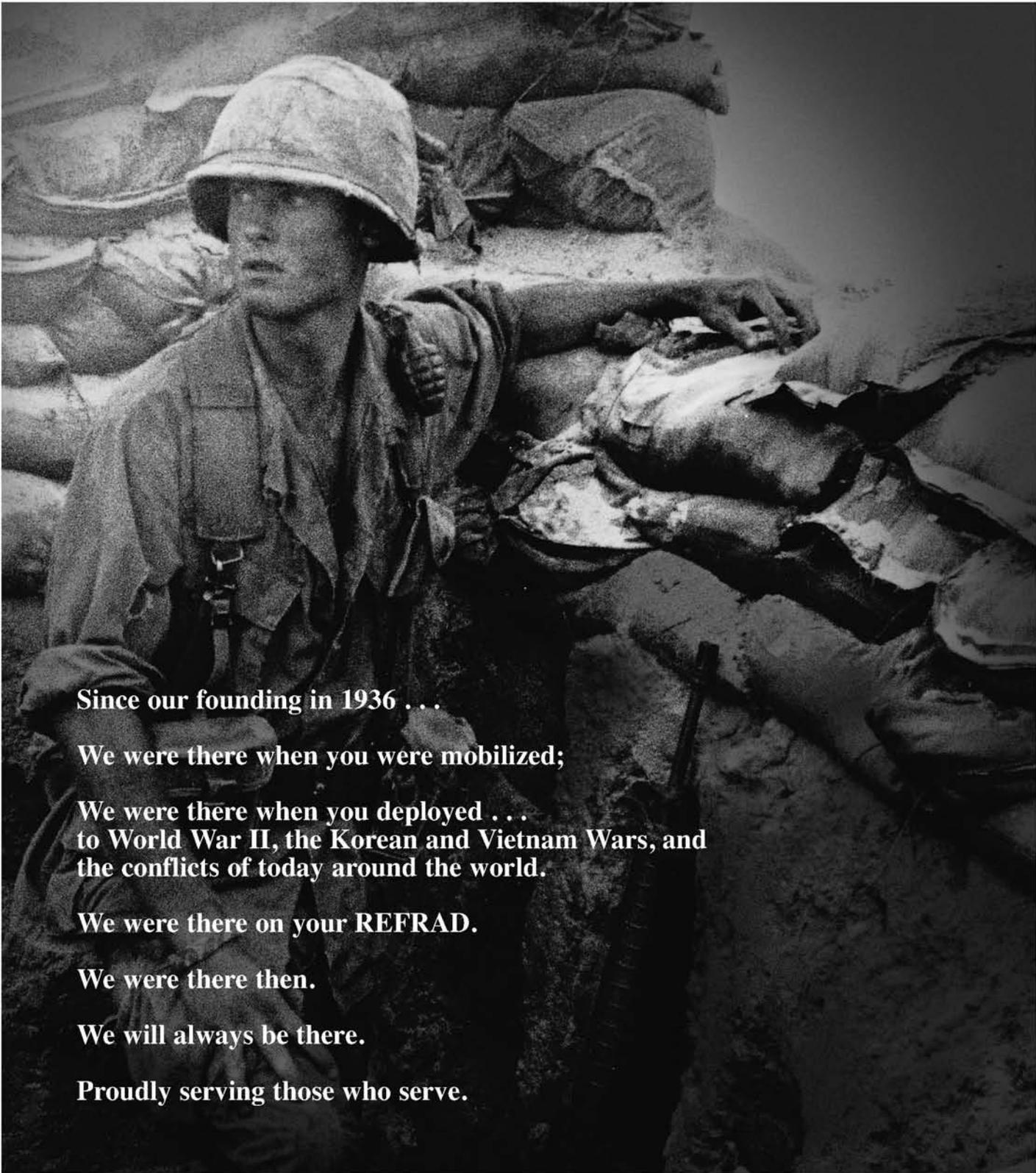
**SD Biathlon Team makes history**

« DEPLOYMENTS

**Airmen keep homesickness at bay**

« IN MEMORIAL

**WWII Guard veteran's remains laid to rest after 32 years**



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**Submissions:** Print and photo submissions of general interest to members of the SDNG, their families, civilian employees, veterans and retirees are invited and encouraged. Please send article and photos with name, phone number, e-mail, complete mailing address and comments to: [anthony.deiss@us.army.mil](mailto:anthony.deiss@us.army.mil), 605.737.6978. Submissions are subject to editing. Electronic submissions are preferred and digital photos should be at least 300 dpi.

# DAKOTA PACK

Magazine of the South Dakota Army and Air National Guard



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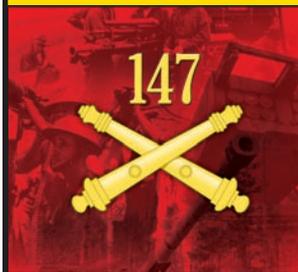
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### On the cover

Photo collage of various South Dakota Army National Guard field artillery units and equipment throughout the last 100 years.

## THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

The military culture of the South Dakota Army and Air National Guard has changed dramatically over the last few years. We have changed from a strategic reserve, where we were used very sparingly, to an operational force that is being used on a reoccurring basis.

We can argue the merits of this change in policy as to whether it is good or bad for our organization, but one thing seems clear, and that is the National Guard will continue to play a major role in the defense of our country. Because of this increased reliance on the Guard, we as a military organization must be open to new ways of doing business to accommodate these changes.

One area that is affected very dramatically is our level of readiness training. Soldiers and Airmen must remain at a higher state of

readiness than in the past. This will necessitate better utilization of the time for training on both the supervisors and the military member. We will all have to look for areas we can gain new efficiencies in our training programs.

With all of these changes, there is one thing that will never change in the National Guard, and that is the great people our organization is able to attract.

We are so fortunate to have the quality individuals we have and there is no doubt in my mind that we will be able to successfully adapt to any changes that come down the road.



Maj. Gen. Steven Doohen

## ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL-ARMY

I am retiring May 2, 2009. There, I said it, however, it still doesn't make it any easier to leave a great organization and the fantastic group of professionals who have made this organization what it is today. While retirement isn't a word I like to use, I also know for any organization to grow, it must change. An important part of change is new ideas and a new culture which is created by new leadership. The culture will not change over time but must continue to morph for us to remain viable for future missions.

When I joined the South Dakota National Guard after leaving active duty, it certainly wasn't the Guard we belong to today, but was much simpler and more relaxed. Our biggest worry was if another Rapid City Flood would occur or if we would be called out for snow removal - missions we are still prepared to exercise when called by our Governor. Our focus today is one of preparedness for the Global War on Terrorism. When we transformed from a strategic force to an operational force, we lost a simpler life, but the world we live in today isn't simple.

I think about the quality of Soldiers and leaders in our organization today. Not wanting to take anything away from the individuals who made this organization great, but today's warrior is as complex as the world he or she must fight. The new GI-Bill and G-RAP have encouraged individuals to look closer at our Guard. Lt. Gen. Clyde Vaughn, chief of the

Army National Guard recently stated that 84,000 warriors have joined our National Guard - thanks to the G-RAP program.

I want to thank all of you for not only making the South Dakota National Guard the best organization in the nation, but for your friendship. The hardest part about leaving is missing all the great friends I have made in the Air and Army National Guard.

In closing, I would like to recognize individuals and units for their outstanding leadership and accepting the challenge to keep our organization the premier operational force in the world.

Lt. Col. Andy Gerlach and the 152nd CSSB for attaining an Estimated Time of Separation (ETS) extension rate of 89.66 percent, and Lt. Col. Tony Verchio and the 139th BSB for an overall attrition rate of 12.03 percent.

Congratulations to Capt. Kerry Engelmann and Co. A, 139th BSB for winning the G-RAP check in the 196th MEB. Congratulations to Lt. Col. Andy Gerlach (CSSB HQ) and CW3 Beckler (147th Army Band) for winning the G-RAP for the 109th RSG.

God bless every one of you for your service to our nation - where tonight I can go to bed in the land of the free thanks to you...the brave!



Brig. Gen. Keith Corbett

## SDARNG MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS

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In order to meet the increasing demand for military funeral honors, the Honor Guard wants you to join our team! We currently have teams in Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Mitchell, and Miller with plans to expand into more communities.

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- Soldier must be in compliance with AR 600-9 The Army Weight Control Program.

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- Receive dress blues upon completion of required training.
- The personal satisfaction of honoring those who served.

If you would like more information and become a member call: (605)737-6927/6933

## ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL-AIR

Sioux Falls Airshow, Inc. and the South Dakota Air National Guard will be hosting a free airshow/open house on July 25-26, 2009 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

The airshow will feature a variety of civilian and military acts culminating with the Blue Angels-U.S. Navy's Demonstration Squadron.

In addition to the air show, the planned open house will feature many static displays of civilian and military aircraft, old and new. Additionally, a free children's area will be available featuring inflatable activities. Food vendors will be available on site. Bus transportation will be available from off-site parking areas at a nominal fee.

For additional and ongoing information visit [www.siouxfallsairshow.com](http://www.siouxfallsairshow.com).

### THE BLUE ANGELS

The Blue Angels fly the Boeing F/A-18 Hornet at speeds between 120 and 700 mph at altitudes ranging from 50 to 15,000 feet. The 'Sneak Pass' involves both the lowest altitude (50 feet) and highest speed (700 mph). The name 'Blue Angels' originated from a famous New York nightclub.

### US ARMY PARACHUTE TEAM-THE GOLDEN KNIGHTS

In 1959, 13 men joined together to form the Strategic Army Corps sport parachute team, to compete in the, then communist dominated, sport of skydiving. The team did so well that on June 1, 1961, the Army officially recognized, designated and activated the team as the U.S. Army Parachute Team. The team is currently composed of two teams known as the Black and Gold Demonstration Teams.

### JOHN KLATT AIRSHOWS

John Klatt Airshows brings world-class aerobatics to air shows across America. The Air National Guard has teamed with Klatt to bring a truly unique experience. There are no other venues like Klatt flying air shows today. On weekends, he flies air shows; during the week, he's a professional pilot for a major national carrier. His third flying job is as Maj. John Klatt in the cockpit of an Air National Guard F-16.

### MANFRED RADIUS AIRSHOWS

It's the ultimate in glider aerobatics. With a variety of acts, the 'Ultimate' demonstrates the capabilities of the fully-aerobatic sailplane to the fullest. This unique

act contains samples of all aerobatic maneuvers performed with a glider to include outside loops, snap rolls, tail slides, rolling turn, vertical 8, and inverted spin.



Brig. Gen. David Holman

### MICHAEL WISKUS AIRSHOWS

Michael Wiskus Airshows features the Lucas Oil Pitts (Pitts SI-11b SS Modified) with a 310 hp power plant performing at 195 mph with a 4,000 fpm climb.

### SIERRA HOTEL AIR SHOWS

Sierra Hotel Air Shows features Steve Falon and the Pitts Special (SISO). During the air show routine, the airplane will meet its design limits of plus 6gs and negative 3gs. While maneuvering, the aircraft speeds will vary from almost 200 mph to zero.

### THE VANGUARD SQUADRON

The Vanguard Squadron flies a dazzling four-ship formation aerobatic air show with the RV-3A aircraft using 100 percent ethanol. The Squadron has been flying together since 1993.

### COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE (CAF) MISS MITCHELL B-25

This is a World War II aircraft flown by the WWII hero Jimmy Doolittle and his Raiders and made famous by the movie "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo."

### P-51 GUNFIGHTER

The P-51 was designed by the North American Aviation Company in 1940 from specifications provided by the British government. More than 15,000 Mustangs were produced with about 140 existing today in museums, flying or under restoration. During WWII combat conditions, pilots confirmed speeds of 600 mph in a vertical dive in pursuit of enemy aircraft with both pilot and aircraft surviving to fly and fight another day. The P-51 originally cost the U.S. government \$51,000 each and were sold at surplus auction, as late as 1959, for \$1,490. Today, depending upon condition, it would be valued in excess of \$1,000,000.

### THE SOUTH DAKOTA AIR NATIONAL GUARD F-16

The Fighting Falcon has been flown by the men and women of the 114th Fighter Wing since 1991. The F-16 is a compact, multi-role fighter used in both air-to-air combat and air-to-surface attacks.

Miss Mitchell B-25 Bomber

SIoux FALLS AIR SHOW

Power on the Prairie

July 25th & 26th, 2009  
9:00 am - 5:00 pm each day

Save the date...  
that's just a few of the  
great acts at the show!

F-18 Super Hornet

Presenting the BLUE ANGELS

CAF P-51 Fighter

The poster is a vertical collage of aviation-related images. At the top, a B-25 bomber is shown in flight with the text 'Miss Mitchell B-25 Bomber' written in a stylized font. Below this, the words 'SIoux FALLS AIR SHOW' are prominently displayed in large, bold letters. Underneath the title, the slogan 'Power on the Prairie' is written in a cursive font. The dates and times of the event, 'July 25th & 26th, 2009' and '9:00 am - 5:00 pm each day', are listed. A call to action, 'Save the date... that's just a few of the great acts at the show!', is placed below. The lower half of the poster features several aircraft: an F-18 Super Hornet in flight, a formation of Blue Angels F-16s, and a P-51 Mustang. At the bottom, a group of people is shown holding an American flag and a South Dakota state flag. The text 'CAF P-51 Fighter' is written in a stylized font at the bottom left.

## Embedded Training Team returns from Afghanistan

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Ten Soldiers from the South Dakota Army National Guard’s Embedded Training Team ‘Coyote One’ arrived home at four separate South Dakota armories on Saturday, Jan. 3, after spending a year-long deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Three additional Soldiers from the team arrived home later in January and one team member has volunteered to extend his tour for three months, and is expected home in April.

The team deployed in January 2008 with the assigned mission to provide training and mentorship to the Afghanistan National Army and Police and was stationed at various locations throughout the country.

**South Dakota Embedded Training Team ‘Coyote One’ accomplishments:**

- Conducted more than 500 combat patrols, traveling more than 50,000 miles throughout Afghanistan.
- Provided artillery fire-direction control

support for the first indirect fire mission conducted by the 4th Kandak, Afghan National Army.

- Mentored the 1st and 4th Kandak, Afghan National Army, through a professional validation program.
- Trained a commando unit of the Afghan National Army’s 209th Corps, and conducted the first three air-assault missions in the history of the Afghan National Army.
- Designed and managed the construction of one Afghan National Army and three Afghan National Police forward operating bases.
- Managed logistics for the Afghan National Police School, successfully graduating more than 400 Afghan National Police patrolmen.
- Mentored two Afghan National Police districts through a professional validation program.

## Guard Soldier returns home from Iraq

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Specialist Adam Palmiotto, a member of Detachment 2, 235th Military Police Company in Sioux Falls, returned home on Sunday, Jan. 11, after spending more than nine months in

Iraq with the 191st Military Police Company from North Dakota in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Spc. Palmiotto served in multiple quick reaction force and security missions while deployed and earned the Combat Action Badge for his service.

## Hoffman returns from deployment

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Captain Becky Hoffman, Sioux Falls, arrived home on Thursday, Feb. 19, at the Sioux Falls Airport after serving more than nine months in Southwest Asia in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

Hoffman deployed as a member of South Dakota National Guard’s 88th Troop Command, and mobilized with a logistics team on June 18, 2008, with a primary mission of managing Soldier equipment distribution for U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM).

Hoffman served as an operations officer to the Army’s Rapid Fielding Initiative for overseas operations in the USCENTCOM area of responsibility.

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## Bierle takes command of the 216th Engineer Det.

STURGIS, S.D. – Second Lieutenant Billi Jo Bierle, Sturgis, took command of the 216th Engineer Detachment (Fire-Fighting Team), South Dakota Army National Guard, during a change of command ceremony held on Saturday, Dec. 6, at the local armory.

“It’s really exciting and a great opportunity to take care of Soldiers,” said Bierle. “I’m looking forward to this new challenge.”

Bierle will also provide command oversight of the 451st Engineer Detachment (Fire-Fighting Team, Fire Truck) in Sturgis. The two units are comprised of 11 Soldiers and provide fire-fighting capabilities in a military theater of operations and to state emergency management agencies during wildland-fire emergencies.

Bierle is taking command from 1st Lt. Carol Jordan, of Sundance, Wyo., who will now serve as the assistant training officer for the 881st Troop Command in Sturgis.

## Thomson assumes command of HSC, 153rd

By Roger Larsen

HURON, S.D. – Capt. Jason Thomson of Huron has his sights set on continuing a tradition of quality training as he takes command of the South Dakota Army National Guard’s Headquarters Support Company, 153rd Engineer Battalion.

“It’s been awhile since we’ve been deployed and the biggest thing is to make sure that we’re ready,” Thompson said in an interview after a Saturday morning company change of command ceremony at the armory in Huron.

“We just got through the transformation and now it’s just holding people accountable for their jobs and making sure that they’re ready to take their Soldiers back if we get another call-up,” said Thomson.

Capt. Thomas Paulsen, of Wakonda, was company commander for about the last 18 months.

“It’s time for me to move on and try something new, try some new challenges in the South Dakota Guard,” Paulsen told the Soldiers.

Thanking the troops and staff, he said the National Guard is a team effort, and a result of that was the company had a perfect safety record under his watch.

“It really does take everyone to make sure the company is successful,” said Paulsen. “It really is one team.”

He encouraged the men and women to continue training hard.

“You never know when the call is going to come,” said Paulsen. “As it comes, we need to be prepared for that.”

Thomson, a Madison native, was educated at South Dakota State University and received his commission in 2002. He has been a member of HSC, 153rd Engineer Battalion, since he joined the National Guard in 1996.

He deployed to Iraq with Parkston-Platte’s Company C in 2004. The Soldiers came home in February 2005.

Thomson is the full-time battalion administrative officer based in Huron.

The engineer battalion recently finished a transformation from a 400-Soldier battalion to an 800-Soldier battalion in charge of all aspects of engineering. The change meant an increase in battalion strength and more variety in engineer assets.

After assuming command of the company, Thomson told the Soldiers that they are very important to him.

“I just want you guys to know I’m up to the challenge and I’m looking forward to working with each and every one of you,” he said.

Paulsen said his time as company commander was enjoyable and challenging.

“It was very much a learning experience for me, and I cannot think of a better company to command than HSC, 153rd here in Huron, South Dakota,” he said.

## SMP cadets commissioned

BROOKINGS, S.D. – South Dakota State University continues to uphold a high standard in commissioning high-quality officers into the Army National Guard.

SDSU commissioned six new lieutenants in December and out of those, four were Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP) cadets, three of which will remain in the South Dakota National Guard.

The four individuals were 2nd Lt. Michael Opbroek and 2nd Lt. Tyler Gerlach of the 139th Brigade Support Battalion, and 2nd Lt. Benjamin Hoffman and 2nd Lt. Brandon Frerichs of 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery.

Col. Michael Herman, SDSU professor of Military Science, said during the ceremony

of the vast amount of experience and knowledge brought to the “West Point of the Plains Battalion” was by those in the National Guard.

SDSU cadets in the National Guard build their leadership skills within their units as well. SMP cadets are usually placed in positions of added responsibility such as platoon leader assistants. Often times, they fill key leadership roles during their annual training.

One SMP, Cadet Tanner Christensen, has been activated twice in the last year; once to New Orleans in support of Hurricane Gustav and again for the Presidential Inauguration Ceremony.

“I am fortunate and always take advantage of extra opportunities that develop me as a leader,” said Christensen.

“The SMP cadets bring a lot of great character and experience to the cadet battalions,” said 2nd Lt. Steven Richards, SDSU cadre member. “Their prior service, deployments, and life experiences give them knowledge they willingly share with younger and less experienced cadets who just came straight out of the civilian world.”

  
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# Soldier and NCO of the Year selected

By Roger C. Anderson  
Information Officer

RAPID CITY, S.D. – The South Dakota Army National Guard named Sgt. Leroy Lockwood Jr., Rapid City, as the Soldier of the Year and Sgt. Jackson Moeller, Ames, Iowa, as the Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. Each award is the top honor for both the enlisted and noncommissioned officer corps within the state's Army National Guard.

"These two individuals simply astounded the review board," said State Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Bekaert. "Every year, I am amazed at the quality of Soldiers within our organization."

Experience and confidence were the characteristics that separated these two from the other top competitors, said Bekaert.

"I am very proud of the NCOs and Soldiers that made it to the state boards," said Bekaert, acting president of the state



**Sgt. Leroy Lockwood Jr.**  
**Soldier of the Year**

major command level boards. The final state board was conducted on Jan. 26, at the Regional Training Institute in Sioux Falls. The five Soldiers that competed for the top award represented the best out of the more than 3,300 Soldiers within the South Dakota Army National Guard.

Sgt. Lockwood and Moeller will now go on to the 2009 Northwest Regional Competition, where they will compete

board selection committee. "To make it this far is quite an accomplishment."

Bekaert said that the competitors had already made it through three levels of competition beginning at the company, to battalion and the



**Sgt. Jackson Moeller**  
**NCO of the Year**

regional competition scheduled for May 14-17, at Fort Lewis, Wash.

Competitors for the regional competition will have to be prepared to demonstrate their proficiency in 27 separate military tasks. Tasks range from military counseling and supply economy to day and night land navigation. Competitors will also be required to take the Army Physical Fitness Test, perform first-aid, qualify on the M16A2 rifle, and write an essay on a military topic provided on the first day of the competition.

"Most Soldiers do not understand how demanding this five-day competition can be,"

**"These two individuals simply astounded the review board. Every year, I am amazed at the quality of Soldiers within our organization."**

**— State Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Bekaert**

said Bekaert. "They still have a lot of hard work ahead of them."

Winners of this next event will move on to the U.S. Army Forces Command NCO and Soldier of the Year Competition scheduled in August at Fort Benning, Ga.

Those competing at the state competition also included Spc. Ethan Grover, 155th Engineer Company, Rapid City; Sgt. Brian Morgan, Joint Force Headquarters, Rapid City; Sgt. Paul Ebsen, 211th Engineer Company (Sapper), Madison; and Sgt. Lee Lohft, 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute), Sturgis.

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UNITED CONCORDIA

# Unclaimed WWII Veteran's remains laid to rest after 32 years

By Maj. Brendan Murphy  
State Public Affairs Officer

STURGIS, S.D. – For 32 years, the unclaimed ashes of a South Dakota veteran rested peacefully on the shelf of an Aberdeen funeral home – waiting for a dignified burial.

On Monday, Feb. 9, the cremated remains of that long-time Aberdeen resident and World War II veteran, Leonard L. Sloan, were interred with full military honors at the Black Hills National Cemetery near Sturgis.

“This is a great honor to lay him to rest in a national shrine,” said Sara Elton, director of the Black Hills National Cemetery.

The discovery was made after a determined search headed by John Moisan, special projects coordinator for Gov. Mike Rounds. Moisan, who had watched a “Missing in America Project” video presentation, put out a statewide inquiry to search for unclaimed, cremated remains of South Dakota veterans.

One such query reached Shriver’s Memorial Mortuary and Crematory in Aberdeen, revealing that Sloan’s unclaimed remains had been tucked away for more than three decades.

“I really feel good about our effort to finally provide these veterans with an honorable burial,” said Moisan. “Yet at the same time, I’m sad that it has taken all these years to put them to rest.”

In Aberdeen, an archived obituary shows that Sloan was born in Ipswich, in 1910 and worked many years as a pressman for the Aberdeen American News Co. His wife, Margaret, also worked at the newspaper.

An 18-year-old Sloan enlisted in the National Guard at Aberdeen on Jan. 24, 1928, as a member of Battery A, 147th Field Artillery. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1939 and served on active duty from November 1940 to January 1946 in the Pacific campaign.

Dell Griffin, former American News editor, said the pressroom had a tight-knit group of



Major Brendan Murphy of the South Dakota National Guard, pays his respects to the remains of Lt. Col. Leonard L. Sloan who was laid to rest on Monday, Feb. 9, at the Black Hills National Cemetery, as cemetery staff bury the WWII veteran. (Army photo by Capt. Anthony Deiss)



Sergeant 1st Class Eric Christopherson of the South Dakota National Guard's Military Funeral Honors Team renders a salute to the remains of Lt. Col. Leonard L. Sloan on Monday, Feb. 9, at the Black Hills National Cemetery. Sloan, a member of Battery A, 147th Field Artillery, South Dakota Army National Guard, who died in 1977, was finally buried 32 years after his death. His remains were discovered after a statewide inquiry to search for unclaimed, cremated remains of South Dakota veterans.

(Army photo by Capt. Anthony Deiss)

veterans who served together in WWII with Battery A.

“I’m sure they could tell you a lot more about Lenny,” said Griffin. “But quite honestly, I’m shocked to find out that he has not been laid to rest after all these years.”

While in combat, Sloan moved through the ranks and became a major in 1944. He went on to serve as commander of Battery A and was the commander of the 260th Field Artillery Battalion for about a month before the unit was disbanded at the end of the war. Sloan resigned from the National Guard in December 1947, entered the Army Reserve and was promoted to lieutenant colonel.

“I was really humbled when we found proof that Lt. Col. Sloan was a member of our very own South Dakota Guard family,” said Bob Sack, military and funeral honors coordinator for state’s Army National Guard. “His service to our country should be honored.”

Sloan retired from his civilian job in 1972 and died on July 17, 1977.

According to funeral documents, Sloan was married to Margaret Birch in 1945 and had one son, Lansing, who was listed at the time as living in Livermore, Calif., and one daughter, Elizabeth, who lived then in New Brighton, Minn. Also listed at the time of his death was a sister, Helen, who married Wes Jeffrey of Ipswich, and three surviving brothers, John of Hot Springs, William of Aberdeen, and Merl of Torrance, Calif.

# CES deploys to maintain base facilities in Southwest Asia

By Staff Sgt. Miranda Skiles  
114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

SIoux FALLS, S.D. – Overseas deployments seem to be getting longer and more frequent for South Dakota Air National Guard members. The latest group of Airmen to take their turn in the line of duty hails from the 114th Civil Engineer Squadron (CES).

The 114th CES PRIME BEEF (Base Engineer Emergency Force) team recently deployed 52 Airmen to Southwest Asia to work on numerous projects to support combat airpower in the Global War on Terror.

The deployment took place in five phases with the first and largest group leaving shortly after Christmas and the rest at the beginning of January. Those deployed will be overseas approximately six months.

Of those Airmen, four are full-time technicians. The other 48 are traditional Guard members, and includes six college students.

At home and abroad, CES performs several functions to maintain critical facilities. Examples include: plumbing, carpentry, power production, electrical work, emergency management, supply, engineering and project management, liquid fuels, heavy equipment operations and heating/ventilation/air conditioning (HVAC). It will also continue to support on-going joint planning with other U.S. and host nation services.

Almost half of the members are deploying for their second time to Southwest Asia, but for Master Sgt. Tonja Jorenby, the trip marks her third long deployment overseas. She says deployments are a chance to really do the job she's trained to do...to make the base better for everyone it serves.

At the mobilization ceremony at Joe Foss Field on Dec. 6, Col. Russ Walz said the 114th's training has prepared it to be "the best squadron in the best Air Force in the world." Jorenby agrees saying the 114th CES is a good crew and will do a fine job on this deployment.

In 2004, the SDANG Engineers and Emergency Management Flight were chosen as 'Most Outstanding' within the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve.



Master Sgt. Tonja Jorenby is congratulated on her choice to deploy by Lt. Col. Alvin Punt, 114th Civil Engineer Squadron commander. Jorenby will be making her third trip to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Master Sgt. Daniel McNeil and Master Sgt. Patrick Ellingson stand during the roll call for the 114th Civil Engineer Squadron on Dec. 6, 2008, during the unit's mobilization ceremony held at Joe Foss Field in Sioux Falls.

# SFS conducts annual training at Volk Field

By Capt. Joe Hardin

Photos by Lt. Col. Reid Christopherson

114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

VOLK FIELD, Wis. - The 114th Security Forces Squadron (SFS) sent 47 members to Volk Field, Wis., for annual training January 3-17.

SFS was joined by Capt. Kevin Miller, Ready Augmentee commander, who participated alongside its members in all scenarios. In addition, eight members of the Services Flight and one motivated Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Harrison Lippert also made the trek. The training focus for Security Forces was on weapons training, SFS common job skills and many other tasks specific to the SFS mission.

"The emphasis of our annual training was on the law enforcement functions of security forces," said Capt. Joe Hardin, squadron commander. "That was one of the major roles that we assumed on our last overseas deployment. Another important part of the training dealt with responding, securing and managing major accidents and incidents. Very important training as we head into two significant events, the Sioux Falls Air Show and the Unit Compliance Inspection."

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**"The emphasis of our annual training was on the law enforcement functions of security forces. That was one of the major roles that we assumed on our last overseas deployment."**

**— Capt. Joe Hardin  
squadron commander**

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SFS utilized some of the latest technology-based virtual trainers provided by the Wisconsin National Guard's Combat Readiness Training Center. The Warrior Skills Trainer provided scenarios on a giant video screen, troops patrolled in a humvee with a mounted .50-caliber machine gun, combat convoy operations as well as fire team training. The Engagement Skills Trainer provided valuable tactical shoot-don't-shoot training with multiple weapon systems while working as a squad-fire team.

The Wisconsin Counterdrug program's newly constructed High Risk Entry Facility provided the location for SFS members to put it all together for an outstanding operational finish.

The Services Flight, led by Senior Master Sgt. Scott Schaeffer, took over the kitchen at Volk Field and provided 946 meals to the Airmen. Its valuable training in meal planning and execution was concluded with a steak fry at the Volk Field Club.



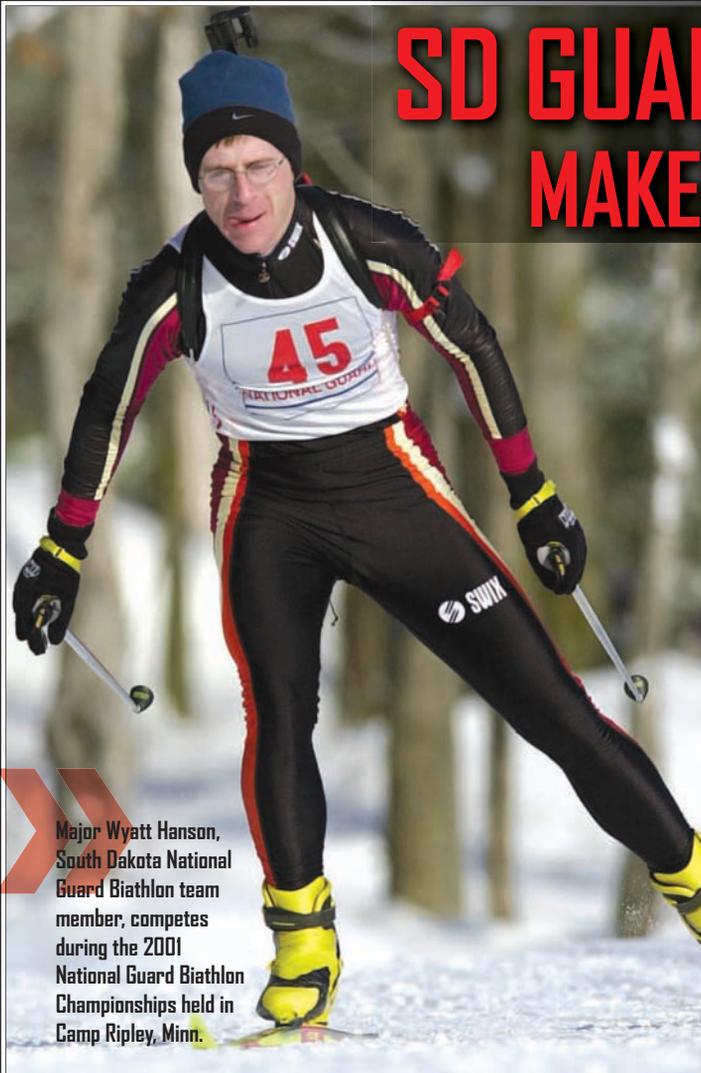
Senior Airman Kelsi Larsen serves Tech. Sgt. Patrick Marino breakfast at the Volk Field dining facility during annual training in January.



Members of the 114th Security Forces Squadron bundled up to qualify on the M-4. Tech. Sgt. Gretchen Hansen and Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Wajer oversee the range and the weapons qualification activities.

# SD GUARD BIATHLON TEAM MAKES HISTORY

By Maj. Brendan Murphy  
State Public Affairs Officer



Major Wyatt Hanson, South Dakota National Guard Biathlon team member, competes during the 2001 National Guard Biathlon Championships held in Camp Ripley, Minn.

RAPID CITY, S.D. – The South Dakota National Guard’s Biathlon team captured second place out of 13 states that participated in the 2009 National Guard Biathlon Regional Competition held Jan. 28-31, at Camp Ripley, Minn.

The nine-member team is the largest in history and consists of Maj. Wyatt Hansen, Maj. Jonette Murphy, Maj. Brendan Murphy, 1st Lt. Zach Hague, Chief Warrant Officer Andrew Busse, Spc. Alex Baldwin, Pvt. Tyler Weyrich, Pvt. Mike Scharn, and coach Sgt. 1st Class Mark Scharn.

This year’s strong showing in Minnesota marked a great improvement over last year’s standings.

“We have a lot of young talent on the team and they have the willingness and drive to succeed,” said Hansen. “This team is the largest the South Dakota Biathlon Program has ever seen and it is exciting to see such high quality and physically capable individuals.”

The biathlon competition consists of a race around a groomed cross-country skiing trail, where the total distance is broken up by two or four shooting rounds – half in the prone position, the other standing. Depending on the shooting performance, extra distance or time is added to the competitor’s total distance and time. The competitor with the fastest total time wins.

The biathlon program in the SDNG has not always been as large as the 2009 team, nor has it been so young. When the program began back in the early 1980s, Duke Doering recruited Operational Maintenance Shop mechanics to form the first teams.

The sport has evolved immensely over the years. In the early years, the athletes used traditional skis, that were longer and used vastly different

techniques to move along the course. Beginning in the 1990’s, the skiing technique changed dramatically to a skating motion, the same technique used in modern competitions.

The biathletes must be in excellent physical shape, able to perform preventive maintenance checks and services on their equipment, shoot individually assigned weapons at a target while physically exhausted, work as a team, and interact with other Soldiers from all over the country.

“They are great ambassadors of our organization, on a local or international level,” said Hansen. “They are physically fit individuals and excellent marksmen with a unique ability to train with others using critical combat skills.”

This sport is ‘equipment intensive’ and each member of the team must be able to maintain everything assigned. It’s like being a member of a squad, where each person is held accountable for maintenance and preparation of his or her weapon, skis and clothing.

When asked what it takes to be a member of the biathlon team, Hansen stated, “We can train marksmanship, but someone has to have background in endurance sports. Preferably, each member has high physical fitness scores, can run the 2-mile run in 12:30 minutes and down hill or alpine skiing experience is preferred, but not required.”

Hansen has been involved in the biathlon program for 20 years, beginning in 1989, so he understands the demands on the individuals. Being team captain is no small feat and Hansen knows that in order to build a long-lasting team, he must maintain consistent interest in this sport. He has remained faithful to this demanding sport because he and team members gain a sense of pride and fellowship that is just as unique as the sport.

“One of the great things about this sport is that this is truly a diplomatic mission to build relationships,” said Hansen. “At the international level, we keep our competition on the slopes, instead of the battlefield.”

The sport has its origins steeped in exercise for Norwegian Soldiers that is used as an alternative method for training for the military. Although the sport dates back to the 1860s, the combination of skiing and shooting was not seen until the 1928 Olympic Winter Games. The Olympic committee did not officially recognize the sport until 1960 and women were allowed in the sport at the Albertville Olympic Games in 1992.

Early competitions used high-powered rifles such as the .30-06, and 7.62mm and used multiple ranges, and various distances. The sport proved to be logistically challenging and was standardized in 1978 with a single 50-meter range using .22 cal. Anschütz German-made, small bore rifle with ammunition carried on the weapon.

History has proven to be a challenge for the SDNG Biathlon Team. During Operation Desert Storm (1990-1991), the National Guard Bureau did not hold any biathlon competitions due to the concentration on the war efforts. It is the only time the National Guard Biathlon Program did not sponsor a national competition.

South Dakota deployment tempo during 2002-2005 kept the program from producing teams, but Hansen took it upon himself to restart the program and build the program to the level it is today.

“The program kind of died during that timeframe because other things took priority,” said Hansen. “We could not have gotten where we are today without the support of our leadership over the years.”

One such notable standout from prior years is Spc. Jesse Hansen, a former member of the All-Guard Biathlon Team, an international competitor and Olympic contender.

Currently, there are two members of the South Dakota team that have

**CENTRAL & WESTERN COMBINED  
BIATHLON RESULTS 2009**

- 1. Minn. 1:29:52.29
- 2. Utah 1:30:32.35
- 3. Minn. 1:31:46.79
- 4. Calif. 1:31:48.26
- 5. S.D. 1 1:31:57.40
- 6. Utah 1:33:05.34
- 7. S.D. 2 1:35:24.27
- 8. Ind. 1:38:04.06
- 9. Nev. 1:39:44.07
- 10. Mont. 1:41:11.62
- 11. S.D. 3 1:45:24.74
- 12. Ore. 1:47:04.88
- 13. N.D. 1:52:03.34
- 14. Wis. 1:53:33.62
- 15. Ore. 2:09:51.10

**CENTRAL REGION RESULTS 2009**

- 1. Minn. 1:29:52.29
- 2. S.D. 1:31:57.40
- 3. Ind. 1:38:04.06
- 4. N.D. 1:52:03.34
- 5. Wis. 1:53:33.62



**2009 SDNG Biathlon Team:** From left: Chief Warrant Officer Andrew Busse, Maj. Wyatt Hansen, 1st Lt. Zach Hague, Spc. Alex Baldwin, Coach Sgt. 1st Class Mark Scharn (kneeling), Maj. Brendan Murphy, Maj. Jonette Murphy, Pvt. Tyler Weyrich and Pvt. Mike Scharn.



Chief Warrant Officer Andrew Busse, South Dakota National Guard Biathlon team member, exits the firing point after cleaning all five targets at the International Military Skiing Championships in Germany on Feb. 18, 2009.



Chief Warrant Officer Seth Mendel, South Dakota National Guard Biathlon team member, competes during the 2007 National Guard Biathlon Championships held at the Ethan Allen Firing Range in Jericho, Vt.

been asked to ski with the All-Guard team, Chief Warrant Officer Andrew Busse and Pvt. Tyler Weyrich. Both men put on skate skis for the first time more than 13 months ago and have trained during the summer months and attended training camps at the Ethan Allen Firing Range in Jericho, Vt.

"These facilities are top-notch and one of the best training areas in the country," said Busse. "We get trained by professional coaches and endure rigorous training to improve our skiing and shooting skills."

Busse has also traveled to international competitions which include: Patagonia, Argentina, Dobbico, Italy, and recently competed in Germany with Hansen and Weyrich for an international competition.

"I was introduced to biathlon by my good friend Jesse Hansen," said Busse. "I also admire the dedication and passion that he has for the sport and that is a big reason why I wanted to be a part of this team."

Busse recently finished 13th out of 35 international competitors in Dobbico, Italy, where he also finished in first place among the Americans.

"The team has a lot of potential," said Busse. "Everyone has the willingness and drive to succeed and that comes down to having a great coach and mentor that is motivating to us all."

This year also marks another first, Pvt. Mike Scharn is only 18 years old and a senior at Rapid City Stevens High School. Scharn is not only the youngest member of the team, but he is the first recruit sustainment program (RSP) recruit to compete.

"I love being a part of this team and it allows me to stay physically active while getting paid to do it," said Scharn.

Busse agreed, "We get to do things and go places people only dream of. Being a member of this team provides a unique opportunity to represent the state and the country and brings people together to build positive and long-lasting relationships."

Anyone interested in becoming a team member in the sport of biathlon can contact Maj. Wyatt Hansen at 605-737-6924.



# TRIGGER TIME

**147th commander says his  
"troops are ready"**

By Roger C. Anderson  
Information Officer

FORT CHAFFE, Ark. – Commanders in South Dakota’s lone field artillery battalion didn’t waste any time in getting their units prepared for the war zone during a two-week annual training exercise in January.

The wartime training at Fort Chaffe, Ark., provided a ‘jump start’ to a higher level of readiness for the 300 Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, who will mobilize in mid-April to support Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“Last year we fired rockets, but four months ago we switched over and began training for our deployment mission that focuses on facility security,” said Lt. Col. Dave Chase, battalion commander. “The troops’ morale was very high throughout the exercise and it appears everyone is ready for the next step.”

According to Chase, the upcoming mobilization will be the second deployment for 60 percent of the Soldiers of his battalion that includes units from the Headquarters of Watertown and Sisseton, Aberdeen’s Battery A, Yankton’s Battery C, and the 147th Forward Support Company of Mitchell, Sioux Falls, and Webster.

**Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, conduct urban warfare training during their annual training period at Fort Chaffe, Ark., Jan. 10-24, in preparation for their deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.**  
(Photo courtesy Battery C, 1/147th)

Most of the members traveled to Fort Chaffe by bus while others conveyed about 30 military vehicles to the post. Surprisingly, the 147th was the only unit training there at the time, which allowed better training opportunities over the two-week period.

“We got lots of trigger time,” said Chase, referring to the small arms and crew-served weapons training performed. “Our goal was to finish up on individual Soldier skills and start training as a team.”

Other training included convoy operations, reacting to attacks by improvised explosive devices, search methods at a check point and medical evacuations training.

Despite facing another tour of duty in Southwest Asia, Chase says there haven’t been any problems motivating his Soldiers.

“Basically, they want to get on with the mission,” he said, “but they all know the value of training and being ready for any situation so that makes them work even harder.”

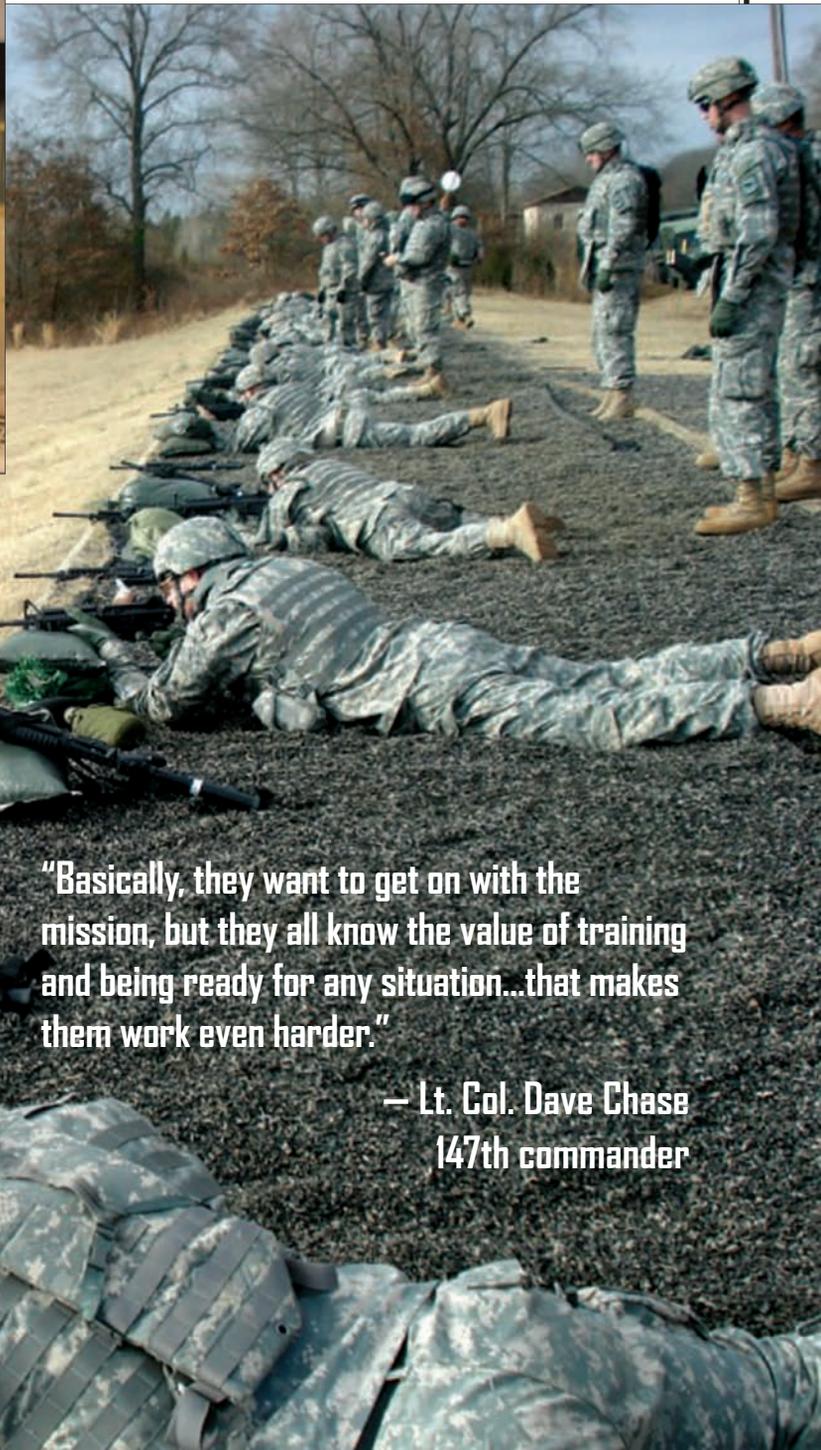
Last October, about 180 members from the battalion’s Bravo Battery, Salem and Sioux Falls, returned home after serving a year-long deployment in Iraq.



Members of the 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, set up a hasty check point to stop and inspect vehicles during the annual training period at Fort Chaffe, Ark., Jan. 10-24. The unit will be conducting facility security in Iraq, a departure from its normal artillery mission of putting steel on target. (Photo courtesy Battery C, 1/147th)



Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, participate in a Humvee 'rollover' drill as a part of their annual training period at Fort Chaffe, Ark., Jan. 10-24, in preparation for their deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The training helps Soldiers to brace, react and dismount an overturned vehicle. (Photo courtesy Battery C, 1/147th)



Members of the 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, conduct weapons qualification training on a range at Fort Chaffe, Ark., Jan. 10-24, to prepare for their upcoming deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. (Photo courtesy Battery C, 1/147th)

"Basically, they want to get on with the mission, but they all know the value of training and being ready for any situation...that makes them work even harder."

— Lt. Col. Dave Chase  
147th commander

# PRIDE OF THE DAKOTAS

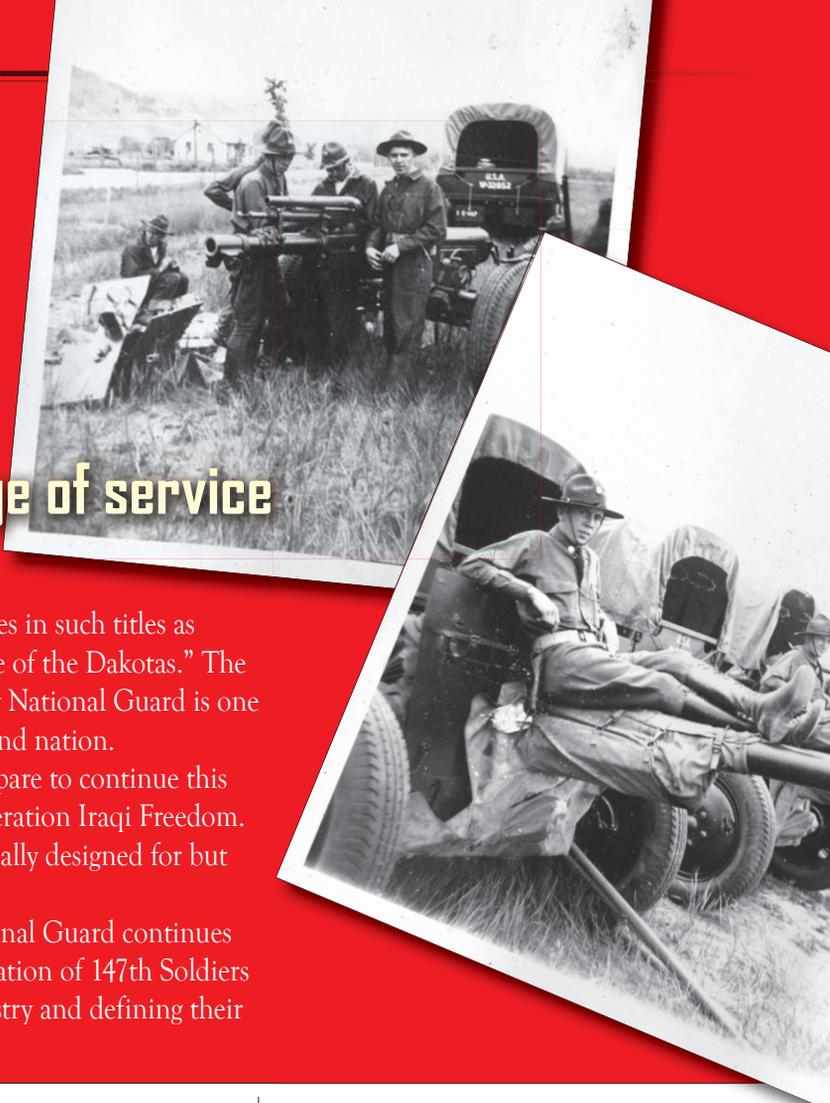
## Artillerymen continue lineage of service

By Capt. Anthony Deiss  
Public Affairs Specialist

**T**hey have a long and proud heritage, which lavishes in such titles as “King of Battle,” “Dakota Steel Rain” and “Pride of the Dakotas.” The history of the artillery in the South Dakota Army National Guard is one which spans more than 100 years of service to the state and nation.

The Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery prepare to continue this lineage of service as it deploys in April in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The unit’s security force mission is one they are not typically designed for but are prepared to undertake.

The mission of the artillery in the South Dakota National Guard continues to evolve with a changing battlefield, however, this generation of 147th Soldiers will be echoing the “ready and willing” motto of its ancestry and defining their legacy into the new millennium.



### MEAGER BEGINNINGS

**B**orn from the remnants of late 1800 infantry regiments from the Dakota Territory, the journey of the Dakota militiaman begins during the Civil War with Companies A and B of the Dakota Cavalry. First organized in 1862, the companies were mustered into service as a territorial militia to defend against threats from Native Americans. The companies were discharged shortly after, having served their three-year term of service.

Over the next several decades, efforts were made by territorial Governors to reorganize the militia, but with little funding and no immediate threats, the companies struggled to remain active. However, the militia did reorganize, and by 1884 the 1st and 2nd Regiment of the Dakota Territory was formed.

It was here, the first Dakota Territory artillery unit was raised, a single battery from the 1st Regiment located near Lisbon, N.D.

By 1889, statehood was coming for both North and South Dakota, and so was the need to divide the existing National Guard units between the two states. North Dakota formed the first regiment and South Dakota the second. The artillery for the territory went with the North

Dakota regiment, but it wouldn’t be long before South Dakota would claim its own battery.

By 1893, the South Dakota regiment was renumbered and became the 1st South Dakota Infantry Regiment, consisting of Battery A stationed at Clark, S.D. By 1895, the battery consisted of two 3-inch rifles and fired the Hotchkiss projectile.

In April of 1898, the United States declared war on Spain and the Spanish-American War was set into motion. President McKinley asked for 125,000 volunteers, of these South Dakota’s share was to be 1,000, which mainly came from the 1st Regiment. Many from the 1st Regiment volunteered in mass but the artillery battery at Clark, armed with obsolete cannons, was refused by the War Department as a battery.

The 1st S.D. Infantry Regiment (US Volunteers) returned from service during the Spanish-American War and subsequent Philippine Insurrection in 1899, but did not return to its former National Guard status. Refusal of appropriate funds to reorganize the Guard by the state legislature, kept the 1st Regiment from reforming. The only remaining National Guard units in the state remained Battery A and Troop A in Deadwood.

In 1903, the legislature came through with appropriations and by 1904 had two infantry regiments; the 2nd and 3rd with an additional cavalry squadron. Battery A was eventually replaced by an infantry company, was moved to Huron and assigned to the 1st Cavalry Squadron. With a cut in funding the following year, many South Dakota units were mustered out and reorganized again to form the 4th South Dakota Infantry Regiment. Battery A and the cavalry squadron survived for a short while, but were eventually mustered out due to out-dated artillery equipment and expenses of maintaining horses.

In June of 1916, the South Dakota Guard was called into federal service again to help patrol the border during the Mexican Border Conflict. With the 4th Regiment deployed, the state began the organization of a fifth regiment, and by 1917, the War Department reorganized the new unit into the 1st South Dakota Cavalry Regiment.

At this time, World War I was beginning and the new regiment would be activated for service. A part of the 34th National Guard Division, the 1st Cavalry Regiment was disestablished and dissolved into different units under the division. There was no need for horses on a battlefield of barbed wire, machine guns and artillery.



Members of Battery A, 147th Field Artillery Regiment, fire at attacking Japanese planes during one of the frequent raids during World War II near Darwin, Australia in early 1942.

## WEAPONS OF THE SDNG ARTILLERY



3.2 INCH RIFLE



75MM GUN, M1897



105MM HOWITZER

## WWI AND THE BIRTH OF THE 147TH

Shortly after the 1st Cavalry's entrance into WWI, it would be followed by the 4th Infantry in 1917, as its service on the Mexican border came to an end. The 4th Infantry, however, would suffer the same fate as the 1st Cavalry as the unit would be abolished to fill other units after it was federalized. It was here that the disillusionment of the 4th Infantry gave rise to South Dakota artillery as we know it today; the 147th Field Artillery.

While half of the companies from the 4th Infantry were to form the new 147th Field Artillery Regiment, the remainder went to support existing machine gun battalions and the organization of the 116th Supply Train.

Horses, guns and fire-control instruments were not available while the 147th was preparing for war at Camp Greene, N.C. It wasn't until the unit arrived in France in February of 1918, that it would be equipped with the French 75mm gun, the M1897.

The 147th Field Artillery Regiment served with distinction during WWI as it trained more than 22,000 artillery replacements coming into theater. The unit also supported the 32nd Division, which broke through the famous Kriemhilde-

Hindenburg Line in October 1918, firing more than 56,500 artillery rounds during the month-long assault.

Following the Great War, the 147th Field Artillery Regiment was discharged and disappeared briefly, but by 1921, South Dakota was authorized to raise a regiment of artillery. To perpetuate the fame of the 'World War' regiment, the 147th would be reinstated and would be outfitted with the horse-drawn 75mm gun.

During the years following WWI, the artillery would begin to see a modernization of its equipment. By 1927, the horse-drawn capability of the unit would give way to motorized trucks, allowing guns to be carried rather than towed. However, the loading and instability of the 2,800 pound cannons proved to be too cumbersome and dangerous for transport. The use of a pneumatic-tire mount allowed the guns to be towed again at high speeds.

Plagued by shortages of equipment and money, and having fought in combat, the artillery, along with the rest of the South Dakota Guard, endured much in its short history. These experiences would surely prepare it for its biggest test yet...World War II.

## WWII AND THE "BUSHMASTERS"

In September of 1939, German forces began their invasion on the European continent. The United States remained neutral as the Allied Forces battled the German Blitzkrieg. Almost a year later, the United States began to launch a major buildup of its own military forces. More than 1,000 men of the 147th Field Artillery Regiment were activated and departed for Fort Ord, Calif., for deployment in November of 1940. A year later, the 147th departed for the Philippine Islands after a quick stop at Pearl Harbor.

A week later the unit became the first Expeditionary Force into the Pacific theater, being some 1,500 miles southwest of Pearl Harbor when the Japanese attacked on December 7.

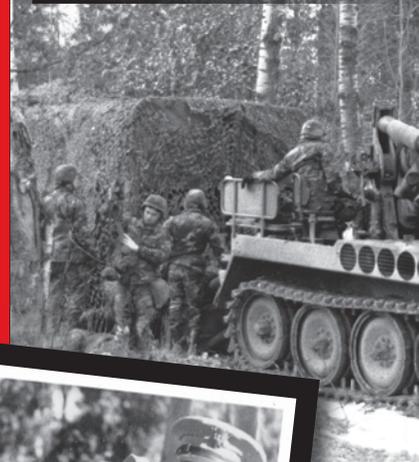
The 147th was rerouted to Australia. There the unit became the first Americans to visit Australia and remained there until July of 1943. The unit began island hopping throughout the Southwest Pacific, gaining prestige as they went. The "Bushmasters," as they became known, moved to New Guinea in December to take part in an offensive against the Japanese.

At this point the 147th was divided into two separate battalions, the 260th Field Artillery

Members of a gun crew from Battery A, 147th Field Artillery Battalion, maintain their firing position during World War II in January 1945 near Linguyan Gulf on Luzon in the Philippine Islands.



A gun crew from Watertown's Bravo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, positions its 8-inch Howitzer during a winter shoot in 1992 at Camp Ripley, Minn. (Army photo by Sgt. Jim Van Noort)



Battalion and the 147th Field Artillery Battalion. The 260th remained in New Guinea until it was deactivated in June 1945.

The 147th went on to participate in combat operations in the Philippines and served briefly on occupation duty in Japan immediately after WWII ended. It was deactivated in Japan in 1946.

From left: General Douglas MacArthur speaks with Lt. Col. Robert Gobell and Col. Les Jensen of the 147th Field Artillery Battalion, during WWII in Australia, along with Gen. Robert Eichelberger.



### REBUILDING YEARS AND THE COLD WAR

After World War II, South Dakota once again had to piece back together its state militia. The artillery found its way back to South Dakota, as Washington allowed for the establishment of the 196th Regimental Combat Team, under which the 147th Field Artillery Battalion was assigned.

Peace would not exist for long, as the U.S. faced threats from communist regimes such as North Korea, the Soviet Union and China.

The 147th Battalion, under the 196th RCT, was called into federal service in September of 1950 in response to the Korean War. Stationed at Fort Richardson, Alaska, the unit was assigned as a part of the Alaskan Defense Command and served there until August of 1952.

With a stalemate on the 38th Parallel and deteriorating relations with Russia, the U.S. military would re-evaluate its force structure. Artillery would surely be a necessity on any large scale battlefield and the National Guard would see a change in its organization to reflect it.

By 1956, the artillery assets for the state were the 147th Artillery Group, the 147th Artillery Battalion, the 642nd Artillery Battalion, the 643rd Artillery Battalion, the 260th Artillery Battalion and the 128th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion. The artillery would continue to transform throughout the next several decades,

changing locations, equipment and structure. Towed 155mm and 8-inch Howitzers became the weapons of the late 1950s. By the 1960s and 70s these weapons would become self-propelled.

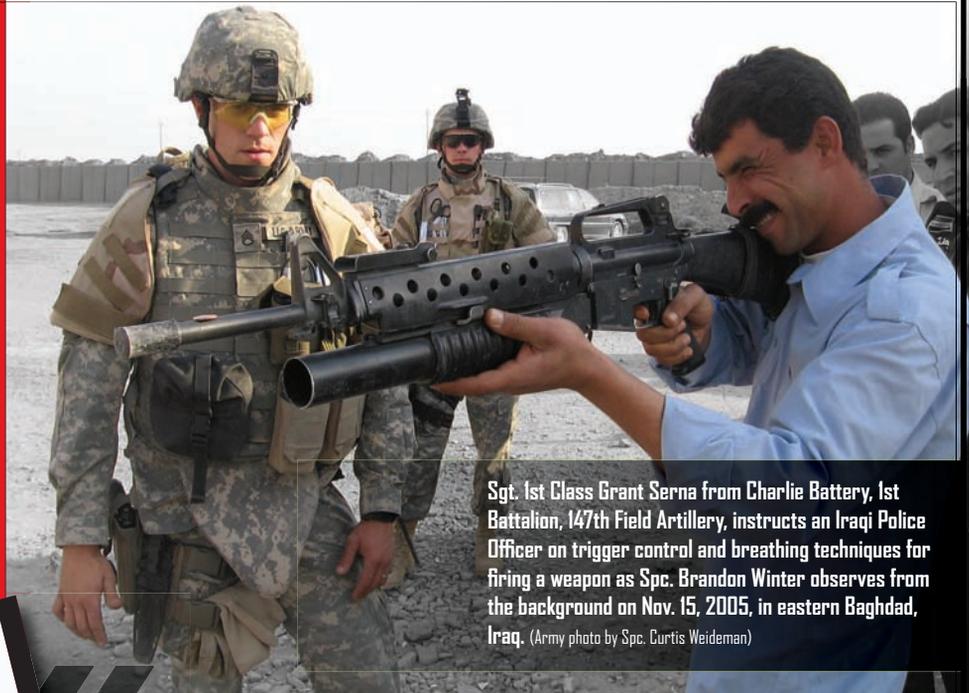
In 1963, the artillery group would be reorganized with four howitzer battalions. One of which, the 1st Howitzer Battalion, was called up to federal service during the Berlin Crisis and stationed at Fort Sill, Okla., from October 1961 to August 1962.

The crisis certainly tested the United States ability to respond and react to Soviet threats during the Cold War. The artillery would conduct training in hope of deterring Soviet aggression.

In the early 1970s, the 1st and 2nd Battalions became the first Army National Guard battalions to pass the Nuclear Capabilities Command evaluation, becoming proficient in the delivery of nuclear weapons. By 1978, the Group was re-designated as the 147th Field Artillery Brigade with two battalions.

By the late 1990s, the artillery units in the state saw more changes, turning in their 155mm and 8-inch Howitzers for the modern M270 Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS).

By 2003, the South Dakota National Guard would experience its biggest call up since WWII in response to Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom, mobilizing more than 3,100 Soldiers over the next five years. The artillery was ready and willing to answer the call and carry on the traditions of its forefathers.



Sgt. 1st Class Grant Serna from Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, instructs an Iraqi Police Officer on trigger control and breathing techniques for firing a weapon as Spc. Brandon Winter observes from the background on Nov. 15, 2005, in eastern Baghdad, Iraq. (Army photo by Spc. Curtis Weideman)



Spc. Wade Anderson from 2nd Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, provides convoy security during his deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in January 2005. (Army photo by Capt. Anthony Deiss)

Sill, Okla., and 2nd Battalion's Battery C, mobilizing to Fort Campbell, Ky. Believing the battle was over and artillery was not needed, both units returned by May.

After 2003, the artillery would begin to see a change in their mission in support of the war on terror.

With the end of the Cold War and wars fought with clearly defined forward areas, the need for artillery units in theater was diminishing with the threat of a rising insurgency.

With the Army needing more units to provide security rather than putting steel on target, National Guard units across the country began seeing a change in mission to fill the need for more security forces. This type of warfare would begin to define the mission for the rest of the South Dakota artillery units who would deploy thereafter.

The 2nd Battalion, 147th FA would be the first South Dakota artillery unit to experience this change in mission. Mobilized in December 2003, the 2nd Battalion deployed 375 Soldiers to Iraq as a security force. While there, the unit secured and transported 145,000 tons of munitions to be kept at storage depots while slated for destruction. These munitions were secured from 18 different sites throughout Iraq and were prevented from being used as IEDs by the enemy.

See **ARTILLERY** on pg. 28

### GLOBAL WAR AND A CHANGE IN MISSION

September 11, 2001 reshaped America in a way never seen since the attack on Pearl Harbor. The United States was beginning to undertake military operations that would stress the limits of its forces. Much of it would be called upon from the National Guard.

The artillery of the South Dakota National Guard would be relied heavily upon to fill the need for forces to support a war that was beginning on two fronts. Not seeing active combat since WWII, the 147th was ready to take on a new mission.

In March 2003, the state began activating its first units in response to Operation Iraqi Freedom. Among the first to be mobilized were members of 1st Battalion, who reported to Fort

### WEAPONS OF THE SDNG ARTILLERY



8-INCH HOWITZER (TOWED)



8-INCH HOWITZER (SELF-PROPELLED)



155MM, M109 HOWITZER (SELF-PROPELLED)



MULTIPLE LAUNCH ROCKET SYSTEM - M270



# FAMILY TIES

## Deployed Airmen keep homesickness at bay

By Staff Sgt. Thomas J. Doscher  
Photos by Senior Airman Courtney Richardson  
386th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA - To say the Air Force runs in the family would be an understatement for the Horstmans.

Five members of the South Dakota family are in the 114th Fighter Wing (FW) of the South Dakota Air National Guard, three of them currently deployed with the 386th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron (ECES).

Senior Master Sgt. Lee Horstman, Staff Sgt. Joshua Horstman and Staff Sgt. Wade Horstman, all assigned to the 386th ECES, were stunned when they found out in August that not only were they all deploying at the same time, they would all be going to the same unit.

"It was a complete surprise," said Lee Horstman, 386th ECES Structures Section superintendent. "We got a call saying that we could possibly be deploying and two months later, we got our line numbers. By September, we knew we were all coming here."

For Lee Horstman and his son, Joshua, it wasn't that they

From left: Staff Sgt.'s Wade Horstman (cousin), Josh Horstman (son) and Senior Master Sgt. Lee Horstman (father), 386th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, pose for a photo at an air base in Southwest Asia, Feb. 4. This is the first time that all three relatives have been deployed to the same location from the 114th Fighter Wing at Joe Foss Field, S.D.

were deploying together that was surprising, it was that they were deploying together again. The father and son had deployed together to Talil Air Base, Iraq, in 2003.

"We were together the first time, so we figured it would be like that," Joshua, a member of the 386th ECES Utilities shop said.

The Horstman military tradition started with Lee's father. "It goes back to my dad and my uncle, they were in the military," he said. "My two brothers never got in, but all of their sons have gotten in so far."

Lee started in the Army National Guard before moving to the Air National Guard in 1992. His son joined him in 1998, followed by Lee's nephew, Wade, 386th ECES emergency management logistics NCOIC, in 2004.

"He recruited us," Wade said, chucking a thumb at his uncle. Lee said it wasn't quite that simple.

“These guys wanted all different career fields,” he said. “And I said, ‘civil engineers are looking for people,’ so Joshua decided to go into the utilities shop and Wade went into emergency management.”

Lee’s other two nephews, Seth and Cody, are F-16 crew chiefs with the 114th FW at Joe Foss Field, S.D. It’s also possible that another Horstman will be joining the 114th in the future. Joshua and his wife, Angela, celebrated the birth of their first son a week before they left South Dakota.

“He’s only a month old, so we’ll see,” Joshua laughed. “Time-wise this deployment wasn’t the best because we had our first son, but the whole family got together for a week for Christmas, before we left. My wife is glad that we all got to go to the same place with my dad and Cousin Wade.”

For Lee, the best part of deploying with his family is being able to look out for his son and nephew the way he’s always looked out for the junior enlisted members under his command.

“My wife is glad I can keep an eye on them,” he said. “It’s a different experience of being far away from home with nobody you know. I worked with a lot of younger guys, twenty, 25-year-olds, so they looked up to me for guidance. I’m glad to be able to do that for them (Joshua and Wade). I’d be more than happy to do it for anyone.”

That comes as some comfort for Wade, who is on his first deployment. He said having his uncle and cousin with him makes it easier to deal with a stressful situation.

“I’m glad they’re here,” he said. “Someone to talk to, relate to back home. When you get a little homesick, you talk to these guys. I like it.”

The only downside the three see is the concern with the risks of a deployment.

“It’s the worry about if something were to happen,” Joshua said. “It’s not like we see each other too often. We’re in the same squadron, but we don’t see each other that much.”

Joshua said being deployed with his father and Wade is like having a piece of home here at the Rock.

“It makes you feel not quite so far away from home because your family members are all together,” he said. “That’s how I looked at it the first time, but we’re still a long way from home.”



Senior Master Sgt. Lee Horstman, 386th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, sands a table at an air base in Southwest Asia, Feb. 4. Sergeant Horstman is the structures section superintendent currently deployed from the 114th Fighter Wing at Joe Foss Field, S.D.



Staff Sgt. Josh Horstman, 386th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, checks the temperature gauge on a water pump system at an air base in Southwest Asia, Feb. 4. Sergeant Horstman is a plumber currently deployed from the 114th Fighter Wing at Joe Foss Field, S.D.



Staff Sgt. Wade Horstman, 386th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, conducts a weekly inspection on a generator connected to an airborne chemical detector at an air base in Southwest Asia, Feb. 4. Sergeant Horstman is the emergency management logistics non-commissioned officer in charge currently deployed from the 114th Fighter Wing at Joe Foss Field, S.D.



# Surinamese visit focuses on PTSD treatment

By Roger C. Anderson  
Information Officer

Herman Jintie, nursing director of the government mental-health hospital in Paramaribo, Suriname, shakes the hand of Lt. Col. Harvey Fitzgerald, Wellness Branch director, South Dakota National Guard, during a fact finding visit for the treatment of PTSD with local mental health physicians and support organizations in the Rapid City area in December, 2008. (Army photo by Officer Candidate Paul Chapman)

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Nearly two decades after the Republic of Suriname’s Interior War, government and military leaders of this South American country are pressed to understand and treat the symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Taking advantage of its state partnership with South Dakota, three top leaders began a fact-finding mission in the Rapid City area last December to learn what U.S. governmental agencies are doing to treat its veterans. By meeting with local mental health physicians and support organizations, the group hopes to return with a better understanding to develop a template for the treatment of PTSD.

The delegation included Maj. Gustaff Samijadi, Suriname’s military civil-affairs officer, Maj. Henk Amstelveen, nurse manager of social psychiatric services, and Herman Jintie, nursing director of the government mental-health hospital in Suriname’s capital of Paramaribo.

“Care for our veterans of the Interior War is becoming a political issue for us,” said Samijadi during his briefing at the South Dakota National Guard headquarters at Camp Rapid. “The Ministry of Defense is contracting with our mental health hospital to treat these Soldiers.”

Samijadi said that more than 500 military members who were involved with the prior conflict are still active members and are now 40 years and older. Some have resorted to drugs and alcohol while trying to handle their stress and must receive help before they can be put back to work. Facing scarce resources to deal with the disorder, an implementation committee was developed to get the process for treatment started.

“We are in the process of training psycho-therapists and are using a treatment developed by the Dutch,” said Samijadi. “Since their

treatment is based on studies, books and policies from the U.S., one could say we are going directly to the source for answers.”

Suriname’s armed forces consist of the national army under the control of the Ministry of Defense and a smaller civil police force, which is under the authority of the Ministry of Justice and Police. The national armed forces comprise some 2,500 personnel, the majority of whom are deployed as light-infantry security forces.

According to the U.S. State Department, Suriname’s interior war, 1986-1991, began when a Maroon insurgency, led by former Soldier Ronnie Brunswijk, began attacking economic targets in the country’s interior. In response, the army ravaged villages and killed suspected Brunswijk supporters.

“PTSD exists everywhere there is extreme stress. It exists throughout our military and civilian population,” said Jintie.

“We were brothers, then, we started to fight,” said Jintie. “A lot has been done to each other.”

The three-day forum included visits with trained counselors from the Family Services Branch of the South Dakota National Guard, Pennington County Veterans Services Office, the Rapid City Vets Center and Behavior Management Systems.

The group also met with doctors at VA Medical Centers in Hot Springs and Fort Meade and was briefed on the programs in place for treatment of substance abuse and PTSD. They also got a chance to talk with veterans enrolled in the stress treatment program.

“Our visit here will definitely have a positive affect on our PTSD treatment program,” said Amstelveen prior to returning home. He went on to tell a local reporter, “I want to start now. I can’t wait for the implementation. I saw too much of how it can work.”

# 730TH ASMC

## trains units on lifesaving techniques

By Capt. Bruce Kyllonen  
Lead Instructor

For a four-month period from October through January 2009, 18 medics from the 730th Area Support Medical Company took on a mission to aid South Dakota Army National Guard units in reaching their training goals – 100 percent unit personnel certification in combat lifesaver skills for deployment. The courses were held at the unit locations in Yankton, Watertown, and Aberdeen and in Sioux Falls at the Regional Training Institute.

The medics served as Combat Lifesaver Course (CLC) instructors in training and certification of the 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, 211th Engineer Company (Sappers) and 11 special agents (active duty Air Force), for a total of 403 Soldiers. The three-day course varied in size, averaging 110 people per course.

The 730th medics taught and evaluated Soldiers in CLC subtask skills, including tactical combat casualty care, evaluating a casualty, airway management, tension pneumothorax/needle chest decompression, hemorrhage control, field medical card, 9-line MEDEVAC, SKED and improvised litter, IV venipuncture and fluid administration and shock.

In addition to the classroom lectures, the medics supervised practical hands-on learning and STX-lane training that drew all of the training together. Using learned skills, practical clinical experience and teamwork to instruct large numbers of Soldiers in lifesaving skills, the unit received many positive comments for its efforts in ensuring that training requirements for deploying Soldiers were met.

In completing this mission, the 730th medics attained a 100 percent course completion rate for the Soldiers trained, shared real-world experiences with the Soldiers they trained, and worked well with other South Dakota units supporting the training, as well as medics from North Dakota and 1st Army, who also supported the mission.



730th Area Support Medical Company Soldiers Spc. Steven Furry, Spc. Joshua Heim and Spc. Jonathan Shoffit strap Spc. Daniel Severin to a litter during Combat Lifesaver Training during the unit's January drill in Vermillion.

(Photo courtesy 730th ASMC)

# G-RAP-O

By Capt. Robin Flint  
Officer Recruiter

Do you know of someone in your unit or community that might be eligible to become an officer? What better way to select quality officers to lead and to support our state's units than to nominate them? You can earn up to \$7,500 by nominating your doctor, physician's assistant, or dentist if they meet the qualifications? How about your pastor, reverend or priest? Do you have an attorney that you know would do a great job serving the National Guard? Nominate that person, and an officer recruiter can visit with them about the qualification and requirements needed to become a part of our great organization.

College students can earn scholarships and get extra money while they go to school through ROTC and the Simultaneous Membership Program. The student doesn't have to be a Soldier to get into the ROTC program, and once they contract, you would be eligible for a \$2,000 payment. Payment amounts for an officer who accesses via ROTC (non-SMP), direct commission, or prior service pathways is determined by the new ARNG officer's rank and position at the date of accession. Positions deemed as critical by NGB-ASM may provide opportunities to earn from \$2,500 to \$7,500 issued upon verification of officer's school qualification.

Refer someone to OCS or WOCS and you are eligible to receive a \$2,000 payment, \$1,000 upon completion of OCS/WOCS and the remaining \$1,000 upon completion of BOLC III or WOBC. If the potential officer (PO) is accessed without the requirement of one of these pathways, then the recruiting assistant (RA) will receive payment upon verified ARNG accession.

A couple of reminders, Your role as a RA should only be fulfilled on your civilian time, not while fulfilling ARNG duties. As a G-RAP RA, you will cultivate quality PO from within your spheres of influence and work with an officer strength manager (OSM) or warrant officer strength manager (WOSM) to process the PO and move them towards an ARNG commitment. Once a PO is identified and prequalified, the RA will facilitate a meeting with the local OSM. The OSM and RA will then work closely together to move the PO through the commissioning process.

You don't have to be the expert on the various officer programs to nominate someone. If someone is interested, nominate them through G-RAP-O located at [www.nationalguardrecruitingassistant.com](http://www.nationalguardrecruitingassistant.com) and a representative

from Officer Recruiting will contact them with the information they need. The officer/warrant officer recruiters located in the Soldier or student's area will come up as options when you register them on G-RAP-O.

If you have any further questions about Officer Strength Management, please contact OSM Maj. Steve Siemonsma at 605-737-6784.



# THE G-RAP CHALLENGE

South Dakota Army National Guard units were recently challenged to sign up as many of their Soldiers as possible as recruiting assistants (RA) for the Guard Recruiting Assistance Program (G-RAP).

Brig. Gen. Keith Corbett, assistant adjutant general, South Dakota Army National Guard, commissioned the challenge to raise Soldier interest and participation in the G-RAP program.

"The G-RAP program has not only been of benefit to recruiting, but also a financial benefit to our warriors," said Corbett "Another aspect is how many warriors have joined our organization because a friend saw the benefit of G-RAP and asked them to take a look. Once they found out the tremendous benefit package, coupled with service to our nation and community, they joined."

The G-RAP program was developed as a grass roots, community based approach to increasing the strength of the National Guard. RAs can earn additional income through assisting Army National Guard recruiting efforts by identifying well-qualified men and women for service in the Army National Guard and mentoring them through the enlistment/commissioning process. RAs can earn up to \$2,000 for each new enlisted recruit and up to \$7,500 for select officer accessions.

The challenge ran from Oct. 1 through Nov. 30, 2008. Split into two categories by major command (MACOM): all units within the 196th Maneuver Enhancement

Brigade and all units within the 109th Regional Support Group. The challenge rewarded the winning unit in each MACOM with a check for \$1,000 sponsored by the S.D. Recruiting and Retention Battalion.

At the onset of the challenge, the SDARNG had 1,342 RAs enrolled in the program; during the challenge, that number increased by almost 500, to 1,814 RAs, and the number continues to grow, currently at 2,022 RAs.

## THE WINNING UNITS

Alpha Company of the 139th Brigade Support Battalion, representing the 196th MEB, with 91 percent of the unit enrolled as RAs.

The 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion and the 147th Army Band split the honors for the 109th RSG, each unit attaining 90 percent of their unit enrolled in the program.

ARNG Soldiers that are in a traditional M-day status and retirees of the Army National Guard with 20 or more years of service are currently able to participate in G-RAP.

As of Jan. 1, 2009, G-RAP is also available to AGR Enlisted Soldiers, ADSW/ADOS personnel, military technicians and currently mobilized ARNG members.

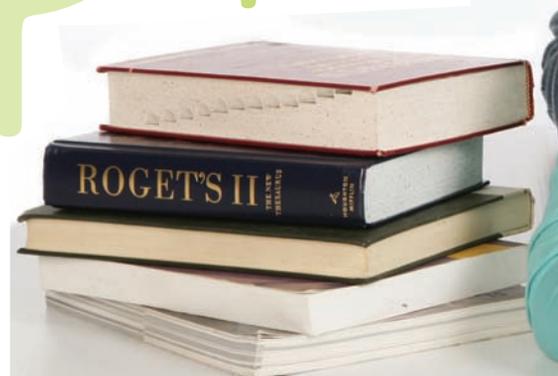
For more information regarding G-RAP visit [www.guardrecruitingassistant.com](http://www.guardrecruitingassistant.com).



## Four programs

There are four GI Bill programs from which ARNG Soldiers may be eligible to receive benefits. Soldiers may be eligible for all four programs at the same time if they meet the specific program requirements.

**THE CHAPTER 1606 MGIB-SELECTED RESERVE** is an education assistance program enacted by Congress to attract high quality men and women into the reserve branch of the Armed Forces. To qualify for the Chapter 1606, ARNG Soldiers must have a six-year obligation, complete Initial Active Duty for Training (IADT) and possess a high school diploma or its equivalency. The program requires no monetary contributions from the member. The VA will provide up to 36 months of full-time education benefits under this program. Benefits end when Soldiers separate from the selected reserve or 14 years



# THE GI-BILL

## available for Army National Guard Soldiers



from the date one becomes eligible for the program, whichever is earlier. The monthly, full-time rate for the MGIB-SR is \$319.

**CHAPTER 1607 RESERVE EDUCATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (REAP).** Soldiers mobilized 90 days or more in response to a war or national emergency declared by the President or the Congress become eligible to receive Chapter 1607. Disabled members who are injured or have an illness or disease incurred or aggravated in the line of duty and are released from active duty before completing 90 consecutive days are also eligible. The educational assistance allowance provided under this section for

a person who is undertaking a program for which a percentage of that rate is based upon calculations from Chapter 30. The Chapter 1607 rates are based on the length of the mobilization; consecutive service of 90 days, but less than one year, are at a 40 percent rate, \$528.40 for full-time enrollment; consecutive service of more than one year, but less than two years, are at a 60 percent rate, \$792.60 for full-time enrollment; consecutive service of more than 2 years, are at an 80 percent rate, \$1056.80 for full-time enrollment.

When a Soldier gains eligibility under the REAP benefit they also gain an additional 12

months of full-time eligibility.

**THE CHAPTER 30 MGIB-ACTIVE DUTY** is an educational assistance program enacted by Congress to attract high quality men and women into the Armed Forces. Basic eligibility for Chapter 30 is determined by the service member's initial entrance on active duty (must be on or after July 1, 1985). Eligible Soldiers must have a two year (or longer) active duty tour either with regular Army component or AGR tour, complete a DD Form 2366 (MGIB enrollment form) and contribute \$1,200 (\$100 a month for 12 months). The VA will provide up to 36 months of education benefits under this program. The current full-time rate for the MGIB-AD is \$1,075 a month.

**THE MGIB KICKER PROGRAM** is an incentive offered to traditional (part-time) Soldiers in the ARNG in addition to the Chapter 1606 or 30 basic benefit. Payments last as long as the basic benefit up to 36 months, or for the number of months remaining under their basic benefit. For example, if a Soldier reenlists for six years and contracts for the kicker; if Soldier has 15 months of Chapter 1606 remaining the Soldier will be able to use the kicker with these months of benefit. However, the Kicker cannot be used once the basic benefit is exhausted. Basic eligibility for the ARNG MGIB Kicker is a six year obligation, a high school diploma and completion of IADT. The ARNG currently offers a \$200 MGIB Kicker for non-prior service (NPS) applicants in certain critical skills, prior service Soldiers and current ARNG Soldiers (MOS qualified only), and current ARNG lieutenants without a baccalaureate degree. A \$350 Kicker is also available to officer and warrant officer candidates and Simultaneous Members (SMPs).

Soldiers can use any one benefit for up to 36 months of eligibility and up to 48 months under any combination of benefits. Soldiers can use the MGIB Kicker with any of the Chapter 1606, 1607, or 30; however these Chapters cannot be used for the same period of courses. For example, SM is eligible for both Chapter 1606 and 1607 along with a kicker; this Soldier can use either Chapter 1607 or 1607 and the kicker with whichever benefit they choose to use.

**For more information contact the GI-Bill Manager: Cami Bloomgren 605-737-6212.**

# TRICARE covers Reserve component families



By Brian P. Smith  
TriWest Healthcare Alliance

**T**RICARE provides healthcare coverage for families of a drilling Reserve Component sponsor before, during and after active duty. During activation and deployments, the family may use TRICARE Prime, Prime Remote or Standard and Extra. When National Guard or Reserve sponsors are not on active duty, they may be eligible to purchase and enroll in TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS).

## TRICARE RESERVE SELECT

TRS includes medical and behavioral health coverage and access to TRICARE pharmacy benefits. TRS allows enrollees to choose any TRICARE-authorized or network provider for health care. TriWest Healthcare Alliance, the Department of Defense contractor that administers TRICARE in 21 western states, offers a provider directory at [www.triwest.com](http://www.triwest.com). Families may be able to see a doctor at a military treatment facility (MTF) when space is available.

Sponsors who are eligible for or enrolled in a Federal Employees Health Benefits plan are not eligible for TRS coverage. More information about the TRS plan and eligibility is at TriWest's Guard and Reserve Resource Center ([www.triwest.com/ngr](http://www.triwest.com/ngr)).

## COSTS

As part of the TRS enrollment, a premium payment is due to TriWest each month – \$47.51 for individual coverage and \$180.17 for family coverage. The amount of the annual deductible is based on the sponsor's rank. Once the annual deductible is met, the patient will pay cost-shares. Cost-shares are a percentage of the TRICARE-allowed amount for covered services. A TRICARE network provider will have lower cost-shares than a non-network provider.

TRS includes a \$1,000 maximum out-of-pocket cap (the most your family will pay including the deductible and cost-shares, but not monthly premiums) for TRICARE-covered services each fiscal year, Oct. 1 to Sept. 30. TRICARE cost information can be found at [www.tricare.mil/costs](http://www.tricare.mil/costs).

## BECOMING ELIGIBLE

The sponsor's unit or service certifies TRICARE eligibility. Family members must be entered into the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) before they are eligible for any TRICARE benefits. Keep the family's DEERS records up to date to help minimize issues with eligibility or claims. Visit [www.tricare.mil/deers](http://www.tricare.mil/deers) to learn how and where to update the DEERS record.

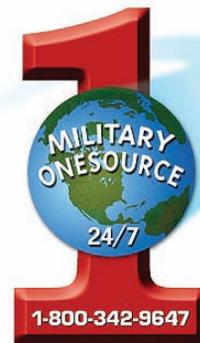
## QUALIFY AND ENROLL

The TRS enrollment process begins at the National Guard and Reserve Web Portal (<https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/trs/index.jsp>). Fill out the application online and print a copy. Sign the completed form and send (mail to TriWest Healthcare Alliance, P.O. Box 42048, Phoenix, AZ 85080-2048 or fax to 1-866-441-8843) it with the first month's premium payment to TriWest. TRS coverage can be purchased at any time.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** please contact the South Dakota Family Assistance Center Coordinator Michele Anderson at: 800-658-3930.

# 'One stop shop' for military families

By Todd Otterberg  
S.D. Military OneSource Consultant



I'm excited about working again with the service members and their families of this great state! I served 26 years with the Army National Guard and 25 of those years working with recruiting and retention – retiring in May of 2006. The best part of the military experience is the people. It doesn't matter if it's National Guard, Reserve or active duty, each member and family member takes a part of commitment and pride of what they do with the military and service to community, state and country.

The military is in my blood. I was raised in a military family and remember when my father got the call to serve during the Rapid City Flood in 1972. I also watched the Soldiers that I recruited board the trucks, busses and planes to serve overseas, thinking, will I see them again? But with the military, the next mission comes, and I work with families and their needs while the service member does their job.

That is why I'm excited to be working with Military OneSource. Once I left the military, it was hard to find a position that gave me the satisfaction of dealing with military members and their families. With Military OneSource, that is all we work with, Military members and their families. Due to increasing deployments, many organizations want to help and work with our military and Military OneSource is that "one stop shop" that puts all those sources together, under one roof!

Military OneSource is a free 24/7/365 information and referral service available via toll-free telephone and Internet access to Active Duty, Reserve and Guard (regardless of activation status) and their immediate family members. The services of Military OneSource are especially beneficial to those geographically separated from installation services or those who are unable to seek assistance during traditional working hours. The Military OneSource program improves the quality of life of military families and the overall effectiveness of the military community.

- Calls to Military OneSource (1-800-342-9647) are answered live by trained master's level consultants. Support includes personalized consultations on specific issues such as deployment, relocation, parenting, education, special needs, and finances.
- Military OneSource provides referrals for non-medical short-term solution-focused, face-to-face counseling at no cost to service members and their families in their local community. Face-to-face counseling services will focus on issues such as normal reactions to abnormal situations (e.g. combat), couples concerns, work/life balance, grief and loss, adjustment to deployment, stress management, and parenting.
- Service members in remote locations and overseas are eligible for short-term solution-focused telephonic (STSF-T) consultation. STSF-T consultations include up to six non-medical telephonic sessions for issues such as stress, decision-making, and parenting.
- The interactive Web site, [www.MilitaryOneSource.com](http://www.MilitaryOneSource.com), includes search and decision tools, locators for education and child care, educational materials, recordings, links to military and community resources, financial calculators, search by topic, live online workshops, podcasts, discussion boards, and "Email a consultant." During the tax season, service members can prepare and file federal and state tax returns at no cost.
- Prepaid educational materials are available in a variety of formats (booklet, CD, cassette, and electronic downloads) and can be ordered via phone or online.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** please visit [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com) or call toll-free 1-800-342-9647. For general information or to request a briefing, you may reach me at: [todd.otterberg@militaryonesource.com](mailto:todd.otterberg@militaryonesource.com) or 605-737-6292.



## Taking time to say 'thanks' to employers

**A**s state chairman for the South Dakota Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve committee, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the service members who have taken the time to recognize their employer's good deeds and supportive practices. Saying thank you can have many lasting effects, especially when you thank your employer for their support of your military career as they balance the demands of business management and patriotic support.

The SDESGR committee has seen an increase in employer recognition. During fiscal year 2008, 258 employers were nominated for the Patriot Award, an increase of 210 over the previous year. So far this fiscal year we are on pace to surpass that number. ESGR sponsors an award program designed to recognize employers who are supportive of their employees' military service.

All employers who practice personnel policies,

which support military participation, are eligible for recognition through the ESGR Awards program. ESGR encourages all service members to say thank you by submitting your employer for the Patriot Award at [www.esgr.mil](http://www.esgr.mil). You submit your employers name and we do the rest, it's that easy.

By saying thank you to your employers, you can set an example that will have a lasting effect on your employer and their support of your military career.

Donald W. Kelpin  
SDESGR Chairman



Donald W. Kelpin

## Legislative Dining Out Awards given



Jenny Briest (center) receives the Outstanding Support to a Military Member Award from Maj. Gen. Steven Doohen and Gov. M. Michael Rounds on Thursday, Feb. 12, during the annual South Dakota National Guard's Legislative Dining Out hosted in Pierre. (Army photo by Sgt. Lance Schroeder)

## Yellow Ribbon Program extends services to S.D. military families



**T**he quality of life for Guard and Reserve families takes a significant step forward with the implementation and expansion of the Yellow Ribbon program. This congressionally mandated program is designed to assist service members, their families and their employers throughout the entire deployment cycle.

The Yellow Ribbon Program helps to better prepare our Soldiers and families by providing a robust, preventive, proactive support program. By concentrating resources during the time of the war on terror, we focus efforts on the health and wellbeing of the service member and their family as a total package to address the ongoing challenges resulting from fulfilling a military commitment.

Military families will benefit from additional services for children, marriage counseling, increased access to mental health treatment and awareness, financial counseling, and suicide prevention. Additionally, addressing post-traumatic stress disorder, and long-term follow-up services for reintegrating families are more examples of good things to come. The South Dakota National Guard has been a national leader in servicing military families and this program has now spread across the nation and has grown significantly in services and staff.

The deployment cycle includes services pre-deployment, during deployment, and post-deployment for both National Guard and Reserve families. Many South Dakota Military families have already seen a part of this program during the reunion and reintegration drills following a unit's return home with onsite representation from the Veteran's Administration, Small Business Administration, counseling services, education, Military OneSource and many others.

This program is administered by the State Family Program of the S.D. National Guard and questions can be addressed through the Family Assistance Centers at 800-658-3930 or 605-696-5416.

Lt. Col. Harvey Fitzgerald  
Soldier and Family Support Services  
Director



Lt. Col. Harvey Fitzgerald



Mr. Matt Michels (third from right) was awarded the 2009 Williamson Militiaman Award Thursday, Feb. 12, during the 2009 Legislative Dining Out ceremony in Pierre. Others pictured from left: State Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Bekaert, Maj. Gen. Steven Doohen, Maj. Gen. Ronald Williamson (Ret.), Gov. M. Michael Rounds and Command Chief Master Sgt. Lane Munger. (Army photo by Sgt. Lance Schroeder)



Doug Ekeren, president of the Yankton School Board, (third from left) receives the 2009 Pro Patria Award on behalf of the Yankton School District, from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve on Thursday, Feb. 12, during the annual SDNG's Legislative Dining-Out hosted in Pierre. Others pictured from left: Dr. Joseph Gertsema, Staff Sgt. Brooks Schild, Mr. Donald W. Kelpin, state chairman ESGR, Gov. M. Michael Rounds and Maj. Gen. Steven Doohen. (Army photo by Officer Candidate Paul Chapman)

**AWARDS**

 **MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL**

SPC BUNBERT, JOSEPH	129TH MPAD
SSG PECK, JAMES	881ST TRP CMD
SFC DECKER, RANDAL	881ST TRP CMD
CPT MILES, CONNIE	730TH ASM
SFC JOHNSTON, TIM	109TH RSG
SFC TIFFANY, MICHAEL	152ND CSSB
SSG TOL, JOHN	740TH TRANS CO
SSG WENDT, TERRY	740TH TRANS CO
SSG HOOTH, DOUGLAS	740TH TRANS CO
COL CHRISTOPHERSON, RUTH	HQ SDANG
LTC MALMBERG, MARK	114TH MDG
LTC BURRIS, LARRY	114TH MDG
LTC RESEL, PAUL	HQ SDANG
COL MCCORMICK, CRAIG	114TH MDG

 **ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL**

MAJ SULLIVANT, FRANK	109TH RSG
SSG STORLY, TIMOTHY	147TH BAND
SFC ROBERTS, CARL	152ND CSSB
ILT JORDAN, CAROL	881ST TRP CMD
SSG SIMON, BRENT	JFHQ
SGT VICKERS, CHAD	JFHQ
ILT NORGAARD, REGAN	196TH MEB

 **ARMY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL**

SSG POKORNEY, TRAVIS	196TH MEB
PFC KADERABEK, TYLER	196TH MEB
SPC BAYE, SHAWN	153RD EN BN
SGT POLREIS, NICOLE	153RD EN BN
SSG LAMONT, COLIN	153RD EN BN
MSG HINKER, TIMOTHY	82ND CST
SFC GRABOW, TODD	82ND CST
SFC WIECHMANN, ERIC	82ND CST
CPT STARR, LORI	82ND CST
CPT SHEETS, DAVID	82ND CST
CW3 BISTODEAU, ALAN	109TH RSG
MSG MAHONEY, DOUGLAS	109TH RSG
SFC WHEELER, KENNETH	109TH RSG
SSG STRANG, MICHAEL	MED CMD
SSG RABER, ALEXANDER	82ND CST
SSG MOSER, WAYNE	82ND CST
SSG ROBERTSON, ROBERT	82ND CST
SFC HENTO, MARCIA	82ND CST
SGT MOELLER, JACKSON	147TH ARMY BAND
PFC KELLEY, RORY	1742ND TRANS CO
SFC LEGG, SAMANTHA	740TH TRANS CO
SFC REEDER, SHELLEY	152ND CSSB
PFC MARTIN, MARCUS	152ND CSSB
SFC DAUWEN, WALTER	152ND CSSB

 **AIR FORCE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL**

MSGT JANSEN, STEVEN	114TH OSF
SRA STARK, MEGAN	114TH LRS
CPT RAND, RYAN	114TH MDG
CPT GREGG, DORIA	114TH MDG
MAJ TOBIN, JILL	114TH MDG
LTC MENKE, LORI	114TH MDG
TSGT DEUTER, STEPHANIE	175TH FS

 **ARMY GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL**

SSG CARR, PATRICK	BTRY C, 1/147TH FA
SSG COLE, DAVID	BTRY C, 1/147TH FA

 **ARMY RESERVE COMPONENTS ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL**

SPC BELL, SCOTT	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SGT BRIDGMAN, STEVEN	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SPC CHAULK, DEVON	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SGT COLE, ROBERT	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SGT GATES, TREVOR	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SSG GUENTHER, BEN	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SSG HALL, NATHAN	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SPC HANSEN, MATTHEW	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SGT KWAUWALUSCHULTZ, CHRIS	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SSG LAUSENG, DENNIS	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SGT MADIGAN, ADAM	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SGT MULLEN, KRISTIAN	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SGT NORRIS, ROGER	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SGT PEITZ, MICHAEL	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SGT PRYOR, RANDOLPH	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SSG RIEDEL, JOSEPH	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SSG TEBEEST, JASON	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SPC WADDELL, LUCAS	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SGT WAGNER, RICHARD	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SPC WALTMAN, JASON	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SPC WILSON, ADAM	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SGT HUGHES, DAVID	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SGT LEPTIEN, ANTHONY	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA

 **SOUTH DAKOTA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS RIBBON**

PFC ECCLESTON, JEREMY	842ND EN CO
PFC SORCIC, SAMUEL	DET 1, 842ND EN CO
PFC WHIDBY, CHANCE	DET 1, 842ND EN CO
SPC CORCORAN, WAYNE	DET 3, 842ND EN CO
ZLT BIERLE, BILLI JO	216TH EN DET
SPC SMITH, DARRELL	DET 2, 842ND EN CO

 **SOUTH DAKOTA DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

SGT HAHNE, JACK	152ND CSSB
SGT MARR, AMANDA	152ND CSSB
SGT PASZEK, JACLYN	740TH TRANS CO
SGT TESCH, CHAD	152ND CSSB
SGT VIRTUE, COREY	235TH MP CO
SGT COLE, ROBERT	MED CMD
SSG VERVDREN, CLINT	CO C, 1/189TH AV BN
SPC NOBLE, MATTHEW	CO C, 1/189TH AV BN
PFC RICHARDSON, RILEY	CO C, 1/189TH AV BN
SPC DENNIS, EUGENE	153RD EN BN
SPC GLUHM, TREVOR	153RD EN BN
SSG CLEMENTS, PHILLIP	153RD EN BN
SGT ASCHER, THOMAS	153RD EN BN
SGT TIPTON, TRAVIS	153RD EN BN
SSG TRAUTMAN, DAVID SR.	153RD EN BN
SPC WITHERS, STEVEN	153RD EN BN
SGT VENNER, JESSE	153RD EN BN
SPC LABRIE, BRANDON	153RD EN BN
SSG OLIVIER, SHANE	153RD EN BN
SGT PARSONS, DARWIN	153RD EN BN
SPC PITLICK, DUSTIN	153RD EN BN
SSG SHRAKE, CHANCY	153RD EN BN
SPC BLAIR, CHASE	153RD EN BN
SPC CLARKE, KEVIN	153RD EN BN
SPC DEFFENBAUGH, BRANDON	153RD EN BN
SPC GRAVATT, CHRISTOPHER	153RD EN BN
SGT KRUSE, NICHOLAS	153RD EN BN

SPC YOUNG, MICHAEL	153RD EN BN
SGT TESCHER, ANNA	153RD EN BN
SPC GLUHM, TREVOR	153RD EN BN
SSG BLAKE, BRETT	153RD EN BN
PFC DURANDT, LOUIS	153RD EN BN
SPC HANSON, JD	153RD EN BN
SGT SHOEMAKER, ERIC	153RD EN BN
SFC HUDSON, SHAWN	153RD EN BN
SPC VISSIA, JACOB	153RD EN BN
SPC WAGNER, DUSTIN	153RD EN BN
SPC WAIT, JAMES	153RD EN BN
SPC WEBER, LEE	153RD EN BN
SGT YEAGER, DERRICK	153RD EN BN
SFC BECK, DARRELL	153RD EN BN
SGT ENGLUND, BRADLEY	153RD EN BN
SPC SLABA, BRYAN	153RD EN BN
SSG BREKKE, JOEL	HHS, 1/147TH FA
SSG HAAS, ADAM	FSC, 1/147TH FA
SPC HAUCK, JEFF	HHS, 1/147TH FA
PV2 JACOMET, SAMUEL	FSC, 1/147TH FA
SGT MAGORIAN, MICHAEL	BTRY C, 1/147TH FA
SPC MARCUCCI, GUY	FSC, 1/147TH FA
SSG MCGRAW, REED	HHS, 1/147TH FA
SGT MCMILLAN, CHAD	HHS, 1/147TH FA
SPC NELSON, LYNN	HHS, 1/147TH FA
SSG PULSCHER, CARL	HHS, 1/147TH FA
SGT STRABLE, GEORGE	BTRY C, 1/147TH FA
SGT WARE, STAN	FSC, 1/147TH FA
SSG ALLEN, DENNISON	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SGT ANDERSON, DANIEL	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SPC BARKER, ADAM	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SSG BASTIAN, SHAWN	HHS, 1/147TH FA
SPC BEHRNS, CLINTON	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SPC BITELER, STEVEN	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SPC BJORKMAN, JOHN	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SSG BRADY, JEREMY	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SGT BRIGGS, RRYANB	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SGT BROWN, PATRICK	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SPC FLORES, JUAN	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SPC HAMBURG, BRICE	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SPC HANSON, ANDREW	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SGT HANSON, CHAD	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SPC HANSON, KRISTOPHER	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SFC HOITEN, DAVID	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SPC JENSEN, KJURT	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SGT KLAGES, CHAD	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SGT MARCUCCI, ANTHONY	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SGT MASON, ADAM	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SPC MCCOY, BRANDAN	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SPC MCGAUGH, CARL	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SGT MEYER, JAMES	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SPC MILES, BRADLEY	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SGT PETERSON, JOSEPH	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SPC PIES, LEONARD	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
PFC POLLMAN, GEOGGREY	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SPC ROBBINS, SHAWN	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
PFC ROSS, WADE	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SGT SCHMIG, TROY	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SGT SCHUMACHER, KJURK	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SPC SCHUT, GREGORY	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SGT SCOTTING, GLEN	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
PFC STEINER, BRANDON	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
ILT STOKES, JOHANN	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SSG STRATMAN, NEAL	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
PFC THORNBERRY, ERIC	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
PFC TOMMERAASEN, GARY	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SGT TUBB, DENNIS	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SSG VANDENBERG, WADE	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SGT WEIDLER, BRENT	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SPC WEILER, LANCE	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA
SFC WILLIAMS, GEORGE	BTRY B, 1/147TH FA

**DECORATIONS**

**BASIC AVIATION BADGE**



SSG WILLIAMSON, RYAN \_\_\_\_\_ DET 48, OSA  
 SGT GERANEN, MARIE \_\_\_\_\_ DET 48, OSA  
 SGT KNOCK, RORIE \_\_\_\_\_ CO C, 1/189TH AV BN  
 SGT HUMBRACHT, SUMMER \_\_\_\_\_ CO C, 1/189TH AV BN  
 SSG MARTIN, MICHAEL \_\_\_\_\_ CO C, 1/189TH AV BN  
 SSG MCCANN, RANDALL \_\_\_\_\_ CO C, 1/189TH AV BN  
 SGT MULLEN, THIA \_\_\_\_\_ DET 2, HHC, 1/189TH AV BN

**GOVERNOR'S TWENTY TAB**



CW3 MCGUIRE, JAMES \_\_\_\_\_ JFHQ  
 SSG MOSER, RANDALL \_\_\_\_\_ JFHQ  
 SPC NELSON, JOSHUA \_\_\_\_\_ JFHQ  
 SGT PATTERSON, NICHOLAS \_\_\_\_\_ DET 1, CO B, 139TH BSB  
 SGT SPEAR, TROY \_\_\_\_\_ 82ND CST  
 SSG TOBIN, RYAN \_\_\_\_\_ 200TH EN CO  
 SPC WAIT, JAMES \_\_\_\_\_ 211TH EN CO  
 TSgt WAJER, JEREMY \_\_\_\_\_ 114TH SFS  
 LTC WALKER, HAROLD \_\_\_\_\_ JFHQ  
 SGT WELLS, MATTHEW \_\_\_\_\_ 1742ND TRANS CO  
 SSGT WITTE, MICHAEL \_\_\_\_\_ 114TH MXS  
 SSG ZOLNOWSKY, RICHARD \_\_\_\_\_ 730TH ASMC

**PROMOTIONS**

**COLONEL**

CLINE, KIT \_\_\_\_\_ JFHQ  
 HERMAN, MICHAEL \_\_\_\_\_ JFHQ  
 OMMEN, TERRY \_\_\_\_\_ JFHQ  
 MEYERS, MICHAEL \_\_\_\_\_ 114TH DG

**LIEUTENANT COLONEL**

ABRAHAM, MICHELLE \_\_\_\_\_ MED CMD  
 VAUGHN, KEVIN \_\_\_\_\_ MED CMD

**MAJOR**

HAUCK, CHARLES \_\_\_\_\_ 196TH MEB  
 DREYER, SHELBY \_\_\_\_\_ HG, SDANG

**CAPTAIN**

BACORN, JOSEPH \_\_\_\_\_ 152ND CSSB  
 DANSBY, WALTER \_\_\_\_\_ 235TH MP CO

**SECOND LIEUTENANT**

GERLACH, TYLER \_\_\_\_\_ CO A, 139TH BSB  
 HOFFMAN, BENJAMIN \_\_\_\_\_ CO A, 139TH BSB

**CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER (1-5)**

CW3 WURTZ, JOHN \_\_\_\_\_ CO C, 1/189TH AV BN  
 CW2 SUELFLOW, DEAN \_\_\_\_\_ CO C, 1/189TH AV BN  
 CW3 EISENBRAUN, MONTY \_\_\_\_\_ JFHQ  
 WDI POLLREISZ, ROGER \_\_\_\_\_ CO B, 139TH BSB

**COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR/SERGEANT MAJOR (E-9)**

CSM EISENBRAUN, JERRY \_\_\_\_\_ HQ, 196TH RTI  
 CSM BURGESSON, DONALD \_\_\_\_\_ HSC, 153RD EN BN  
 CSM LABER, URBAN \_\_\_\_\_ TRN SITE DET  
 SGM HALL, GEORGE \_\_\_\_\_ 88TH TRP CMD

**FIRST SERGEANT (E-8)**

HOFER, WADE \_\_\_\_\_ 211TH EN CO  
 MATTHEWS, DONALD \_\_\_\_\_ 129TH MPAD  
 THOELKE, KENT \_\_\_\_\_ HHS, 1/147TH FA  
 LAKNER, PHILIP \_\_\_\_\_ HQ, 196TH RTI

**MASTER SERGEANT (E-8)**

GLAWE, DAVID \_\_\_\_\_ 196TH MEB  
 HINKER, TIMOTHY \_\_\_\_\_ 82ND CST  
 JACKSON, NICKY \_\_\_\_\_ TRN SITE DET  
 LACROIX, MATTHEW \_\_\_\_\_ BTRY C, 1/147TH FA

**SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT (E-8)**

BRENDE, RAMON \_\_\_\_\_ 114TH MSG  
 EDWARDS, WENDY \_\_\_\_\_ 114TH MXS  
 ROGNES, DAVID \_\_\_\_\_ 114TH MXS

**SERGEANT 1ST CLASS (E-7)**

BLAKE, BRETT \_\_\_\_\_ DET 1, 147TH FSC  
 CARLSON, CHRISTOPHER \_\_\_\_\_ 152ND CSSB  
 FERBER, MARK \_\_\_\_\_ 211TH EN CO  
 JOHNSON, NATHANIEL \_\_\_\_\_ 196TH MEB  
 KAYSER, KENNY \_\_\_\_\_ 196TH MEB  
 LEIS, KELLY \_\_\_\_\_ TRN SITE DET  
 PLOOSTER, MICHAEL \_\_\_\_\_ DET 1, 211TH EN CO  
 WALTON, HOLLY \_\_\_\_\_ MED CMD  
 WOG, TROY \_\_\_\_\_ 1742ND TRANS CO

**MASTER SERGEANT (E-7)**

FRANCIS, DANIEL \_\_\_\_\_ 114TH MXS  
 LEHMAN, CHARISSA \_\_\_\_\_ 114TH OSF  
 LEVISAY, AARON \_\_\_\_\_ 114TH FW  
 MCCLAREN, ERIN \_\_\_\_\_ 114TH MDG  
 MEYER, NILOFAR \_\_\_\_\_ 114TH MDG

**STAFF SERGEANT (E-6)**

BIGGS, RYAN \_\_\_\_\_ BTRY A, 1/147TH FA  
 CLEMENS, NEIL \_\_\_\_\_ BTRY A, 1/147TH FA  
 GREGERSON, LEE \_\_\_\_\_ FSC, 153RD EN BN  
 HAHNE, JACK \_\_\_\_\_ 1978TH CCT  
 HANSON, MATTHEW \_\_\_\_\_ REC & RET BN  
 HARKIN, PRISCILLA \_\_\_\_\_ 1742ND TRANS CO  
 HARRIS, RONALD \_\_\_\_\_ BTRY B, 1/147TH FA  
 HARTY, TODD \_\_\_\_\_ FSC, 153RD EN BN  
 HINTON, FRANCES \_\_\_\_\_ MED CMD  
 HINTZ, WAYNE \_\_\_\_\_ 196TH MEB  
 JARAGOSKE, COREY \_\_\_\_\_ 2ND BN, 196TH RTI  
 KPRADITH, KYTO \_\_\_\_\_ BTRY B, 1/147TH FA  
 MCMILLAN CHAD LEE \_\_\_\_\_ HHS, 1/147TH FA  
 MEYER, JAMES \_\_\_\_\_ BTRY C, 1/147TH FA  
 MITCHELL, ROGER \_\_\_\_\_ BTRY B, 1/147TH FA  
 MOSER, WAYNE \_\_\_\_\_ 82ND CST  
 MOSS, TODD \_\_\_\_\_ 147TH FSC  
 ROBERTSON, ROBERT \_\_\_\_\_ 82ND CST  
 ROGERS, SEAN \_\_\_\_\_ REC & RET BN  
 SCHLIMGEN, NATHAN \_\_\_\_\_ 147TH FSC  
 SCOTTING GLENN GAIL \_\_\_\_\_ BTRY C, 1/147TH FA  
 SPERLE, TAYLOR \_\_\_\_\_ DET 1, 235TH MP CO  
 TJADEN, MATTHEW \_\_\_\_\_ 740TH TRANS CO  
 TOBIN, RYAN \_\_\_\_\_ 200TH EN CO  
 TROHKIMOINEN, SANDI \_\_\_\_\_ JFHQ  
 TVINNEREIM, AARON \_\_\_\_\_ DET 1, 740TH TRANS CO  
 VEAL, MATTHEW \_\_\_\_\_ DET 2, 235TH MP CO  
 WELLS, KIMBERLY \_\_\_\_\_ DET 1, 1742ND TRANS CO  
 WOLF, BRANDON \_\_\_\_\_ DET 1, HHS 1/147TH FA  
 ZUBKO, STEVEN \_\_\_\_\_ BTRY B, 1/147TH FA

**TECHNICAL SERGEANT (E-6)**

CARDA, PAUL \_\_\_\_\_ 114TH SVF  
 FINCHER, CHARLES \_\_\_\_\_ 114TH LRS  
 FUCHS, JOHN \_\_\_\_\_ 114TH MXS  
 INGLE, KODI \_\_\_\_\_ 114TH OSF

STEFFEN, CHRISTOPHER \_\_\_\_\_ 114TH CES

**SERGEANT (E-5)**

AKINS, JOHN \_\_\_\_\_ BTRY B, 1/147TH FA  
 ANDERSON, BRENT \_\_\_\_\_ DET 3, 842ND EN CO  
 ANDERSON, CORY \_\_\_\_\_ BTRY A, 1/147TH FA  
 BERNDT, TERRY \_\_\_\_\_ DET 3, 842ND EN CO  
 BERTRAND, MATTHEW \_\_\_\_\_ 1742ND TRANS CO  
 BOBZIEN, KEITH \_\_\_\_\_ 211TH EN CO  
 BRANDSRUD, RUSTY \_\_\_\_\_ 211TH EN CO  
 BUTT, JOHN \_\_\_\_\_ FSC, 153RD EN BN  
 CAP, MELVIN \_\_\_\_\_ TNG SITE DET  
 CLARK, JEROME \_\_\_\_\_ BTRY A, 1/147TH FA  
 CLEMENT, LOUIS \_\_\_\_\_ 881ST TRP CMD  
 COLE, ROBERT \_\_\_\_\_ MED CMD  
 CUSTER, BRIAN \_\_\_\_\_ 842ND EN CO  
 ENGLUND, BRADLEY \_\_\_\_\_ 200TH EN CO  
 FIDDLER, CHRISTOPHER \_\_\_\_\_ HQ, 196TH REGIMENT (RTI)  
 FISCHER MICHAEL \_\_\_\_\_ 1742ND TRANS CO  
 FRITCH, JASON \_\_\_\_\_ 235TH MP CO  
 GINSBACH, DUSTY \_\_\_\_\_ 235TH MP CO  
 HILLMER, ADAM \_\_\_\_\_ DET 3, 842ND EN CO  
 JUNGWIRTH, JERAD \_\_\_\_\_ 730TH ASMC  
 KAVANAUGH, TORRE \_\_\_\_\_ 235TH MP CO  
 KIVI, DANIEL \_\_\_\_\_ 235TH MP CO  
 KIELTY, TRENT \_\_\_\_\_ 730TH ASMC  
 KIENZLE, KYLE \_\_\_\_\_ DET 3, 842ND EN CO  
 KONECHNE, MARTIN \_\_\_\_\_ DET 1, 200TH EN CO  
 LARSEN, CHAS \_\_\_\_\_ REC & RET BN  
 LEWNO, DARIN \_\_\_\_\_ 211TH EN CO  
 LIEBL, JEFFREY \_\_\_\_\_ FSC, 153RD EN BN  
 LOHFF, LEE \_\_\_\_\_ 2ND BN, 196TH REGIMENT (RTI)  
 MARCUCCI, GUY \_\_\_\_\_ 147TH FSC  
 MEYER, JAMES \_\_\_\_\_ DET 1, BTRY A, 2/147TH FA  
 MEYER, LORI \_\_\_\_\_ 730TH ASMC  
 MILES, BRADLEY \_\_\_\_\_ DET 2, 147TH FSC  
 MILLER, DONALD \_\_\_\_\_ BTRY B, 1/147TH FA  
 NEDVED, MATTHEW \_\_\_\_\_ 1742ND TRANS CO  
 NELSON, LYNN \_\_\_\_\_ DET 1, HHS 1/147TH FA  
 OLIVER, TAMRA \_\_\_\_\_ JFHQ  
 PADGETT, MARION \_\_\_\_\_ BTRY C, 1/147TH FA  
 PETERSEN, JEFFERY \_\_\_\_\_ DET 1, 211TH EN CO  
 PONCELET, MARK \_\_\_\_\_ DET 1, 211TH EN CO  
 RHOADES, JASON \_\_\_\_\_ BTRY B, 1/147TH FA  
 RUEDEBUSCH, MATTHEW \_\_\_\_\_ 200TH EN CO  
 SCHAEFER, KEITH \_\_\_\_\_ DET 1, CO A, 139TH BSB  
 SCHAVE, BRYAN \_\_\_\_\_ 730TH ASMC  
 SCHURCH, SCOTT \_\_\_\_\_ DET 2, 147TH FSC  
 SCHUT, GREGORY \_\_\_\_\_ 147TH FSC  
 SMITH, JENNIFER \_\_\_\_\_ DET 2, CO A, 139TH BSB  
 SOESBE, JORDY \_\_\_\_\_ 235TH MP CO  
 SORENSON, DONOVAN \_\_\_\_\_ DET 2, CO A, 1/112TH AVN  
 STAHL, TRENT \_\_\_\_\_ 235TH MP CO  
 STOCKLAND, DANA \_\_\_\_\_ HHS, 1/147TH FA  
 SWARTOS, COLLIN \_\_\_\_\_ 1742ND TRANS CO  
 TIMMER, JEREMY \_\_\_\_\_ 235TH MP CO  
 TURNER, BARRY \_\_\_\_\_ 196TH MEB  
 WATKINS, RICHARD \_\_\_\_\_ 235TH MP CO  
 WEGER, AUBREY \_\_\_\_\_ 147TH ARMY BAND  
 WOODCKMAN, EMILY \_\_\_\_\_ HSC, 153RD EN BN

**STAFF SERGEANT (E-5)**

BACKER, KURT \_\_\_\_\_ 114TH CES  
 ERPENBACH, JACOB \_\_\_\_\_ 114TH CES  
 GREENE, BECKY \_\_\_\_\_ 114TH MDG  
 HORSTMAN, WADE \_\_\_\_\_ 114TH CES  
 LAUFMANN, LINDSAY \_\_\_\_\_ 114TH SVF  
 LEE, JOSHUA \_\_\_\_\_ 114TH AMXS  
 MATSON, CODY \_\_\_\_\_ 114TH CES  
 OLSON, LEVI \_\_\_\_\_ 114TH CF  
 PETERSON, EVAN \_\_\_\_\_ 114TH CES  
 ROSS, ELIZABETH \_\_\_\_\_ 114TH FW  
 RYAN, NICOLE \_\_\_\_\_ 114TH MDG  
 SMITH, TIMOTHY \_\_\_\_\_ 114TH SFS  
 STARK, MEGAN \_\_\_\_\_ 114TH LRS  
 WEELDREYER, CHAD \_\_\_\_\_ 114TH MXS

# Drug Demand Reduction Program receives national award

By Maj. Brendan Murphy  
State Public Affairs Officer

WASHINGTON, D.C. – South Dakota National Guard's (SDNG) Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) program received national recognition, Feb. 12, at the Community Alcohol and Drug Coalitions of America's (CADCA) 19th Annual National Leadership Forum Award luncheon.

This national award is given annually to the DDR program that is nominated by a community-based organization involved with CADCA. Pam Teany Thomas from the Rapid City Schools Adolescent Substance Abuse Coalition, nominated the SDNG's DDR program for their support to numerous area schools and community activities.

The supported activities include: the Red Ribbon Campaign, Safe and Drug Free Schools Campaign, Parents Matter Campaign, Stay on Track, Adolescent Drug and Alcohol Prevention Training, and the Youth to Youth Conference held at Camp Rapid every year.

According to Teany Thomas, there are over 5,000 coalition members across the country, including parents, media and social services. The goal of these programs is "to create safe, healthy and drug-free communities," said Teany Thomas. "It is amazing to gather 500 kids from North Middle School in Rapid City, to spell out the words 'STAY ON TRACK' and have a SDNG helicopter fly over to capture the moment."

The DDR program in S.D. shows the local communities that this state is committed to excellence, and play a key role in the fight against drugs.

"I am very proud of the hard work every member of my team has put into the DDR program," stated Lt. Col. Jeffrey Klosterman, the Counterdrug coordinator for the SDNG. "We help facilitate youth involvement and it all comes down to the passionate and dedicated people in this program."

The Institute for Educational Leadership & Evaluation, a project of the Chiesman Foundation for Democracy, Inc. conducts annual surveys within the Rapid City area schools and the results are tabulated and reported to the district and community annually. Here are some of those statistics on the fight against drugs (2001-2007):

## TOBACCO USE

- 53% decline for 7th graders
  - From 14% in 2001 to 6.6% in 2007
- 18% decline for high school students
  - From 36.7% in 2001 to 30.2% in 2007

## ALCOHOL USE

- 58% decline for 7th graders
  - From 18.2% in 2001 to 7.6% in 2007
- 18% decline for high school students
  - From 47% in 2001 to 33.6% in 2007

## MARIJUANA USE

- 26% decline for 7th graders
  - From 6.2% in 2001 to 4.6% in 2007
- 28% decline for high school students
  - From 27.7% in 2001 to 19.9% in 2007

## HUFFING

- 29% decline for 11th graders
  - From 6.6% in 2001 to 4.7% in 2007

The fight against drugs is alive and well, and the SDNG DDR program is taking the necessary steps to partner with various organizations to provide a safe and drug-free environment throughout the state.

"The DDR program is an opportunity to provide education to kids in a fun way," said Kristi Palmer, the DDR noncommissioned officer in charge. "It is a way to reach many youth and hope they make the right choices throughout the rest of their lives."



From left: Col. William Carle, Chief National Guard Bureau, J3-Counter Drug, Lt. Col. Jeffrey Klosterman, Counterdrug coordinator, Sgt. 1st Class Kristi Palmer, DDR NCOIC and Capt. Don Johnson, DDR administrator, receive the national award for outstanding DDR program of the year at the 2009 Annual Community Alcohol and Drug Coalitions of America National Leadership Forum Award luncheon. (Photo by Pam Teany Thomas)



Nearly 500 children from North Middle School in Rapid City organized on their football field to form the words 'STAY ON TRACK,' signifying that they remained drug-free and support being in a safe, healthy and drug-free school. (Army photo by 1st Sgt. Donald Matthews)

ARTILLERY continued from pg. 17

The unit also provided vehicle convoy security for U.S. military, coalition forces and government contractors. These daily convoys totaled more than two million combined miles. The battalion returned home in February 2005.

Charlie Battery of the 1st Battalion also conducted a non-typical artillery mission. Deployed in July 2005, 174 Soldiers performed police transition team missions with the Iraqi Police, conducting joint patrols, route security, reconnaissance missions, personnel and site security, and rescue and recovery missions within Baghdad and south into Kuwait.

The unit trained more than 1,000 Iraqi Police, creating stability in the southern and eastern strategic districts of Baghdad and enabled a district in the center of Baghdad to become the first to transition the responsibility of security to the Iraqi Police. Charlie Battery returned home in September 2006.

A new strategy from the Department of Defense would call for a surge in forces to help stabilize a fragile Iraqi government and military. To fulfill the need for more security forces, Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion would be called upon in October 2007.

While in Iraq, the Soldiers conducted a variety of security missions including the operation of a total of 1,900 hours of entry-traffic control points, 87 base-defense operations, 75 route-security missions and 17 recovery missions for American government contractors. The unit also provided security for logistical supply convoys, driving a total of 396,000 miles as convoy escorts. Battery B returned home in October 2008.

## THE TRANSFORMATION

During the years of 2005-2008, the SDNG would again begin to transform its structure to meet the needs of an evolving federal and state mission. Threats of domestic terrorism and natural disasters would reshape the National Guard as a whole to better respond to national emergencies and homeland defense. Many Soldiers from the 147th Brigade volunteered to be part of a 200-personnel task force to support recovery operations following Hurricane Katrina in 2005. After Katrina, the artillery would see major changes to its organization.

The 147th FA Brigade along with its 2nd Battalion would be reorganized into other units. The brigade would become the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade and the 2nd Battalion would be re-designated as the 1st Battalion and 139th Brigade Support Battalion.

For more than 100 years, the artillerymen of the South Dakota National Guard have defended their own nation's freedom and those of other nations struggling to preserve it. Perhaps the phrases, "King of Battle" and "Pride of the Dakotas" give new meaning to this new generation of South Dakota artillery, who are ready and willing to perform any mission, anytime, anywhere.



**FREE CHECKING THAT COMES WITH  
OUR COMMITMENT.**

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**AT USAA, WE'VE BEEN SERVING OUR MEMBERS FOR OVER 86 YEARS.** Our commitment to our members pushes us to have sound business practices, which make us financially strong. And our strength is what allows us to consistently serve you better. Sign up for a USAA Free Checking account and receive member-only benefits, such as:

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- **mobile.usaa.com.** Check balances, pay bills, transfer funds and sign up for Mobile Alerts.
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<sup>1</sup>USAA does not charge a fee for the first 10 ATM withdrawals and refunds up to \$15 in other banks' ATM usage fees each month. Currency conversion charges may apply when using ATMs outside the U.S.  
<sup>2</sup>You must qualify for Deposit@Home; credit approval required. Deposits may not be available for immediate withdrawal based on our funds availability policy.  
Use of the term "member" does not convey any legal, eligibility or ownership rights.  
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## Military Benefit Association supports our troops and provides security for military families.

For over 50 years, Military Benefit Association (MBA) has sponsored affordable group life insurance for its members and their families.

MBA is among the nation's largest non-profit military associations. Military servicemembers join MBA for its excellent insurance plans, including separate spouse coverage up to \$250,000, child coverage options, and for the financial and lifestyle benefits membership offers.

### Families Depend Upon MBA.

As we have expanded our membership programs, we have also experienced growth in the amount of paid claims. **Since March 2003, MBA-sponsored group life insurance has paid over \$23 million in claims to families of MBA members lost in military hostilities in Iraq and Afghanistan.** This money helped the families of our members continue their lives during a difficult period.

MBA offers a selection of valuable benefits to promote the economic interests and improve the quality of life of our members and their families, including the MBA Scholarship Program which awards five \$2,000 scholarships annually to dependent children of members. MBA's Goldshield Benefit Program offers discounted travel, medical, legal, and telecounseling

services. Other programs include assistance with VA home financing through VALoans.com and a USBank VISA card with no annual fee.

MBA Term 90 group life insurance has premium rates which are competitive with SGLI. More importantly, this coverage stays with you when you leave the military. You do not have to convert to the more expensive VGLI plan.

When you purchase MBA-sponsored group life insurance, you join a community of people who share your interests. If you would like more information about MBA and the insurance plans it sponsors, please visit our website:

[www.militarybenefit.org](http://www.militarybenefit.org)

or call our toll-free number

**1-800-336-0100**

Life Insurance underwritten by Government Personnel Mutual Life Insurance Company. Not available in all states.

