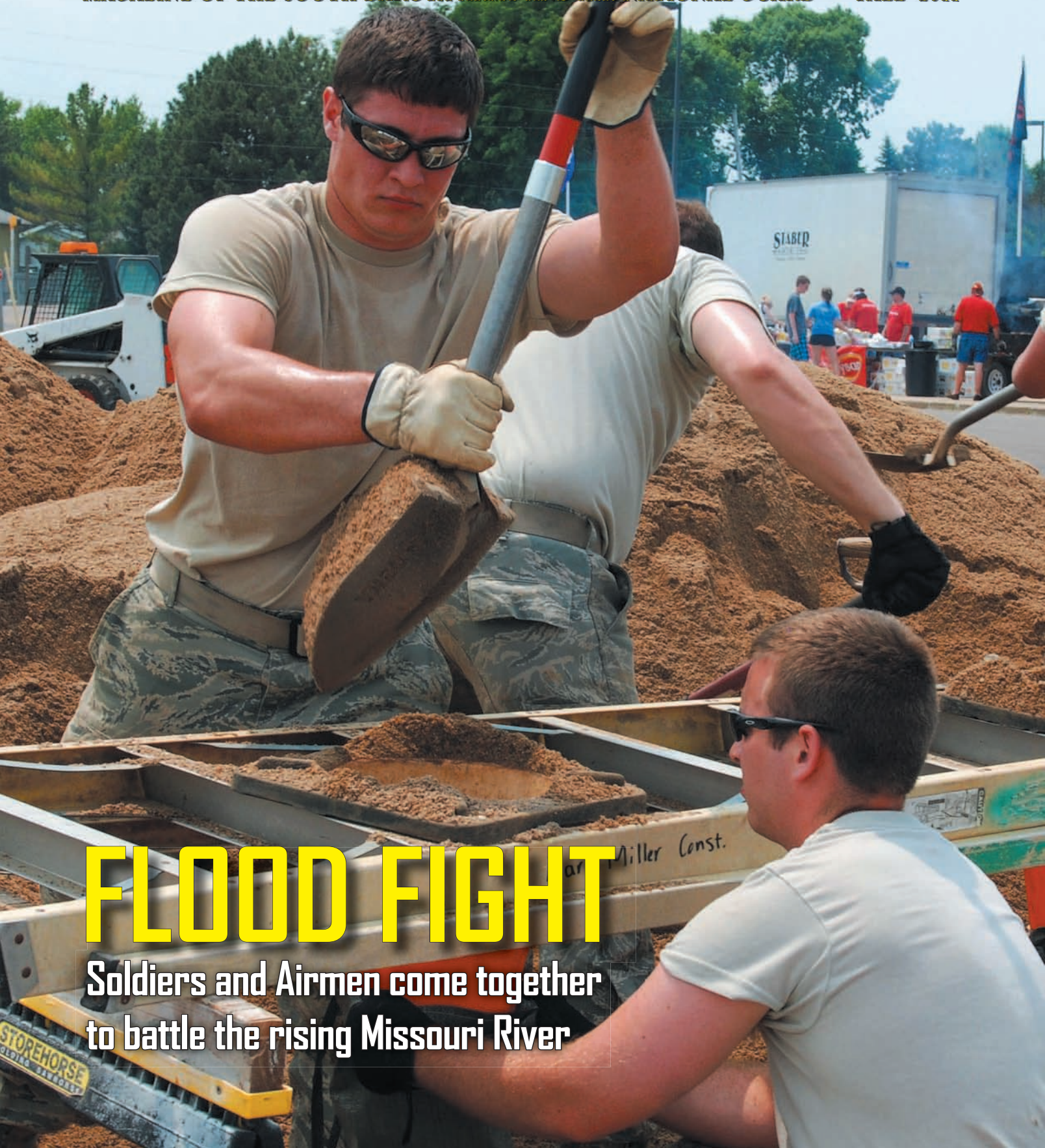


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Maj. Gen. Timothy A. Reisch
The Adjutant General

Maj. Brendan Murphy
State Public Affairs Officer

Capt. Anthony Deiss
State Public Affairs Deputy

OC Chad Carlson
Editor

Staff Sgt. Theanne Tangen
Design/Layout

CONTRIBUTORS

Staff Sgt. Tiphany Dvorak
Sgt. Jared Eslick-Coats
Sgt. Thia Monteith
Spc. Tiffany Hamilton
Unit Public Affairs Representatives

Sgt. Charlie Jacobson
Sgt. Laura Fuerst
Spc. Andrew Turner
Spc. Manda Walters
129th MPAD

Maj. Wayne Asscherick
Golden Coyote PAD

Capt. Michael Frye
Tech Sgt. Quinton Young
114th Fighter Wing

Troy Maroney
The Brookings Register

MSG Donald Matthews
Visual Information Office

Mark Watson
Black Hills Pioneer



8537 Corbin Drive, Anchorage, AK 99507
907.562.9300 • Toll Free: 866.562.9300
Web: www.AQPpublishing.com

Bob Ulin Publisher
Chris Kersbergen • Darrell George
Advertising Sales

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DAKOTA PACK

Magazine of the South Dakota Army and Air National Guard



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On the cover

Two members of the South Dakota Air National Guard's 114th Fighter Wing from Sioux Falls team up to fill a sandbag June 4, 2011, at the Dakota Valley High School, North Sioux City. (Photo by Sgt. Charlie Jacobson)



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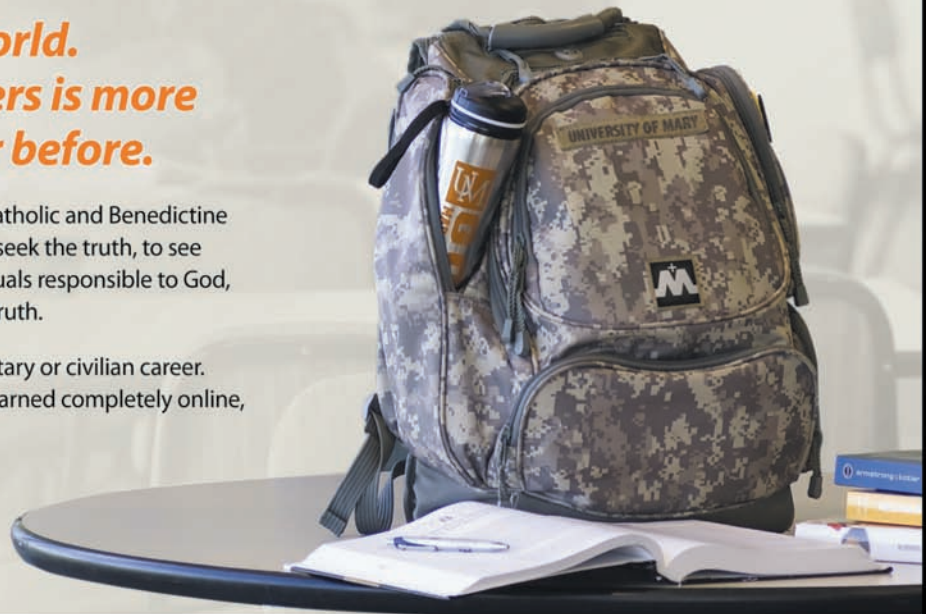
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Few were sleeping in late May and early June when record flooding on the Missouri River threatened homes, businesses and communities and forced an unprecedented flurry of emergency protective and preventive measures. As always, members of the South Dakota National Guard were awake. You were on the front lines, whether the mission involved levee building, sandbag duty, security patrols or rescue planning. Your strong presence in the center of this crisis gave your fellow citizens a sense of security and a feeling of confidence that, together, we would overcome one of the most formidable challenges ever to face our state.

The missions you carried out on land, in the air and on the water were essential to the overall response. Less noticed, perhaps, were the activities of your public affairs teams, but the videos, still photographs and written stories those teams produced will be of immeasurable value to historians for generations to come.

During the height of the response, the theater of operations reached from Dakota Dunes at the Iowa border to the giant Oahe Dam north of Pierre and Fort Pierre. It involved as many as 1,300 National Guard men and women, each of whom answered the call to duty because, well, that is what the National Guard does when its country or its state calls.

Your effort in this greatest flood in the history of the Missouri River was essential to our successful response so far. For everything each of you contributed to the flood fight, and on behalf of all of the citizens of South Dakota, I offer a heartfelt Thank You.

Sincerely,

Dennis Daugaard
Governor, South Dakota



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I am Proud of You

My fellow Soldiers and Airmen,

My heart swelled with pride as I observed the efficient manner that the South Dakota National Guard mobilized and deployed to render assistance to South Dakotans impacted by the Missouri River flooding. Hundreds of citizens had been working day and night to fill sandbags to protect their property prior to our arrival. They were extremely grateful when the Guard arrived on the scene. Our Soldiers and Airmen immediately began working to support mayors, emergency managers and other local officials to transition the impacted communities from a state of crisis to one of preparedness.

Exactly four weeks prior to my arrival at the Emergency Operations Center in Pierre, I articulated my strategic goals during a presentation to the officers' convention in Sioux Falls. One of them was to identify ways that the Air and Army Guard could work together more closely in the future. I had no idea that an opportunity to do so would come so quickly, or that it would go so well.

One would have to look back nearly 40 years to the 1972 Rapid City Flood to find an example where the SDNG was mobilized in such great numbers to respond to a state emergency. I want you to know that I couldn't be prouder of the way our Airmen and Soldiers have worked together and responded to this emergency.

Sincerely,

Timothy A. Reisch
MG (SD), SDNG
The Adjutant General

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200th Engineer Company deploys to Afghanistan

PIERRE – Approximately 185 Soldiers from the South Dakota Army National Guard's 200th Engineer Company mobilized to Afghanistan for a one-year deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Their mission will be to perform both temporary and permanent bridging solutions.

The 200th is a multi-role bridging company capable of providing personnel and equipment to transport, assemble, disassemble, retrieve and maintain all standard U.S. Army bridging systems.

Company C, 1/189th aviation deploys to Iraq

RAPID CITY – Approximately 66 Soldiers from the South Dakota Army National Guard's Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment mobilized to Iraq for a one-year deployment to perform medical evacuations to injured service members.

The unit, made up of pilots, crew chiefs, medics, mechanics, avionics specialists and flight operations personnel, is designed to provide aerial-medical evacuation support with its eight UH-60 Black Hawks.

139th Brigade Support Battalion deploys to Iraq

BROOKINGS – Approximately 64 Soldiers of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 139th Brigade Support Battalion mobilized to Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn.

Soldiers of the 139th will provide logistical and maintenance support to U.S. forces in Iraq. The 139th is composed of Soldiers from the Brookings, Redfield, Watertown, Miller, Mitchell, Rapid City and Sioux Falls areas.

Physician deploys to Iraq

RAPID CITY – Maj. Curtis Liedtke, a physician in the South Dakota Army National Guard's 730th Area Support Medical Company, mobilized to Iraq for 90-120 days in support of Operation New Dawn.

Liedtke is working in a level-III hospital treating the wounded and any service members who may need help on the base.

Training Center Command changes command

RAPID CITY – Lt. Col. Joe Carlin, of Rapid City, is the new commander of the South Dakota Army National Guard's Training Center Command of Rapid City.

Carlin received command on June 24 from Lt. Col. Dan Iverson, of Rapid City, who had commanded the unit since January 2010.

Carlin commented after accepting command of the 26-member National Guard unit, "The unit recently doubled their amount of personnel allowing us to expand our role in training others. I am looking forward to spreading the word about our ranges and simulators."

The Training Center provides year-round training facilities, ranges and maneuver areas for the National Guard, Reserve, federal and state agencies.

Carlin is self employed at Joe's Sandblasting. He has been a member of the Army National Guard for 22 years.

Iverson, the departing commander, is being assigned to Joint Force Headquarters to serve as the training branch chief.

109th Regional Support Group changes command

RAPID CITY – Col. William Freidel, Armour native now living in Rapid City, is the new commander of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 109th Regional Support Group of Rapid City.

Freidel received command of the unit June 25 from Col. Thomas Croymans, of Aberdeen, who commanded the unit since May 2009.

The 109th Regional Support Group is one of four major commands for the SDNG. Its mission is to provide command and control and supervision for 23 separate units and detachments totaling approximately 900 Soldiers in nine communities throughout South Dakota.

Freidel is employed by the SDARNG as the director of logistics, and has been a member of the Guard for 29 years.

Croymans, the departing commander, is furthering his military education by attending a ten-month resident course at the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle, Pa. Completion of the course earns Croymans a master's degree in strategic studies and makes him eligible for general officer grades.

881st Troop Command changes leadership

FORT MEADE – The South Dakota Army National Guard's 881st Troop Command changed its top officer and noncommissioned officer positions during several ceremonies July 10 at the Fort Meade Parade Field.

Lt. Col. Mark Harder, Rapid City, took command of the 881st during a change of command ceremony, where he assumed responsibility from Lt. Col. Barry Whitney, Rapid City, who served in the position since October 2009.

Command Sgt. Maj. Russel Young, of Mitchell, took the reins as the 881st's senior-noncommissioned officer during a change of responsibility ceremony, where he assumed duties from Command Sgt. Maj. Pat Couser, Brookings.

The mission of the 881st is to provide command and control, administrative, logistical and training support for nearly 300 Soldiers in 14 assigned units and detachments in four communities throughout the state.

730th Area Support Medical Company changes command

By Sgt. Jared Eslick-Coats
730th Unit Public Affairs Representative

VERMILLION – Capt. Zachary Hauge, Rapid City, took command of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 730th Area Support Medical Company, during a change of command ceremony July 9 at the Vermillion armory.

Hauge assumed responsibility from former commander Maj. David Fossum, Brookings, who served in the command position since July 2009.

"I am excited and humbled to be taking command of a field medical unit of this caliber," said Hauge, during the ceremony. "We have the unique mission of preserving life and putting Soldiers back in the fight and I know this unit and the Soldiers who serve here do not take that responsibility lightly."

The mission of the 730th is to provide valuable medical services for all National Guard units across the state. The unit has more than 100 Soldiers comprising doctors, nurses, physician assistants, combat medics, radiological technicians and a variety of medical support personnel.

“The members of the 730th have an impressive work ethic,” said Hauge. “I look forward to creating the type of atmosphere where we come to drill for different types of intense training in order to prepare us for missions here at home or while deployed.”

155th Engineer Company unit helps construct Lennox picnic shelter

By Staff Sgt. Tiphany L. Dvorak
155th Unit Public Affairs Representative

LENNOX – Soldiers from the South Dakota Army National Guard’s Detachment 2, 155th Engineer Company (Vertical), of Platte, helped the city of Lennox build a picnic shelter for the city park June 4-5.

The city received a financial donation from the local Lions Club, along with other donations, to cover the cost of materials, while the National Guard provided the manpower.

“The city anticipates getting the opportunity to host the state amateur baseball tournament this summer,” said Glen Nelson, city council member. “The picnic shelter will be a great addition to the public park for those types of events.”

Not only will the project benefit the community, but it provided the Guard members training that relates to their mission.

“This is why we are in the National Guard, to provide communities the service while getting great training in the process,” said 2nd Lt. Tricia Eining, Detachment 2 platoon leader, formerly of Iroquois, S.D.

The 155th is a vertical engineer company capable of providing engineering support in the construction of base camps and internment facilities, as well as constructing, repairing and maintaining other vertical infrastructures within a brigade combat team, division or corps.

The unit as a whole contains a variety of military occupational specialties that include carpentry, plumbing, electrical and masonry services.

With more than 150 personnel assigned, the unit is split into four separate detachments with its Headquarters Company located in Rapid City, Detachment 1 in Winner, Detachment 2 in Platte and Detachment 3 in Wagner.



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Photo by Sgt. Charlie Jacobson

Army Spc. Daniel Koupal, a mechanic with the 155th Engineering Company, South Dakota Army National Guard, cuts a cement block during construction of a new clinic in Alkmaar, Suriname, June 25, 2011. Soldiers with the 155th are building the clinic as part of the New Horizons training exercise, which is a cooperative humanitarian mission between the Suriname government and U.S. Southern Command with the goal of helping to improve the quality of life for the people of Suriname.

Airmen and Soldiers build clinic in Suriname

Story by Sgt. Charlie Jacobson
129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

ALKMAAR, Suriname - While many members of the South Dakota National Guard were fighting floods in South Dakota, Airmen from the 114th Fighter Wing's Civil Engineering Squadron and Soldiers from the 155th Engineer Company traveled south to build a new clinic during the 2011 New Horizons training exercise in Suriname.

The Airmen and Soldiers were supporting the collaborative humanitarian mission between the Surinamese and U.S. governments by using their engineering skills to replace an outdated clinic for the people of Alkmaar.

"The old clinic is in pretty tough shape. The new clinic will have a lot more updated technology, including a pharmacy and air conditioning," said Sgt. 1st Class Jay Spaans, 155th noncommissioned officer in charge.

"The people here are poor and building this clinic is necessary to bring the people of the small community of Alkmaar the health care they need."

Spaans added that the work was on pace and the clinic should be finished by the middle of August. However, he said that this group from the 114th and 155th would not be in Suriname to witness the completion of the clinic.

With the New Horizons training exercise lasting more than 90 days, Soldiers and Airmen visited Suriname to work in two-week rotations until the exercise was complete.

These Airmen and Soldiers worked hard for the people of Suriname during the rest of their rotation, a job Spaans said he knows these troops did well and will be proud of.

"These guys have excellent attitudes, and they work really hard. It makes my job really easy. They are all very ambitious and willing to go the extra mile."

— Sgt. 1st. Class Jay Spaans

Staff Sgt. Ryan Glidewell (left) and Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey Deyong, 114th Fighter Wing Civil Engineer Squadron, fasten a piece of corrugated metal into place for the soffits on the Alkmaar Clinic in Suriname July 6, 2011.



Photo by Master Sgt. Christopher Stewart



Photo by Sgt. Charlie Jacobson

Army Spc. Kim Kokesh, a generator mechanic with the 155th Engineer Company, South Dakota Army National Guard, places mortar between cement blocks during construction of a new clinic in Alkmaar, Suriname, June 25, 2011.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Quinton Young

Staff Sgt. Zach Jorgensen from Harrisburg, an HVAC craftsman with the 114th Fighter Wing's Civil Engineering Squadron, Sioux Falls, shows Senior Airman Andrew Peterson how to install an electrical outlet in the Alkmaar Clinic in Suriname July 13, 2011.

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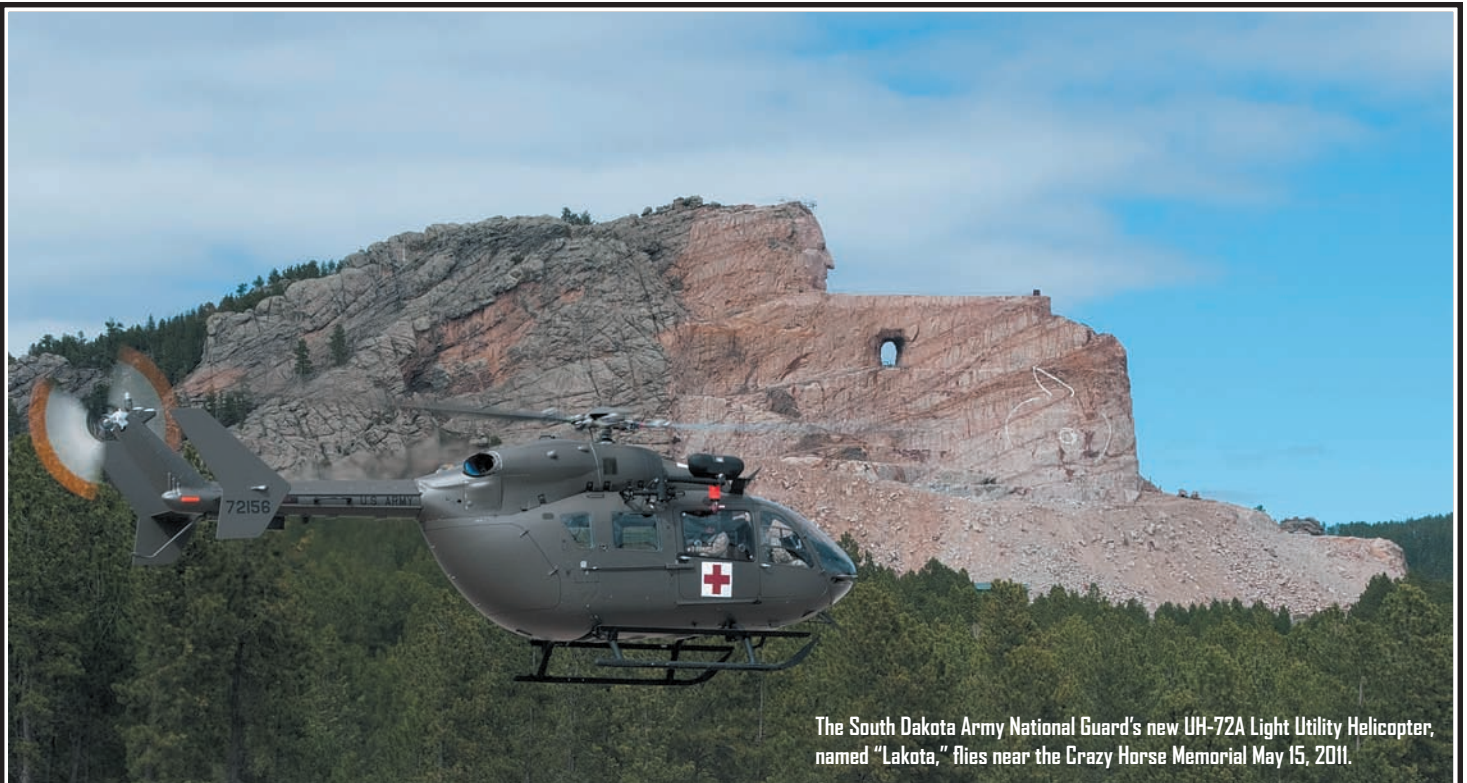
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The South Dakota Army National Guard's new UH-72A Light Utility Helicopter, named "Lakota," flies near the Crazy Horse Memorial May 15, 2011.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Theanne Tangen

Lakota helicopter welcomed at Crazy Horse

Story by Sgt. Laura Fuerst
129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Soldiers of the South Dakota Army National Guard as well as members of the Lakota Nation gathered to welcome one of their very own. It was a day of celebration, blessings and unveiling for those who came together to observe and participate in the day's events. With the stage set to the backdrop of Crazy Horse Memorial, and surrounded by the Black Hills, the "guest of honor" showcased itself to the community.

The UH-72A "Lakota" Light-Utility Helicopter made its debut appearance during the ceremony May 15, with Soldiers of the South Dakota Army National Guard and members of the Lakota Nation, in an event that helped promote unity and diversity between the two communities.

"I am proud that we have the National Guard doing something like this," said Master Sgt. Kelly L. Moore, a senior maintenance sergeant with the Joint Force Headquarters aviation section. "This event has brought both the National Guard and the Lakota Nation together to help promote unity."

Several members of the Lakota Nation agreed with Moore.

"It's an honor for the National Guard to give the Lakota name to the helicopter," said Orlando B. Morrison Sr., a veterans service officer and director of veterans programs for

the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. "This will bring the tribes, the National Guard and the people of South Dakota closer together."

The UH-72A was named "Lakota" as part of the Army's long-standing tradition of naming its helicopters after Native American tribes.

"I think the tribes coming together, the whole concept of the helicopter being named the Lakota, and holding a welcoming ceremony that incorporates our traditions helps to bring awareness to the Lakota Nation," said Rodney M. Bordeaux, president of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe.

Rep. Kristi Noem, congresswoman for the state of South Dakota who spoke at the ceremony, said she believed that the spirit of partnership between the National Guard and the Lakota Nation when naming the aircraft is going to bring honor to everyone involved.

"It's going to build and strengthen many relationships over the years," Noem said. "It's going to be a testimony to our children and to our grandchildren of what we can do and what we can accomplish in the name of our great nations."

The welcoming ceremony came to a close as the two communities united as one to celebrate in welcoming their very own UH-72A "Lakota."

The helicopter and its crew received a Native American blessing from Roy Stone, Lakota spiritual leader.

A commemorative blast was detonated on Crazy Horse Memorial and the day's events concluded with an afternoon of singing, dancing and other traditional Lakota activities showcasing the diverse, yet united, relationship between the Lakota Nation and the South Dakota National Guard.



Lakota Nation's Traditional dancers celebrate the South Dakota Army National Guard's new helicopter, named "Lakota," at the Crazy Horse Memorial May 15, 2011.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Theanne Tangen

"This will bring the tribes, the National Guard and the people of South Dakota closer together."

**—Orlando B. Morrison Sr.
Director of Veteran programs
Rosebud Sioux Tribe**



Photo by Sgt. Laura Fuerst

Left: Roy Stone, a Native American spiritual leader, blesses the UH-72A "Lakota" Light Utility Helicopter. The ceremony was attended by members of both the National Guard and the Lakota Tribes who celebrated their diversity and unity during the all day event at the memorial.

Right: Sgt. Cheryl DeCory salutes an Oglala Sioux Tribe member, before displaying his flag to honor their fallen Soldiers and veterans of war.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Theanne Tangen

27TH ANNUAL GOLDEN COYOTE

Photos by Maj. Wayne Asscherick
SONG Public Affairs Office



Soldiers pull security along a ridge during the 27th annual Golden Coyote

The South Dakota National Guard hosted its 27th annual Golden Coyote training exercise in the southern Black Hills June 6-25, providing relevant training opportunities in support of overseas contingency operations and homeland defense.

Created in the mid-1980s by the South Dakota National Guard, with the cooperation of the National Forest Service and Custer State Park, the Golden Coyote training exercise allowed more than 1,820 service members to conduct combat support and combat service support missions in a realistic training environment and provided valuable services to the public.

Local residents received numerous benefits of the many engineering and transportation projects conducted during the training exercise. Engineering units transported timber cut in remote areas to those who can use it as firewood, identified hazardous wilderness areas and made them safe for public use, and re-surfaced local roadways that have fallen into disrepair.

Members of 32 units representing 15 states, came together to combine a joint task force with the mission of providing force protection, humanitarian aid, and infrastructure improvement. The missions for this year's exercise spanned throughout the Black Hills and surrounding areas in both urban and wilderness settings.

Units participating in the exercise came from multiple military branches - Army, Navy, and Air Force - and worked together to create an invaluable training experience. Participating units trained on their equipment and employed tactics to complete various projects that helped improve the forest and infrastructure of many local communities.

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



Soldiers cross an obstacle at West Camp Rapid during the annual Golden Coyote training exercise June 13, 2011.



Sgt. Thomas Folsbee, 94th Military Police company, of Londonderry, N.H., explains the importance of the convoy training lane to Capt. Stefan Haase of Frankfurt, Hessen, Germany, during the Golden Coyote training exercise, June 18, 2011.



Members of the Navy Occupational Health Support Unit, Texas, move toward an enemy village during military operations on urban terrain using paintball guns, June 16, 2011.



Sgt. Amanda McGee, Colorado National Guard Medical Command, of Colorado Springs, Colo., gives a patient medication to alleviate breathing problems at Sioux San Hospital during the medical support mission on June 20, 2011. The members of the Medical Command gained valuable real-world experience from the opportunity to work with Native American patients.



(Right to left) Cpl. Anthony Bedard, Cpl. Brian Gillis and Sgt. Thomas Folsbee, with the 94th Military Police Company, of Londonderry, N.H., critique Soldiers after a phase of the convoy-training lane during the Golden Coyote training exercise, June 18, 2011.



Pfc. Daniel Molina, with the 516th Engineering Detachment, of Lincoln, Neb., enters a smoke filled building to rescue a notional "downed firefighter" during the Golden Coyote training exercise at Ellsworth AFB, June 15, 2011.

Missouri River Flood

AIRMEN AND SOLDIERS UNITE TO FIGHT THE RISING WATER
AND HELP PROTECT COMMUNITIES

Story by DC Chad Carlson
SDNG Public Affairs Office

Governor Dennis Daugaard called on approximately 1,300 South Dakota Army and Air National Guard members as the state experienced record water flows on the Missouri River.

The high water was a result of both record snow melt in Montana and heavy spring rainfall in eastern Wyoming, Montana and the western Dakotas flowing into streams and rivers that stream into South Dakota.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began releasing record amounts of water at all dams on the Missouri River to make room for water gushing into the upper Missouri River reservoir basin.

On May 27, the initial SDNG flood response was directed to the Pierre and Fort Pierre communities when approximately 327 National Guard members arrived and immediately began flood relief efforts.

"Their primary focus was sandbagging; filling sandbags for community members to place them as needed," said Lt. Col. Aaron Jordan, liaison officer between the SDNG and the state Emergency Operations Center.

Soldiers were also assisting with 24-hour sandbagging operations near the armory in Pierre and at the Expo Center in Fort Pierre.

Guard members worked around the clock reinforcing well houses and the wastewater treatment plant in Pierre.

The following morning Gov. Daugaard warned citizens along the Missouri River that flooding may be worse than earlier anticipated, and urged those living in affected areas to prepare for the worst.

"We alerted all available National Guard members in South Dakota so we could activate as many as we needed without delay," said Daugaard.

"This alert was essentially a notice to Soldiers and Airmen to pack a bag, pack their equipment and be ready so if we called their unit they could quickly assemble and move out," said Maj. Gen. Timothy Reisch,

adjutant general for the SDNG. "It was a historic event in the South Dakota National Guard."

As the Army Corps of Engineers steadily increased its Missouri River releases from 85,000 to 150,000 cubic feet per second, the National Guard would focus on protecting key infrastructures in the Pierre and Fort Pierre communities.

"We completed some important infrastructure protection projects during the influx, specifically raising the level of protection for 11 wells that serve the city of Pierre," said Reisch. "We began assisting with traffic control in the Pierre/Fort Pierre area, brought additional engineer equipment to Pierre and will begin constructing a levee in the vicinity of the Ramkota in Pierre today."

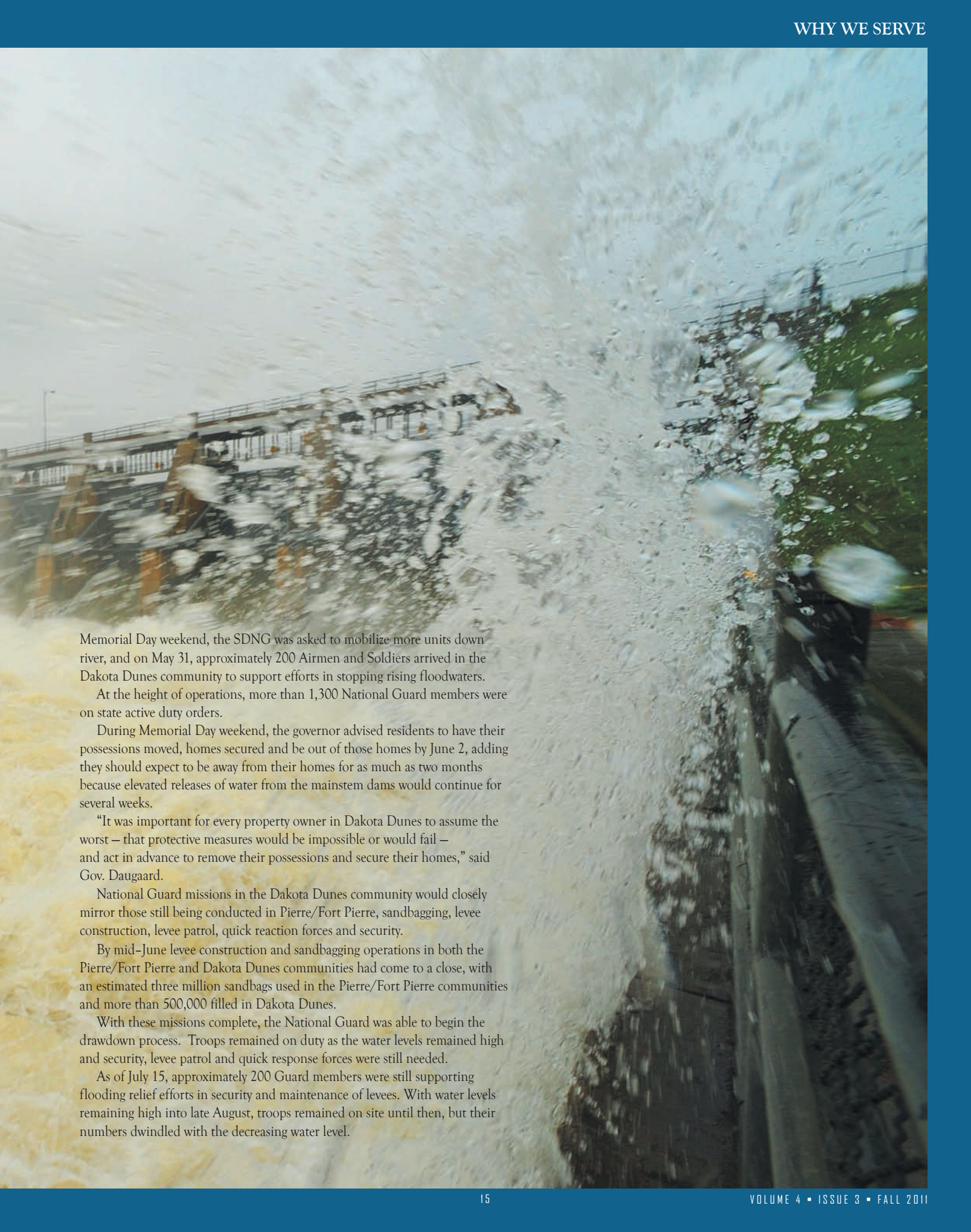
Nearly a platoon of Soldiers from the 842nd Engineer Company convoyed to Pierre from their annual training in Guernsey, Wyo., to construct the levee.

"I was very impressed by the long days and nights that our Soldiers and Airmen worked," Reisch said. "They made a huge difference in the Fort Pierre area. I know they put in long hours and were exhausted by the end of the day, but the work they did was crucial. I was personally thanked by the mayors of Pierre and Fort Pierre for the great job that our troops did."

As Missouri River releases would continue to climb and communities downstream began preparing for flooding, the National Guard was planning for possible future missions in southeast South Dakota.

"We focused on the planning stages of determining what may be needed in the Dakota Dunes and Yankton areas," said Reisch. "In light of the projected water levels in those areas, we expected that we may be asked to perform some role down river as well."

With more than 600 National Guard Soldiers and Airmen supporting flooding operations in the Pierre and Fort Pierre communities over



Memorial Day weekend, the SDNG was asked to mobilize more units down river, and on May 31, approximately 200 Airmen and Soldiers arrived in the Dakota Dunes community to support efforts in stopping rising floodwaters.

At the height of operations, more than 1,300 National Guard members were on state active duty orders.

During Memorial Day weekend, the governor advised residents to have their possessions moved, homes secured and be out of those homes by June 2, adding they should expect to be away from their homes for as much as two months because elevated releases of water from the mainstem dams would continue for several weeks.

“It was important for every property owner in Dakota Dunes to assume the worst – that protective measures would be impossible or would fail – and act in advance to remove their possessions and secure their homes,” said Gov. Daugaard.

National Guard missions in the Dakota Dunes community would closely mirror those still being conducted in Pierre/Fort Pierre, sandbagging, levee construction, levee patrol, quick reaction forces and security.

By mid-June levee construction and sandbagging operations in both the Pierre/Fort Pierre and Dakota Dunes communities had come to a close, with an estimated three million sandbags used in the Pierre/Fort Pierre communities and more than 500,000 filled in Dakota Dunes.

With these missions complete, the National Guard was able to begin the drawdown process. Troops remained on duty as the water levels remained high and security, levee patrol and quick response forces were still needed.

As of July 15, approximately 200 Guard members were still supporting flooding relief efforts in security and maintenance of levees. With water levels remaining high into late August, troops remained on site until then, but their numbers dwindled with the decreasing water level.



Soldiers of the 842nd Engineer Company construct a levee May 31, 2011 in Pierre. The state called Soldiers from the 842nd who were conducting annual training at Camp Guernsey, Wyo., to Pierre to assist with flood relief operations. The 842nd constructed a levee system to offer flooding protection to low-lying areas of Pierre and Fort Pierre.

Photo by Spc. Tiffany Hamilton

842nd halts deployment training to assist state

Story by Mark Watson
Black Hills Pioneer

PIERRE – Members of the 842nd Engineer Company left deployment training May 29, from Fort Guernsey Wyo., to assist in the flood effort by constructing levees as Pierre and Fort Pierre braced for more flooding.

The 842nd was training for their September deployment to Afghanistan when they received orders to head home and begin state active duty.

“The first big mission back home for us was building a levee in and around the area of the Ramkota to protect that whole area north of the bridge,” said Lt. Col. Aaron Jordan, liaison officer between the South Dakota National Guard and the state Emergency Operations Center.

“We brought our engineers and teamed up with the Corps of Engineers on getting the placement and the plan in place so when our materials arrived we could get right to work.”

That’s where the 842nd came in.

The horizontal construction company has bulldozers, and other large pieces of equipment suited for moving large amounts of earth. The governor alerted all available Guard units to help with the flooding. More than 600 Soldiers and Airmen with the South Dakota National Guard were called up to support flooding operations in Pierre and Fort Pierre.

“We did an excellent job getting hold of our Soldiers and Airmen,” said Maj. Gen. Timothy Reisch, adjutant general for the South Dakota

National Guard. “Approximately six hours after we had been tasked to alert our forces, we successfully contacted 2,748 Guardsmen, in addition to the forces we already had on the ground. By the second day, we had more than 600 Guardsmen active and supporting their fellow community members.”

Flood operations made an impact on some National Guard units’ prior planned annual training or weekend drill events, but supporting the state during an emergency is one of their core missions.

“We remain flexible,” Reisch said. “We’ll guard our units in their final preparations for federal deployments so their training isn’t impacted, but in terms of units not preparing for a mobilization, we have the flexibility to adjust training as needed.”

Maj. Gen. Reisch added he has been impressed with both the local governments here and with the individuals who have come forward and volunteered.

“This community did not simply stand by waiting for the National Guard, FEMA or state government to bail them out,” Reisch said. “They stepped forward and went to work and you can’t help but be impressed by all of the effort the citizens of Pierre and Fort Pierre have done for themselves. We are honored to come to communities like this and lend a helping hand.”

Sandbagging operations ensure demand is met

Story by Sgt. Charlie Jacobson
129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

DAKOTA DUNES – South Dakota National Guard members, local contractors, volunteers from the community, and South Dakota Department of Corrections inmates mass produced sandbags throughout the Dakota Dunes region June 3.

As the community began their all-out fight against threatening Missouri River water levels, sandbagging crews at more than 20 sites were producing nearly 500,000 sandbags per day, said Colby Crawford, the Division Supervisor for the sandbagging operation at the Dakota Dunes incident site.

The Gateway facility in North Sioux City was the highest producing sandbag location in the area as military personnel, inmates and volunteers produced up to 150,000 sandbags per day at the location, Crawford said.

With the success crews had achieved in manufacturing sandbags, ensuring the operation continued to meet the rising demand presented a challenge for Crawford.

“Sand really became a limiting factor and I was busy trying to get ahead on our supplies,” he said.

Sand was being hauled via railcar into Sioux City and transported to operation sites by any one of the 48 dump trucks being used in the operation, yet the supply barely kept up with the demand, Crawford noted.

“We were working with the sand company and decided to increase the operation to two railcars and start hauling directly from the quarry with tandem dump trucks,” he said.

Crawford ordered 4 million more empty sandbags on June 4, to ensure supplies last. He estimated that the sandbagging operation would go through a total of 750,000 full and empty sandbags a day.

“All of the supplies are critical,” he said. “As this operation expanded we had to plan two or three days out and really keep ahead on our logistics.”



Photo by Sgt. Charlie Jacobson

Pvt. Jason Weedman, of the 153rd Forward Support Company out of Parkston, scoops a shovel full of sand into a sandbag June 3, 2011, at the Gateway facility in North Sioux City, S.D. Weedman and other National Guard members worked alongside inmates and volunteers producing up to 150,000 sandbags per day at the site. Officials estimated the Gateway facility and several other sites in the area produced nearly 500,000 sandbags a day at the height of the Missouri River flooding.

Despite the challenges the operation faced, the success in production is a tribute to the people working day and night to protect the residents of the community.

“It’s amazing how well people came together to get this job done,” Crawford said. “There was really an outstanding effort from all the people involved in the operation and ultimately they were getting the job done.”

Sgt. 1st Class Darren Bigge, of the SDARNG’s 153rd Forward Support Company from Parkston, was very impressed with the effort and attitude he had seen from his fellow Guardsmen since they first arrived on site.

“They put forth a tremendous amount of effort,” Bigge said. “It was hot out here and the labor was tedious and backbreaking. Yet everyone displayed a great attitude as we worked together to support the residents along the Missouri River.”



Photo by CWS Gary Dykstra

A CH-47 Chinook conducts a sling-load of multiple one-ton sandbags for levee reinforcement June 10, 2011. The National Guard worked with local, state and federal agencies around the clock sandbagging.



Photo by OC Chad Carlson

Pfc. Brian Smith (right), of Company B, 139th Brigade Support Battalion, Mitchell, places sandbags on a levee at the city water reclamation plant in Pierre to protect the facility from flood waters.

Guardsmen conduct 24-hour levee patrol

Story by Sgt. Charlie Jacobson
129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

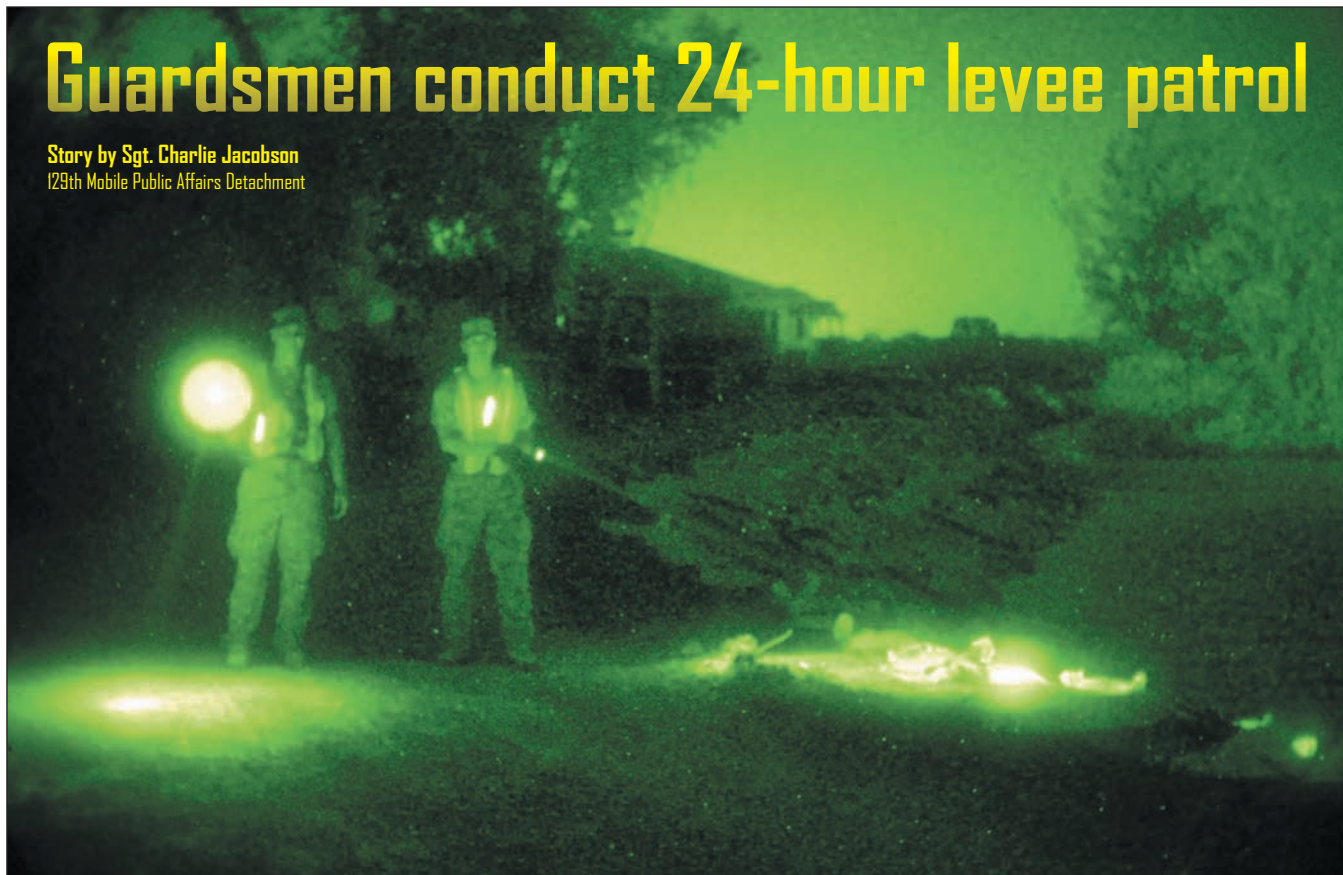


Photo by Tech. Sgt. Quinton Young

Airman 1st Class Garret Werkmeister, from Howard (left), and Senior Airman Brandon Bak, from Castlewood, both F-16 crew chiefs with the South Dakota Air National Guard's 114th Fighter Wing, Sioux Falls, patrol the levee at night in Dakota Dunes, June 29, 2011. The National Guard members were activated to assist with levee patrol duties due to the rising Missouri River.

DAKOTA DUNES - A team of South Dakota National Guardsmen transitioned from levee construction operations at Dakota Dunes to patrolling the fortress they helped construct on June 8.

Soldiers from the 211th Engineer Company based out of Madison, and Airmen from 114th Fighter Wing of Sioux Falls, started providing 24-hour foot patrols to carefully monitor the south levee of the Dakota Dunes levee system for any problematic areas.

"We had to be extra vigilant up there and completely aware of our surroundings as conditions of the levee continue to change," said 1st Lt. Ariel Keating, the day shift officer in charge of levee patrol operations.

Teams of two troops were patrolling 200-meter sections of the 3.8 mile stretch of levee for cracks, severe erosion and any areas where water found its way inside the perimeter of the levee, Keating said.

"Like the rest of the operations out on site, safety was of the highest concern for the levee patrol teams," Keating said. "It was critical we follow every safety precaution necessary to ensure safety for our Airmen and Soldiers."

Every service member on patrol was equipped with a personal flotation device, reflective vest and a whistle for safety purposes. Each two-person team had a radio for communications and a log-book to document levee conditions throughout the day.

The Army Corps of Engineers released water at 140,000 cubic feet per second from Gavins Point Dam. Release levels continued to increase through June 14, when water was released at 150,000 cfs.



Photo by Capt. Michael Frye

Senior Airman Brandon Muhs (right), a 114th Fighter Wing crew chief from Mt. Vernon, and Senior Airman Dusty Abrahamson, a 114th Civil Engineer heavy equipment operator from Sioux Falls, walk the final stretch of their levee patrol at the end of their shift in Pierre, June 4, 2011.

Quick Response Force fights flood

Story by Spc. Manda Walters
129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



The South Dakota Army National Guard's Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery Quick Response Force lays plastic over a manhole where water was backing up into a parking lot near Marian Street in Fort Pierre June 4, 2011.

Photo by Spc. Manda Walters



The Quick Response Force lays plastic over a manhole where water was backing up into a parking lot near Marian Street in Fort Pierre, June 4, 2011.

Photo by Spc. Manda Walters

FORT PIERRE - The South Dakota Army National Guard's Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery Quick Response Force responded within minutes to their first call regarding water backing up through manholes and grates June 4 on Marian Street in Fort Pierre.

"The mission of the QRF was to respond to integrity issues with the levees or critical infrastructure in a timely fashion," said Capt. Keith Voss, the Task Force 147th battle captain at the Emergency Operations Center in Pierre. "QRF would always sit at the ready at the Stanley County High School staging area in Fort Pierre."

The QRF command was prompted to engage when National Guard Soldiers and Airmen or city workers and residents observe and recognize an integrity break.

"It was a coordinated effort with the city and the Army Corps of Engineers to determine the best utilization of available resources when that happened," Voss said. "The reported location was investigated by a 147th QRF team leader and it was found there were four places where the water was backing up through manholes and grates."

"The QRF was mobilized and we sprang into action at the site," said Sgt. 1st Class Jason Zok, Fort Pierre QRF noncommissioned officer in charge.

The Soldiers put down plastic then secured it with sandbags in a square around the second of four openings. Then a relay system quickly moved sandbags off a load handling system onto the developing levee, until the perimeter was built up to a height of approximately four feet.

"We monitored these sites as the Army Corps of Engineers increased the flow of water from Oahe Dam," said Voss. "Every four hours, the QRF command had been alerted to water issues at critical points throughout the Pierre and Fort Pierre communities."

British Soldier works with National Guard during flood

Story by Spc. Andrew Turner
129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

DAKOTA DUNES – With the help of a foreign exchange program, the South Dakota National Guard received assistance from British troops during the Missouri River flooding operations in southeastern South Dakota.

Among those troops was Cpl. Arseny Barkovskiy, a British Soldier with the Allied Rapid Corps' Military Police Battalion, who traveled from his home in London June 10, to work with the South Dakota Army National

Guard's 235th Military Police Company for two weeks at Dakota Dunes as part of the U.S. Army's Personnel Exchange Program.

The purpose of this program is for Soldiers of participating nations to share military skills, experience different cultures and form friendships with the people they work with.

"I was integrated into the unit and did everything my U.S. counterparts did," said Barkovskiy, who performed security and



Cpl. Arseny Barkovskiy

checkpoint operations with the 235th Soldiers, as well as military driver's training.

Upon arrival at the flood operations in Dakota Dunes, Barkovskiy said he was impressed by the amount and size of assets involved in the on-site operation.

"It was fascinating to see the resources you have at your disposal, especially at the state level with federal backing," he said. "Reserve forces in the U.K. are not used for civil emergencies, such as flooding, but are designed to supplement the regular British forces overseas," Barkovskiy explained.

Spc. Caleb Fousek, a military policeman with the 235th from Rapid City, said his English counterpart was a great help to their operations.

"He has a very acute sense of what to look for," said Fousek. "He would spot little details others of us might miss."

One such detail was when the British Soldier reported the description of a civilian cameraman who was filming in a restricted area, and was later found at a checkpoint based on that description, said Fousek.

This experience was only one of several that Barkovskiy said he shared with the Soldiers of the 235th during his two weeks fighting flood waters in Dakota Dunes.

After working with South Dakota's Soldiers, he said there are more similarities than differences between the National Guard and the British Reserves, with only a few cultural variations distinguishing each force.

In the end, what impressed him the most was the kindness of the unit and individuals he had the opportunity to work with, Barkovskiy said.

"I've been blown away by the hospitality of [the 235th], the U.S. Army and South Dakota," said Barkovskiy. "I can't say enough good things about them."

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Units called to fight flood

Pierre and Fort Pierre

- 114TH FW (Sioux Falls)
- HCB 1-147TH FA (Watertown)
- A BTRY 1-147TH FA (Aberdeen)
- B BTRY 1-147TH FA (Salem)
- 147TH FSC (Mitchell)
- DET 1 147TH FSC (Sioux Falls)
- DET 2 147TH FSC (Webster)
- 129TH MPAD (Rapid City)
- 196TH MEB (Sioux Falls)
- 152ND CSSB (Pierre)
- 1742ND (Sioux Falls)
- 881ST (Sturgis)
- HHC 153RD ENGR (Huron)
- HHD 139TH (Brookings)
- DET 1 CO A 139TH (Miller)
- DET 2 CO A 139TH (Mitchell)
- CO A 139TH (Redfield)
- CO B 139TH (Mitchell)
- DET 1 235TH (Sioux Falls)
- 842ND EN CO (Spearfish)
- 115TH NSC (Brookings)
- DET 1 CO B 935TH (Rapid City)
- JFHQ (Rapid City)

Dakota Dunes and Yankton

- 114TH FW (Sioux Falls)
- DET 1 FSC 153rd (Huron)
- FSC 153RD EN BN (Parkston)
- DET 1 FSC 153RD (Huron)
- 211 EN CO (Madison)
- 155TH EN CO (Rapid City)
- 155TH EN CO DETs (Wagner)
- 115TH NSC (Brookings)
- HHD 139TH BSB (Brookings)
- DET 2 CO A 1/112 (Rapid City)
- JFHQ (Rapid City)
- DET 1 CO B 935TH (Rapid City)
- 1742nd (Sioux Falls)
- RECRUITING BN (Rapid City)
- 129TH MPAD (Sioux Falls)
- C BTRY 1-147TH FA (Yankton)
- 147TH FSC (Mitchell)
- DET 1 1-147TH FSC (Sioux Falls)
- DET 2 1-147TH FSC (Webster)
- 235TH MP DET 1 (Sioux Falls)
- 235TH MP (Rapid City)
- 139TH CO A (Redfield)
- 139TH CO B (Mitchell)
- 139TH DET 1 CO B (Miller)



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Sgt. Jerry Clark, of Alpha Battery, 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion, of Aberdeen, fills sandbags at the Expo Center in Fort Pierre.

Photo by DC Chad Carlson

“We have alerted all available National Guardsmen in South Dakota so we can activate any, as we may need without delay.”

— Gov. Dennis Daugaard

“It’s what I joined for and why I wanted to be in the National Guard. To help the state and deploy in service to the nation. We’re here for our families and neighbors.”

**— Spc. Tiffany Hamilton
3rd Platoon, 842nd Engineer Company**

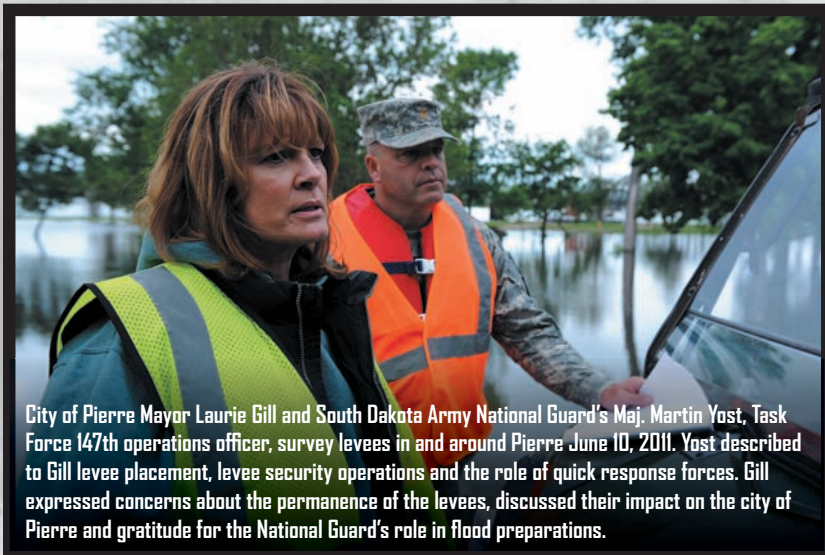


Brig. Gen. Wayne Shanks, assistant adjutant general for the S.D. Air National Guard, (left) Sioux Falls, administers the Oath of Enlistment to five Airmen (left to right): Master Sgt. Angela Pesicka, Parker; Master Sgt. Rochelle Prickett, Sioux Falls; Sgt. Emily Wallum, Sioux Falls; Matt Hendrickson, Dell Rapids; and Tech. Sgt. Marne Haggert, Pierre, 114th Fighter Wing, Sioux Falls, on a levee in Pierre, June 7, 2011.

Photo by Spc. Manda Walters

“The response to this crisis has been nothing less than unshakable courage and generosity. I extend my sincere gratitude to all of the volunteers, emergency personnel and South Dakota National Guard members who have come to the aid of so many across the state. I couldn’t be more proud to be a South Dakotan than I was this past week.”

— Senator John Thune

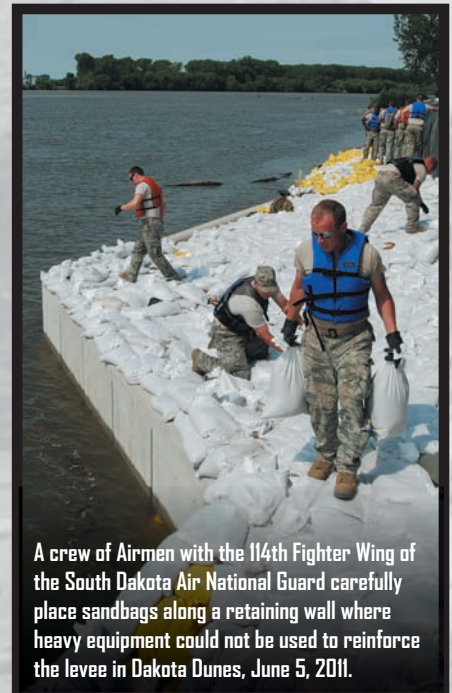


City of Pierre Mayor Laurie Gill and South Dakota Army National Guard's Maj. Martin Yost, Task Force 147th operations officer, survey levees in and around Pierre June 10, 2011. Yost described to Gill levee placement, levee security operations and the role of quick response forces. Gill expressed concerns about the permanence of the levees, discussed their impact on the city of Pierre and gratitude for the National Guard's role in flood preparations.

Photo by Spc. Manda Walters

“We could not have done this with out your help. We’re so grateful for everything.”

— Mayor Laurie Gill, Pierre



A crew of Airmen with the 114th Fighter Wing of the South Dakota Air National Guard carefully place sandbags along a retaining wall where heavy equipment could not be used to reinforce the levee in Dakota Dunes, June 5, 2011.

Photo by Sgt. Charlie Jacobson

"A lot of the Soldiers here have family here, they're worried and they understand the impact and importance of the work they're doing. And this is what the Guard is meant for."

**— Staff Sgt. Robert Carr
842nd Engineer Company**



Master Sgt. Darin Gillen from the 114th Fighter Wing Maintenance Squadron and Spc. Kurtis Brown, 235th Military Police from the Army National Guard, load sandbags into a Fort Pierre resident's vehicle.

Photo by Capt. Michael Frye



Maj. Gen. Timothy Reisch, adjutant general of the South Dakota National Guard, talks with Staff Sgt. Steve Huiten, B Battery, 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion of Salem, May 31, 2011, in Pierre. The 1-147th worked to build up a sandbag berm along the river south of Highway 14.

Photo by Capt. Michael Frye

"I'm very impressed by the long days and nights that our Soldiers and Airmen are working. They are making a huge difference in the Pierre and Fort Pierre area. I know they're working long hours and are exhausted by the end of the day, but the work that they're doing is very important. I've been personally thanked by the mayors of Pierre and Fort Pierre for the great job that our troops are doing here."

**— Maj. Gen. Timothy Reisch
Adjutant General, SDNG**

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"Outstanding work! I greatly appreciate your dedication to this country."

— Jennifer Grimm

"Guardsmen and women are busting their butts! I am very proud and thankful to each one of them for their help."

— Carrie Henrickson

"A Guard member is a special kind of breed."

— Janice Olson Nielsen

"We are always proud of our military folks as they are always ready to rise to the occasion when assistance is needed in a crisis. Love you all!!!!"

— Linda Cudmore

"We can't thank you all enough for what you are doing to help our family, friends and neighbors in South Dakota. It means the world to those who can't be there to help, that you are all there taking care of things. God Bless!!!!"

— Michelle Phillips

"Thank you so much for all you are doing to help the Pierre/Fort Pierre area during this crisis. My dad was in the South Dakota National Guard for many years and retired a few years before his death. I was proud then and am even prouder now of everything all the Guard units in South Dakota do for our state and country. God's blessings to you all!!!!"

— Shelli Jones

"Thank you for helping our community. It is appreciated more than words could ever express."

— April Opbroek Hodges

"Not enough thanks can be given to you men and women who are helping the Pierre and Fort Pierre area. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!!"

— Annette Gates Niederbauer

"A huge thank you to the S.D. National Guard for helping our communities, you guys are awesome!"

— Jessica Maria

"And thank you to the families going without their Soldiers for these weeks!"

-Samantha Nei

"The South Dakota National Guard is the best!! Thank you for coming to Pierre to help save our homes! Makes me very proud to have once worn that patch! God Bless you all!!!!"

— Nancy Dewell Lemieux

"Thank you for everything that you are doing in our area. Every contact that I have had has been outstanding. The sacrifices that you continually make serving your country are very much appreciated."

— Cindy Gross

SNAPSHOTS

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



Photo by Thia Monteith
Six UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters fly overhead as family members wave goodbye to South Dakota National Guard's Company C, 1st Battalion, 188th Aviation Regiment, May 31, 2011, as they embark on their journey from the Army Aviation Support facility to Fort Hood, Texas, for their pre-mobilization training. Approximately 66 Soldiers are mobilizing to Iraq for a one-year deployment where they will perform medical evacuations for injured Soldiers. The unit, made up of pilots, crew chiefs, medics, mechanics, avionics specialists and flight operations personnel, is designed to provide aerial-medical evacuation support with their UH-60 Black Hawks.



Photo by Sgt. Rebecca Linder
Sgt. 1st Class Will Hangman, left, presents Sgt. Jory Rogers' the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade's Freedom Salute ceremony July 10, 2011, in Sioux Falls. The footlocker kit comprises Guard-related items designed to entertain and educate young people.



Members of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 139th Brigade Support Battalion stand for roll call at their activation ceremony June 9, 2011, at the Performing Arts Center in Brookings. Soldiers of the 139th will provide logistical and maintenance support to U.S. forces in Iraq.

Photo by Troy Maroney/Brookings Register



Photo by Staff. Sgt. Theanne Tangen
Members of the 200th Engineer Company stand for roll call at the activation ceremony for South Dakota Army National Guard's 200th Engineer Company, May 14, 2011, at T.F. Riggs High School in Pierre. The 200th is a multi-role bridging company whose mission is to support Operation Enduring Freedom by maintaining, repairing and replacing existing military bridges in Afghanistan for one year.

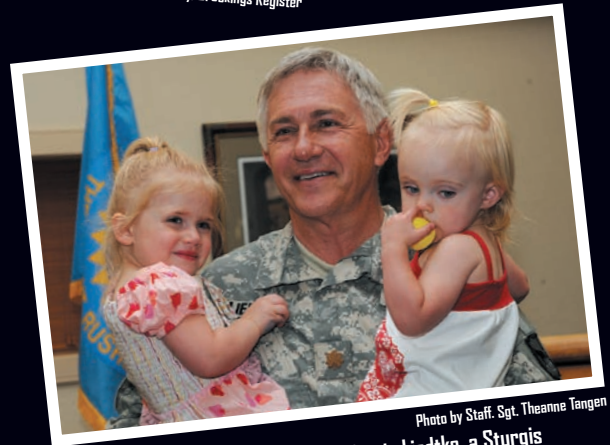


Photo by Staff. Sgt. Theanne Tangen
South Dakota National Guard's Maj. Curtis Liedtke, a Sturgis resident, serving as a physician in the 730th Area Support Medical Company, of Vermillion, holds his two granddaughters Kaia Carlson (left), 2, and Presley Carlson, 18 months, during his activation ceremony, June 30, 2011, at Camp Rapid. Liedtke will deploy to Iraq for 90-120 days in support of Operation New Dawn.



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