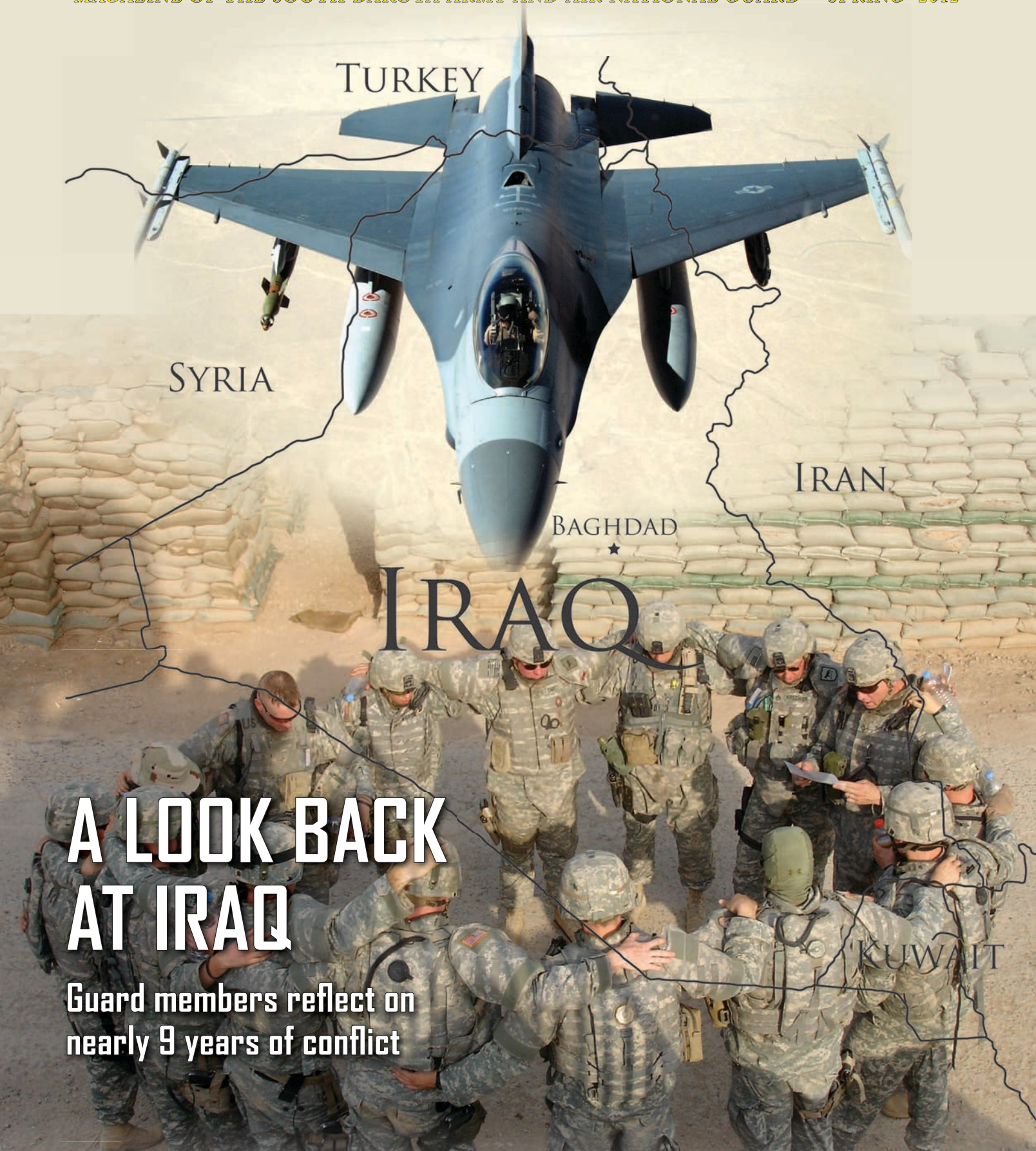


DAKOTA PACK

MAGAZINE OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD • SPRING 2012



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A LOOK BACK AT IRAQ

Guard members reflect on
nearly 9 years of conflict



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DAKOTA PACK

Magazine of the South Dakota Army and Air National Guard



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On the cover

A pilot with the SDANG 114th Fighter Wing gives a thumbs up after refueling his F-16 in Southwest Asia and the SDARNG Charlie Co., 1st Bn., 147th Field Artillery come together for a prayer before heading out on a mission in Iraq. (Photo illustration by Staff Sgt. Theanne Tangen)

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Glancing back while focusing forward

Jan. 27, 2012, marked the 150th birthday of the South Dakota National Guard, and we celebrated it with a press release, speech from the TAG, and by cutting and eating a beautifully decorated cake at Joint Force Headquarters. We intend to celebrate this historic milestone throughout the coming year but in particular with special events in Rapid City in June and

in Sioux Falls in July. The Jan. 27, 1862, muster of what was at that time known as the Dakota Territory Militia was to protect settlements within Dakota Territory by order of the Territorial Gov. William Jayne. These first volunteers were ordered to report “with sufficient bed clothing for their own use, as it is impossible for the authorities to obtain bed clothing at the present.” In those early days even the most basic supplies were hard to come by.

By some strange coincidence, the day before our 150th birthday, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta unveiled the United States’ new defense strategy, together with measures that will be implemented to facilitate the first phase of what will be \$487 billion in cuts over the next decade. Without question, both our Air and Army Guard will be impacted by the budget cuts. The SD Army Guard is already reacting to what is known as the new “R-Series MTOE” that will remove 258 positions

from our ranks on Sept. 30, 2012. Those personnel cuts, coupled with reductions in federal dollars for armory maintenance and the construction of the new regional readiness center in Watertown, will result in the closure of several armories across South Dakota.

The decision to close an armory is one of the most difficult things an adjutant general will ever have to do, because every community that we are located in has provided tremendous support to our organization. Each of SDNG’s communities has experienced a unit mobilization in support of Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation New Dawn. More than 4,600 Soldiers and 1,500 Airmen have deployed in support of these operations, and we continue to deploy units and individuals today. The support of our Guard communities has been truly impressive throughout this period of continual mobilizations, making the prospect of armory closure even more difficult to wrestle with. As a result, we are proceeding slowly and considering all options that are available to us. We will consider a multitude of factors during our strategic planning process, and our focus will be to best position the SDNG for future state and national emergencies. I ask for your support as we work through these challenges, and I am absolutely confident that our great organization will emerge as strong as ever!

Sincerely,

Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch
The Adjutant General

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Family 1/12



Outstanding service and safety of our comrades

Congratulations to the Outstanding Soldier and Airman of the Year, and best wishes as you go forward to compete on a national level. The competition for this award is always tough, and I would like to congratulate all the Airmen and Soldiers who competed for this award.

Individuals make personal and professional sacrifices to accomplish the military mission, and this award is one of many ways to recognize your accomplishments. Members will be recognized at many events throughout the year, at local as well as national events. State Command Sgt. Maj. Zimmerman and I look forward to the opportunity to coin each of you, if we have not already, and shake your hands.

One last thought I want to leave you with: it is important, and it is our responsibility to maintain the highest level of personal readiness to meet all mission requirements. That is to be physically, mentally and spiritually ready to accomplish the mission. It is also our responsibility to take care of our wingman and/or battle buddy, take time and listen, observe and take action if needed to insure the safety of our comrades. I am proud to serve with you, and I look forward to the future challenges coming our way.

Sincerely,

Chief Master Sgt. James Welch
Air Command Chief Master Sergeant

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196th MEB receives Meritorious Unit Commendation

SIoux FALLS - A unit award streamer was added to the colors of the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade's guidon during an award ceremony at the Sioux Falls armory on Dec. 17.

Brig. Gen. Ted Johnson and Command Sgt. Maj. Darwin Rahder, who led the unit through its 2010-2011 deployment, presented the Meritorious Unit Commendation to the unit for its outstanding accomplishments during its yearlong deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The MUC, an award given when a unit displays exceptionally meritorious acts through their service, deeds and actions, was awarded to the 196th because of their commitment to service and the outstanding mission execution for their area of operations within Afghanistan.

During the unit's deployment from May 2010-May 2011, the 196th and its almost 200 Soldiers provided installation management for 11 U.S. and coalition military bases throughout the Kabul area, known as the Kabul Base Cluster.

196th MEB senior NCO changes responsibility

SIoux FALLS - The 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade's outgoing Command Sgt. Maj. Darwin Rahder released his senior noncommissioned officer responsibilities to incoming Command Sgt. Maj. George Arends during a change of responsibility ceremony at the Sioux Falls armory on Dec. 17.

Since the unit first stood up in 2008, Rahder, of Rapid City, has been the first and only CSM to help the unit's commander in guiding and caring for the enlisted Soldiers of the 196th. Arends, of Sioux Falls, will continue this responsibility of care and keeping of the unit and its Soldiers.

Prior to serving with the 196th, Rahder served as a CSM since 1995 with the 109th Engineer Battalion and the 109th Engineer Group. He also served as a first sergeant for the 109th.

Arends comes to the unit from 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, where he has served as the CSM since 2007.

Three Guard units receive orders for deployment

RAPID CITY - Three South Dakota Army National Guard units have received official mobilization orders for deployments to Afghanistan in 2012 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The 730th Area Support Medical Company, of Vermillion, and the 1978th Contingency Contracting Team, of Rapid City, will deploy to support ongoing operations throughout Afghanistan. Detachment 1, Company B, 935th Support Battalion, of Rapid City, will deploy to Kuwait.

The 730th, with 48 assigned members, will deploy in July. The unit's mission is to provide health support with basic emergency medical services. The unit is equipped with medical ambulances to quickly evacuate and provide continuing care to patients en route to a medical treatment facility.

The ASMC is further able to provide health care, of an emergent or inpatient/outpatient nature, designed to return service members back to duty or evacuate them on to definitive care as quickly as possible.

The unit is composed of combat medics, medical doctors, physician assistants, nurses, lab technicians, radiologists, dental technicians, mental health technicians, and maintenance and support staff.

The 1978th, and its four assigned members, will deploy in November. The unit's mission is to plan for and coordinate all contracting functions at the brigade combat team level.

The unit will be responsible for assisting with the development and administration/revision of contracting support plans and policy in support of operational, contingency and deliberate plans associated within an area of responsibility.

The 935th, and its 33 assigned members, is scheduled for deployment in May. The mission of the unit is to provide aviation maintenance and repair support to aircraft armament and avionics equipment, and will provide this to a combat aviation brigade. The unit specializes in maintenance and repair of rotary-wing aircraft to include the UH-60 Black Hawk, OH-58 Kiowa and other U.S. Army rotary aircraft.

This is the second mobilization for 935th. They deployed to Iraq in 2004-2005 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

114th Fighter Wing participates in Combat Archer

TYNDALL AFB, Fla. - One hundred fifteen members of the South Dakota Air National Guard boarded C-130s and a KC-135 aircraft Jan. 21-22 with their destination of Tyndall AFB, Fla., for two weeks to participate in Combat Archer, the air-to-air Weapons System Evaluation Program conducted by the 53rd Weapons Evaluation Group.

Combat Archer exercises and evaluates the total air-to-air weapon system capability of Air Force combat aircraft and allows pilots who normally fly with training weapons at home to live-fire their weapons. For these pilots, live-firing first at Combat Archer instead of in an actual combat situation not only provides confidence but also camaraderie.

"Combat Archer is an extremely valuable exercise that we attempt to participate in at least every three years or so," said Lt. Col. Nathan Alholinna, 175th Fighter Squadron commander. "Depending on the pilot and whether he or she has deployed to war or not, it may be the only time that they actually get to expend live munitions throughout their career other than initial training."

Along with the 95 maintenance and support personnel, 20 pilots with the 175th Fighter Squadron made the trip to Florida. Eight of the unit's aircraft were also a part of the deployment package.

While the exercise is beneficial for the pilots of the unit, the maintenance and munitions Airmen who deploy benefit as well.

"We welcome the opportunity to travel to a new location and train," said Col. Joel DeGroot, 114th Maintenance Group commander. "It's the ultimate in job satisfaction, especially for our weapons Airmen. They get the opportunity to see the full spectrum of what they do by sending up live munitions and watching the aircraft come back without them."

South Dakota's first F-16 pilot takes final flight

SIoux FALLS - As if it wasn't enough to be number one in his graduating undergraduate pilot training class, Lt. Col. Gregory S. Young also has the distinction of being the first F-16

pilot in the South Dakota Air National Guard.

Young's distinguished career with the unit came to an end Dec. 31, when he retired with more than 22 years of military service.



Col. Gregory Young

His first flight in an F-16 was in September 1991, and he returned to the unit to fly for the SDANG in February 1992.

On Dec. 3, 2011, Young took his final flight in the F-16 and was flight lead for a team of pilots who have distinguished themselves by each having flown more than 2,600 hours.

Air Guard receives top honors for financial management

SIoux FALLS - The South Dakota Air National Guard's 114th Comptroller Flight received top honors at the annual National Guard Bureau Financial Management and Comptroller Awards.

The 114th Comptroller Flight won the Financial Services Office of the Year Award for 2011.

"We have won the overall organization of the year a couple of times, but this is the first time for Financial Services Office of the Year," said Lt. Col. Kevin Callies, financial manager and 114th Comptroller Flight commander.

Each year, the National Guard Bureau's financial management division recognizes the most outstanding Air National Guard units in nation in the categories of Financial Management Comptroller Office of the Year, Financial Analysis Office of the Year and Financial Services Office of the Year.

Callies said the award criteria are based upon an FM unit's outstanding achievements, mission impact and management of resources.

The 114th Comptroller Flight provides financial management in areas of services and analysis, which deals directly with the overall execution of funds, military, civilian and travel pay, accounting management, and customer service.

"This is a nice award because it shows the interaction of a group of financial management personnel working together," said Callies.

The Comptroller Flight is a part of the 114th Fighter Wing based at Joe Foss Field in Sioux Falls and provides financial services for more than 1,000 Airmen.

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Members of the South Dakota National Guard, Sturgis Police Department and Sturgis Ambulance gather to present Kiana Long with a Young Heroes Medal at Sturgis Elementary School Dec. 8. In September, Long was hit by a train while walking home from school and spent three days in the hospital ICU before she recovered. From left to right: Chief Master Sgt. Diane Valland, Staff Sgt. Stephanie Hill, Col. Russell Limke, South Dakota Air National Guard director of staff, CW2 Sandi Trohkimoinen, Staff Sgt. David Fischer, Paramedic Responder Shawn Peterson, and Sturgis Police Officers Nate Borg and Ben Mumm.

Guard members present youth medal

Story and photo by Sgt. Jacqueline Fitzgerald
SDNG Soldier and Family Support Services

STURGIS - Members of the South Dakota Army and Air National Guard traveled to Sturgis Elementary, Dec. 8, to present a Young Heroes Award to a little girl with an amazing story.

Nine-year-old Kiana Long was hit by a train in September as she was walking home from school along the train tracks in Sturgis.

The city police department, Meade County Sheriff's Office, and Sturgis Fire and Ambulance responded to the accident. Among the responders was Staff Sgt. David Fischer, a member of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 216th Engineer Detachment (Firefighting Team) and member of the Sturgis Volunteer Fire Department.

"As a father, the accident hit close to home," said Fischer. "It really makes you think about where your kids are and if they're safe."

Long was in the hospital ICU for three days and made a remarkable recovery. Her mother, Dewanda Simmons, nominated her daughter for the Young Hero Award to celebrate her courageous perseverance throughout her accident.

"A lot of times you see the bad side of what goes on at accidents," said Fischer. "It felt good to react to an accident, do a job and to see a great outcome."

The South Dakota National Guard Enlisted Association sponsors the Young Heroes program, founded in the early 1990s. The

program honors children ages 3-18 who have displayed courage and bravery while battling a life threatening disease, illness or injury.

"It's our way of showing our appreciation and admiration for the battles that our young heroes and their families have fought and continue to fight each and every day," said Chief Master Sgt. Diane Valland, South Dakota Air National Guard and master of ceremonies for the award ceremony.

Soldiers and Airmen attended the short ceremony along with members of the Sturgis Police Department and Sturgis Ambulance. Long received an official certificate and medal as a "salute" for her courage and bravery throughout the incident.

Afghanistan bridge named after Soldier's newborn son

Story and photos by Sgt. Laura Bonano
305th Public Affairs Detachment

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – The Blue Force Tracker is designed to relay critical information to troops during missions, but it will forever hold more meaning to South Dakota Army National Guard Soldier 1st Lt. Joshua Lien.

Lien had always relied on the BFT to key him into the location of his troops and provide communication during convoy missions. The system displays a comprehensive overview of friendly forces and allows troops to instant message between vehicles.

This day, the system relayed precious news. A very important 9-pound package was on the way.

Lien, a platoon leader with the 200th Engineer Company, was hard at work when he received the news. It did not come by way of phone call, letter, courier or telegraph. Instead, a hurried announcement came through the BFT.

Lien's wife, Crystal, had gone into labor.

New fatherhood jitters aside, Lien had a mission to complete away from his family: fighting a war and trying to rebuild a nation torn apart by conflict. He was leading members of the 200th during an operation near Bayazo village in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

More than a day into the 46-hour bridge building mission, Tucker Casey Lien came into the world on Dec. 27 at 9 p.m. U.S. time. Lien had anxiously awaited the birth on Christmas, but the arrival date came and went with no new little bundle of joy. Marching orders for the mission were in place, and Lien had to complete the bridge.

Lien said the project was important because it provided security forces with a much faster reaction time to aid the population in peacekeeping efforts. Afghan civilians benefit from the bridge by having to travel shorter distances now.

"We were darn near done with the bridge when I got the news," said Lien.

Even though his wife had help at home, it was still overwhelming that he could not attend the birth, said Lien.

Lien has served in the National Guard for 15 years and has been married for almost as long. His wife's ability to raise a group of rambunctious youngsters attests to her unwavering support during her husband's service.



A vehicle passes over Tucker's Crossing on Jan. 27, 2012, in Helmand province, Afghanistan, constructed by members of the SDARNG's 200th Engineer Co.

"She's amazing at raising boys," said Lien of his wife.

Once the happy news broke, Sgt. 1st Class Wally Dauwen, a platoon sergeant for the unit and friend of Lien, insisted on knowing what the baby had been named.

Dauwen and Lien had a unique connection during their deployment through family ties. Lien's stepfather was currently serving a tour with Dauwen's son in Bagram, Afghanistan.

Immediately, Dauwen had an idea of what the bridge should be called.

Lien said his wife picked out the name Tucker for the new addition to the family. Already, the couple was raising Taylor, Tyler, Teagan and Tyson.

"There's no rhyme or reason to all the T names," said Lien. "We had the first couple and decided we should stick with the trend," said Lien. "We even have a dog named Toby."

Safely back on Camp Leatherneck, Lien is full of smiles when he points to a picture proudly displayed by his desk. The photo shows the newborn with bright open eyes and dressed in baby blue jammies, held by his beaming mother.

"They're only little for a short amount of time, and that's what I miss most about not being there," said Lien.

Exactly one month after the news came, Lien was standing on the finished bridge



1st Lt. Joshua Lien holds a picture of his newborn son, Tucker, and wife, Crystal.

during an inspection. He was surely thinking of little Tucker, who will leave his mark in Afghanistan without ever having been there.

The International Security Assistance Force Joint Command, which officially approves the names of structures in Afghanistan, agreed to Dauwen's suggestion.

For as long as it stands, anyone wanting to cross from Bayazo village to Highway 1, need only ask where Tucker's Crossing can be found.

20th anniversary of the F-16 Fighting Falcon

Story by Master Sgt. Nancy Ausland
114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office



SIOUX FALLS – Jan. 1 marked more than the start of a new year for the South Dakota Air National Guard. It also marked the 20th anniversary of the 114th Fighter Wing’s official conversion to flying the F-16 Fighting Falcon.

The F-16 is the seventh single-engine fighter aircraft that has been flown by the SDNG during its 65-year history.

The 114th Fighter Wing flew Block 30

F-16 fighters for more than 18 years. The unit was selected for conversion to enhanced Block 40 F-16 fighters during 2010. The newer Block 40 F-16s provide significant contributions to the unit’s combat mission, allowing it to deploy worldwide and execute tactical fighter sorties. Ongoing structural and system upgrades will ensure that the 22 assigned F-16 fighters remain fully combat capable for many years into the future.

SDANG FIGHTERS OVER THE YEARS
North American F-51 Mustang 1946 – 1954
Lockheed F-94 Starfire 1954 – 1958
Northrop F-89 Scorpion 1958 – 1961
Convair F-102 Delta Dagger 1961 – 1970
North American F-100 Super Sabre 1970 – 1977
Vought A-7 Corsair II 1977 – 1991
General Dynamics F-16 Fighting Falcon 1992 – Present

Physician deploys to Afghanistan

Story by 2nd Lt. Chad Carlson
SDNG Public Affairs Office

RAPID CITY – South Dakota Army National Guard’s Maj. David Lauer deployed to Afghanistan for 90 days in support of Operation Enduring Freedom on Jan. 6.



Maj. David Lauer

Lauer, a Sturgis resident, serves as a physician in the 730th Area Support Medical Company of Vermillion.

Coincidentally, he is serving overseas with the unit the 730th is scheduled to replace when they deploy in July. He is deployed as an individual augmentee, serving as a field surgeon with the 684th ASMC of the Ohio Army National Guard.

Individual augmentee refers to an individual being deployed as opposed to an entire unit. Their pre-mobilization process is typically condensed to 7-10 days, and they fall in with another unit once they arrive in country.

“Physicians deploy for shorter periods, typically 90 days, so they’re not away from

their full-time practice and their patients for a year,” said 1st Lt. Billi Bierle, training officer with the 881st Troop Command. “Because of the shorter deployment time, there is higher turnover and a greater need for physicians.”

This need is met at the National Guard Bureau level, where they reach out to physicians serving in the Guard from across the country.

Lauer said he knew about the increased demand for medical providers prior to joining the Guard, and once he was commissioned, he actually called the National Guard Bureau himself to volunteer to deploy.

“I told them about my situation and that I wanted to volunteer to deploy. Within a minute on the phone, they told me about this opportunity,” Lauer said.

His 30 years of medical experience are not only benefiting the Soldiers he treats on a daily basis, but the timing of his deployment will benefit his home unit as well.

“He is at the same medical facility basically six months before the 730th shows up,” Bierle said. “He will be able to let them know the

specifics they’ll be falling in on, the types of injuries and illnesses that he’s seeing the most, and really give them an idea of the areas they can focus on as they prepare for their deployment.”

Lauer said he has also volunteered for a second 90-day deployment with the 730th, which he anticipates will be around this same time period next year.

While most service members are ending their military careers at the age of 60, Lauer, 59, has now been in the National Guard a little more than a year.

“I went on the first Honor Flight out of South Dakota with my father; I was a guardian for him,” Lauer said. “The time I had with him and the other World War II veterans on the Honor Flight inspired me to pursue service in the military.”

He accepted his commission into the SDARNG on Nov. 24, 2010, and was “sworn in” by his longtime business partner, colleague and friend, Maj. Curtis Liedtke, 61, a Sturgis physician who also decided to serve in the military and joined the National Guard alongside Lauer.

Soldier fights fires in Afghanistan

Story and photos by Lt. j.g. Cheryl Collins
ISAF Regional Command North

CAMP MARMAL, Afghanistan – The call comes in. Sgt. Max Stoltenburg has five minutes to suit up as a firefighter and get to the scene. There is a hazmat spill near a construction zone. However, this is not a call coming from Sturgis, S.D. It's in Camp Marmal, Afghanistan. Stoltenburg and his fellow firefighters from the South Dakota Army National Guard's 451st Engineering Detachment (Firefighting Team) are the fire protection force for U.S. assets at the NATO base in northern Afghanistan.

Camp Marmal is now home to Stoltenburg and six other Soldiers from the 451st who arrived in October as part of a yearlong deployment. This is the first time the Aberdeen, S.D., native has deployed to Afghanistan in his nine-year career in the National Guard.

Afghanistan is a far cry from putting out blazes in the Black Hills, but no matter where he serves, fighting fires is what Stoltenburg loves to do.

"It's something I've always wanted to do as a kid. I know you hear that a lot. It's more about wanting to protect your community that you live in and do something for them," Stoltenburg proudly stated.

Before deploying to Afghanistan, Stoltenburg worked for Aberdeen Fire Rescue as a deputy fire marshal. It's a job he started last April before deploying and will continue when he returns. Now his role is lead firefighter and assistant fire chief. He's proving to be a valuable member of the 451st.

"His knowledge on the fire ground and pre-fire planning has been a huge help for us at Camp Marmal," said fire chief Sgt. 1st Class Austin Hagen. "Most leadership skills come from experience on the fire ground. Knowing what to do in different situations and having the ability to think outside the box is the key to successful firefighting, both of which Sgt. Stoltenburg does well."

The 451st firefighters not only provide fire protection for U.S. assets on base, they are vital to Camp Marmal's German fire department. They stand by to assist in unlikely cases of structural fires, airfield accidents or mass casualty events.

Preparing to assist in fire safety at a moment's notice is what Stoltenburg and his fellow firefighters train for, but imparting that knowledge to soldiers of the Afghan National Army is something new and rewarding for him.

"We're teaching them about how to use their bunker gear or their protective equipment properly, how to use their air cylinders, how to use tools and how to get to aircraft," he said. "It feels good that while we're over here, we're leaving our footprint on another fire department."

The call is over once the team cleans up a small spill at the construction zone. It's all in a day's work in Afghanistan. Stoltenburg and his team get back in the truck and head back to their fire station, which is a large tent. It is home to Stoltenburg and his fellow South Dakotan firefighters who stand ready for the next call.



Sgt. Max Stoltenburg of the SDARNG's 451st Engineering Detachment (Firefighting Team) stands in front of the unit's fire truck while at Camp Marmal, Afghanistan.



Firefighters from the South Dakota Army National Guard's 451st Engineering Detachment (Firefighting Team) make final preparations while en route to a hazmat spill.



Sgt. Max Stoltenburg, lead firefighter from the South Dakota Army National Guard's 451st Engineering Detachment (Firefighting Team), arrives on the scene of a small hazmat spill.



The 451st Engineering Detachment (Firefighting Team) shovel up a small hazmat spill at Camp Marmal Jan. 9, 2012.

The end of an era

The last Vietnam War veterans in the S.D. Air National Guard retire

Story by Master Sgt. Nancy J. Ausland
114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs



Left: Seaman Kelley in his boot camp graduation photo in 1971. Right: Senior Master Sgt. Kim Kelley was the 114th Maintenance Group aircraft mechanic supervisor.



Left: Tech. Sgt. Sidney Robbins, at Da Nang Air Base, Vietnam. Robbins served as a security police specialist. Right: Robbins, 114th SFS flight sergeant, and Lt. Col. Nate Alholinna, 175 FS commander, walk up to their aircraft Nov. 10.

SIoux FALLS – For most members of the 114th Fighter Wing, the Vietnam War was one that we heard stories about or saw movies depicting, but for two members of the South Dakota Air National Guard, it was an experience. Senior Master Sgt. James M. Kelley, 114th Maintenance Group aircraft mechanic supervisor, and Tech. Sgt. Sidney A. Robbins, 114th Security Forces Squadron flight sergeant, will be the last Vietnam veterans in our unit to retire. The Vietnam conflict spanned almost 20 years between November 1955 and April 1975 with U.S. involvement ending in August 1973. Both Kelley and Robbins were there for the end.

Kelley began his long military career by joining the Navy in March 1971.

“I made three Western Pacific cruises aboard the USS Constellation with my squadron,” said Kelley. “The first was December 1971 to July 1972. In 1973 and 1974, I went back out for six or seven months at a time again. I worked on the flight deck as an airframe troubleshooter doing quick fixes, prelaunch checks, inspections and routine maintenance.”

The flight deck of a Navy super carrier is a high pressure and fast-paced place to work. In 1971, the carrier Kelley was on departed from San Diego for what would become a historic combat deployment. Air operations commenced with strikes against mainly logistic targets in Laos as well as reconnaissance missions over North Vietnam into 1972. When asked if he had any wisdom to share from his Vietnam experiences, Kelley said, “When I initially started to work the roof, there were times that I questioned my judgment and would verify some of my decisions with my shop supervisor. His name was Joe Latshaw, and one of the best supervisors I have ever worked for.

“One day he said, ‘I put you on the roof because I have confidence in your ability. Make a decision, stand by it and if it’s wrong, we’ll deal with it later.’

“I have never forgotten his pep talk, and that is how I’ve tried to work as a mechanic and a supervisor for the rest of my career. I guess the message is the same for all the upcoming Airmen. Take pride in your work, do the best job you are capable of, make a decision and stand by it.”

This is great advice from a man who served more than 31 years in the military and has seen war from both a ship and on the ground. On Nov. 21, 2011, Kelley turned 60 years old and therefore retired on Nov. 20. He retired without a day to spare for this dedicated Airman.

Not to be outdone, Tech. Sgt. Sidney Robbins plans to stay a member of the unit until his last day as well and will retire the day before his 60th birthday on Feb. 7, 2012.

As did Kelley, Robbins made the decision to join the military on his own, without being drafted. He joined the Air Force in January 1971 and became a security police specialist. It wasn’t long before he was off to war.

In April 1972, the beginning of the Easter Offensive, Robbins found himself at Da Nang Air Base, Vietnam, where the base was recorded as having 396 rocket hits in his four months there. After that first four months at Da Nang, he was moved to a secret outpost in the mountains of Vietnam.

“When I was transferred into the mountain zone, I had more seniority than the other security policemen so I found myself as the

senior member of our squad at the age of 21,” said Robbins. “I had less than two years in the military, and then I was in charge. The hardest part was getting them to stay calm and to do so myself.”

Robbins served just 11 months in Vietnam, but it was a time he will not forget.

After being discharged from the Air Force in 1975, Robbins took a break from military service until enlisting in the Army National Guard in 1978. He has been with the 114th Security Forces Squadron off and on since 1984. When he retires in February 2012, Robbins will have more than 31 years of military service.

With the retirement of these two dedicated Airmen, the unit will see the end of an era.

Though Vietnam happened before many of the members of this unit were born, the contributions of men such as Kelley and Robbins will not soon be forgotten.

Kelley lives in Sioux Falls with his wife of 36 years, Betty. They have two daughters, Angela and Allison.

Robbins lives in Hartford with his wife of 35 years, Diane. They have three children, Lance, Shawn and Michele.

S.D. Airman named Miss Rodeo USA

Story by Master Sgt. Nancy Ausland
114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

OKLAHOMA CITY - Staff Sgt. Trisha Smeenk, 114th Public Affairs, was selected as Miss Rodeo USA for 2012 in Oklahoma City, Jan. 15, 2012. She received the crown in conjunction with the International Finals Rodeo held there.

Smeenk is the first South Dakotan, and first National Guard Airman, to receive the honor as the 49th official ambassador for the International Professional Rodeo Association. She will travel throughout the United States and Canada during her reign representing the Miss Rodeo USA organization and the International Professional Rodeo Association.



Staff Sgt. Trisha Smeenk

"It has been my dream since I was a little girl growing up on a ranch in western South Dakota. I have been fascinated with rodeo since I was born," said Smeenk. "Continuing a family legacy, I competed in my first rodeo at age 5 and the rest is history. I find myself now 24 years old and still as much in love with the sport of rodeo as I have ever been."

Smeenk has served in the South Dakota Air National Guard for seven years and is currently a journalist in the 114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office. A graduate student, she will now take time off from her studies at South Dakota State University where she is pursuing her master's degree in Counseling and Human Resource Development.

"It is a goal of mine to accomplish a master's degree, but I can't imagine a better reason to put that dream on hold," said Smeenk. "I will be living out another dream of mine in the meantime."

Smeenk has a long history of riding and rodeo. She grew up on the back of a horse where she competed in 4-H, Little Britches and high school rodeos. She spent four years as a western rider for South Dakota State University's Equestrian Team.

The oldest of three children, Trisha gives credit to her family for her recent success.

"I am lucky to have such an amazing family who always supports and encourages me," said Smeenk. "I am excited for this opportunity to meet and educate people, experience the industry that I love, all while traveling to as many places as possible."

Smeenk will travel the country for one year as the reigning Miss Rodeo USA. In addition to rodeos, she will visit several schools and events along the way while promoting the International Professional Rodeo Association.

Legislative Dining-Out '12



Photo by Maj. Anthony Deiss

Sen. Tim Johnson received the Williamson Militiaman Award Jan. 13 in Pierre as presented by, from left to right, Maj. Gen. Ronald Williamson (retired), Gov. Dennis Daugaard, and SDNG Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch. The award was established in 1987 by Maj. Gen. Ronald F. Williamson (retired) to recognize an individual who exemplifies the spirit of the citizen-Soldier.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Theanne Tangen

REI Corporation, of Mission, accepts the South Dakota Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Pro Patria Award at the Legislative Dining-Out in Pierre Feb. 9. REI was nominated for the award for going above and beyond their responsibility as an employer of a service member. From left to right: Ron Mielke, ESGR state chair, Gov. Dennis Daugaard, Greg Young, REI Corporation chief executive officer, SDNG Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, Staff Sgt. Gabe Doney, operations manager and Sue Frame, REI information technologist.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Theanne Tangen

Kristine Juelfs, of Fort Pierre, standing with her family, receives the Adjutant General's Family Award Feb. 9 during the annual Legislative Dining-Out in Pierre. The award is presented to a family member of a deployed Soldier or Airman. Kristine's husband, Anson, is currently deployed with the SDARNG 200th Engineer Company in Afghanistan. Pictured left to right: Gov. Dennis Daugaard; Kristine Juelfs; Kristine's mother, Shawn Haug; Dena and Greg Juelfs, Kristine's in-laws; and SDNG Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch.

Soldier enlists into family tradition



Photo by Sgt. Rebecca Linder

Alexandra 'Alex' Lovett (center), of Pipestone, Minn., became the third Lovett girl to join the South Dakota Army National Guard when she took the Oath of Enlistment, Sept. 16 in Sioux Falls. Alex, who will join the 740th Transportation Company, is following in the footsteps of her older sisters, Sgt. Beth Lovett (left), a National Guard recruiter in Watertown, and Spc. Christina Lovett, a flutist in the 147th Army Band in Mitchell, into a long and proud legacy of service to their country, state and community.

Story by 2nd Lt. Chad Carlson
SDNG Public Affairs Office

On Sept. 16, Alexandra 'Alex' Lovett, of Pipestone, Minn., raised her right hand and swore the Oath of Enlistment into the South Dakota Army National Guard. Alex became the third Lovett girl to join the Guard, following in the footsteps of her older sisters into a long and proud legacy of service to their country, state and community.

"I joined because of all the opportunities offered to not only myself but also for the benefits it has for my daughter (Annie, 2)," said Alex, who enlisted as a truck driver in Milbank's 740th Transportation Company.

"The National Guard will teach me job skills I couldn't get anywhere else and those skills will help me in every aspect of my life. I also want to show my daughter loyalty to your country, strength to stand up and do the right thing, and the importance of giving back to our country."

Alex joins her sister, Spc. Christina Lovett, of Sioux Falls, who enlisted July 13, 2010, and serves as a flutist in the 147th Army Band in Mitchell.

"I had just graduated with a music degree from Winona State and was having a difficult time finding full-time employment as a teacher in South Dakota. My sister Beth told me that the Army Band was looking for a flute player and could help me with my student loans, I owed about \$35,000. I visited the unit before I made a decision and saw how accepting and nice they were. I felt that this could really be a home for me."

Alex's recruiter is another sister, Sgt. Beth Lovett, who joined in 2001 and now works full time for the National Guard in Watertown.

"I had anticipated joining the military at some point, but wasn't sure what I wanted to do after high school, so I started college at SDSU," said Beth. "After one semester there, I realized I couldn't afford to continue paying for school myself. I walked into the office of Sgt. 1st Class John Albers and asked to join the Guard."

While it isn't often that three sisters serve at the same time in the SDARNG, family members serving together is something seen in many units throughout the state.

“The Guard has a long history of families serving side by side to strengthen their community and protect their country,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Terry Paulsen, SDARNG Recruiting and Retention Battalion command sergeant major. “In South Dakota, community service becomes a family tradition. The unique situation involving the three Lovett sisters reinforces the time-honored family tradition of this great organization.”

The Lovett sisters grew up in Luverne, Minn., and while three of them have enlisted into the SDARNG, all six girls serve their community or country in one way or another.

“Our sister Julia is in the Coast Guard in California, and our other two sisters have chosen to work in public service positions in their communities,” said Beth. “Jennifer is a pollution control specialist at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and Victoria is a public defender in Sioux Falls.”

Craig Lovett, the girls’ father, said patriotism, volunteering and a sense of community were virtues that he and his wife, Christine, have instilled in their daughters throughout their lives.

“It is sometimes heart-breaking, as a mother, to know that any one of my four daughters could face conflict and war, but we are very proud, of course, and have immense respect for the decisions they made.”

—Christine Lovett

“As a parent, it’s interesting to see where life takes your children and how the things you taught them translate into their decisions in life,” Craig said. “It’s very rewarding to see my girls pick careers that reflect the things that were important to our family. I can see that they took those things to heart in their adult lives, not only in joining the military, but also in the civilian careers Vicky and Jennifer chose.”



Photo by Sgt. Rebecca Linder

Alexandra ‘Alex’ Lovett (left), of Pipestone, Minn., became the third Lovett girl to join the South Dakota Army National Guard when she took the Oath of Enlistment, Sept. 16 in Sioux Falls.

“Our daughters were brought up to be very patriotic and committed to their communities,” said Christine. “They learned to appreciate volunteerism and know the importance of giving back. I’m also very proud that the lessons they learned as children have turned into careers that help others.”

While there is justified pride in their daughters’ choices, there is also concern that all parents of service members share.

“It is sometimes heartbreaking, as a mother, to know that any one of my four daughters could face conflict and war, but we are very proud, of course, and have immense respect for the decisions they have made,” Christine said.

“I worry about the unrest in the Middle East, and I worry about them facing war, as Beth did in 2003,” said Craig. “But more than that, I am just so proud that they have followed in the footsteps of the members of our family who have served.”

The Lovett sisters come from a strong military family. Their father served in the Marines, a grandfather served in the Navy and a great-grandfather was a Merchant Marine in World War II.

“Our country provides so much for us that to serve in the military is our way to give back,” said Alex. “Not only for what our country does for us but what past Soldiers have done so that we may live the lives we have. Honoring them by serving is the best way to say thank you.”

Alex, who left for her nine-week basic combat training course at Fort Jackson, S.C., in January said that while she has not yet

finished basic training, she already has a feeling of pride from belonging to such an organization.

“People have told me thank you for volunteering and serving, and to me that is extremely rewarding,” Alex said. “I understand that this is a life-altering commitment but, it feels like the right thing to do. To be recognized for doing something I feel is my duty is rewarding. I am looking forward to future training and serving my country, so that I earn the thank yous I receive.”

Family tradition, service and pride aside, the Guard has offered the Lovett sisters the opportunity to accomplish their higher education goals.

“We come from a large family, and our parents really couldn’t afford to send six girls to college,” Beth said. “The National Guard has afforded us the opportunity to meet our goals of a quality education.”

While Alex followed in her sisters’ footsteps into the Guard, each is traveling on their own path.

“I find it amazing three different sisters, with different interests and dreams, can find a home in the same organization,” said Christina. “Although Alex and I followed in Beth’s footsteps joining the National Guard, we have each found the right place for ourselves. I know Beth absolutely loves helping people enlist, I love playing in the band, and Alex plans on becoming an officer through the ROTC program. The National Guard has provided each of us with a career path that just fits.”

A look back at Iraq

SERVICE MEMBERS REFLECT ON THE SDNG CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WAR EFFORT

Story by Staff Sgt. Theanne Tangen
SDNG Public Affairs Office

On March 19, 2003, President George W. Bush addressed the nation with words that would impact many lives of the Soldiers and Airmen of the South Dakota National Guard.

"My fellow citizens, at this hour, American and coalition forces are in the early stages of military operations to disarm Iraq, to free its people and to defend the world from grave danger," said Bush.

Since Bush addressed the nation, 30 communities and more than 3,360 citizen-Soldiers and Airmen throughout South Dakota have experienced a unit mobilization in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn.

The United States military and coalition forces have now withdrawn from Iraq. However, some units, who deployed to Iraq within the last year, remain in the Middle East, occupying a presence in Kuwait.

Two of those units include the South Dakota Army National Guard's 189th Aviation Regiment, of Rapid City, and the 139th Brigade Support Battalion, of Brookings, who moved to Kuwait from Iraq during the withdrawal process and now are conducting follow-on missions of retrograde operations, including the transfer of personnel and equipment from the Iraq theater back to the United States.

"It's a good feeling for us to be finally out of Iraq," said South

Dakota National Guard's Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch. "This war has gone on a long time."

The Iraq war is the second longest war in American history. It's also said to have changed the National Guard from a strategic reserve to an operational force.

"We went from an 'on the bench' component during the Vietnam and Cold War eras, to one that has served in combat zones continually for the past decade," said Reisch. "There are few, if any, instances during our 150-year history that the South Dakota National Guard has been relied upon to the extent that it has been during the period since 9/11."

Virtually every unit deployed from the

SDNG has received the meritorious unit commendation award, said Reisch. The award is given to units for exceptionally meritorious conduct in performance of outstanding services for at least six continuous months during the period of military operations against an armed enemy.

"Our Soldiers and Airmen are of truly the highest caliber," said Reisch. "The tremendous legacy of

the South Dakota National Guard has been elevated even higher during this period of time."

While more than 3,360 Soldiers and Airmen and their family members made significant sacrifices in the Iraq War, seven SDNG Soldiers made the ultimate sacrifice and lost their lives while serving in Iraq.

"We have had enormous sacrifices from our South Dakota National Guard Soldiers," said Lt. Col. Lynn

Wilson, full-time support chaplain. "I have gone to homes as a casualty notification officer, and have gone to families to bring the news that their loved one, their son, their Soldier, is now dead, and that news is absolutely devastating. So is the cost of war; it is always severe; it's always great."

Wilson deployed to Iraq in 2004 with 2nd Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, as a chaplain, where he not only experienced the devastation and cost of war but also witnessed the positive effects.

"I think of the accomplishments as well as the loss, and the losses are terrible and severe," said Wilson. "I don't think you ever get over it. It is still a scar, and it is deep, but then there are the accomplishments that we gave to a country."

Wilson recalls a moment when he felt that the war in Iraq was worth it.

"I went to Babylon to one of Saddam Hussein's palaces, one that his sons used to love to operate out of," said Wilson. "They would take teenage girls

and rape them, murder them and toss their bodies down the Euphrates River. We stopped that ... that didn't go on after we were there."

During Wilson's time overseas, he also witnessed a defining moment in Iraq's history. For the first time they had more than one option on their election ballot.

"In January 2005, about a month before we left, for the first time people had the freedom to vote, and there was not just one name on the ballot, Saddam Hussein," said Wilson. "The people of Iraq held up their ink-stained purple fingers and some of us Soldiers looked at each other and said 'that's why we are here.'"

The following is how the South Dakota National Guardsmen contributed to the war effort in one of the most extraordinary chapters of service in the history of our nation.

109th Engineer Battalion Jan. 16, 2003 - Aug. 15, 2003

The South Dakota Army National Guard's 109th Engineer Battalion, headquartered in Sturgis, deployed 39 Soldiers in 2003 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The unit arrived Feb. 18, 2003, and settled in an area called Camden Park, near the city of Arifjan, about 30 miles south of Kuwait City. The night the fighting started, the 109th endured eight SCUD missile alerts over their temporary station. The 109th arrived at their duty station, Tallil Air Base, approximately 160 miles southeast of Baghdad and 140 miles northwest of Kuwait City March 26. The 109th completed more than 250 engineer projects,

including mine clearing, building site preparation and horizontal construction that supported almost all of the major commands in southern Iraq. Soldiers from the battalion received 11 Bronze Stars and 10 Army Commendation Medals.

727th Transportation Company
Jan. 17, 2003 – June 4, 2004

The South Dakota Army National Guard's 727th Transportation Company, headquartered in Elk Point with detachments in Brookings and Watertown, along with a platoon of Soldiers from the 1742nd Transportation Company out of Flandreau, deployed 122 Soldiers in 2003 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The unit mobilized to Fort Carson, Colo., Jan. 17, 2004, for 10 weeks before deploying to Kuwait on April 5. The 727th attached to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force upon arrival in the Middle East and began their missions of hauling supplies and equipment into Iraq.

The unit completed 460 missions totaling more than 1 million mission miles. For their exceptional service to the 1st

MEF, the 727th received the Navy Presidential Unit Citation.

200th Engineer Company
Jan. 24, 2003 – June 3, 2004

The South Dakota Army National Guard's 200th Engineer Company, headquartered in Pierre with detachments in Chamberlain and Mobridge, along with the 845th Quartermaster Detachment in Lemmon, deployed 173 Soldiers on Jan. 24, 2003, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 200th's main mission was building and maintaining bridges, providing security at bridges and hauling materials. In May, the 200th moved into Iraq and built a float bridge across the Tigris River, about 30 miles northeast of Baghdad.

Unfortunately, rocket and mortar attacks injured five Soldiers of the 200th.

740th Transportation Company
Feb. 11, 2003 – Oct. 17, 2004

The South Dakota Army National Guard's 740th Transportation Company, headquartered in Milbank with a detachment in Brookings, deployed 147 Soldiers to Fort Carson, Colo., Feb. 11, 2003, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 740th arrived in Kuwait April 20 then moved to set up operations at Camp Navistar at the Kuwait/Iraq border.

Because of the increase in insurgency attacks on coalition forces and the need for transportation assets, the 740th's tour extended beyond the one-year mark. The 740th was among 23 reserve component units extended from 15 different states.

The 740th conducted 355 haul missions throughout Iraq

and Kuwait, driving more than 2,300,000 miles in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Company B, 109th Medical Bn.
Feb. 24, 2003 – June 5, 2004

The South Dakota National Guard's Company B, 109th Medical Battalion, based out of Vermillion, deployed 70 Soldiers on Feb. 24, 2003, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

After arriving in Kuwait, Company B moved to Baghdad International Airport where they conducted their medical missions. At the close of their mission assignment, the Coyote Medics treated more patients than any other level I & II facility in Iraq or Kuwait. Their patient numbers totaled 11,000 coalition troops, 1,300 civilians and 25,700 Iraqis, for a total of 38,000 patients.

The unit conducted 610 ambulance missions supporting 986 patients.

114th Civil Engineer Squadron
March 2003 – September 2003

The South Dakota Air National Guard began its operations in Iraq in March 2003 when the 114th Civil Engineer Squadron deployed 50 members to Tallil Air Base, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

These members were among the first Air Force civil engineers to be placed at three of the only four bases in Iraq at the time. They worked alongside the South Dakota Army National Guard's 109th Engineer Battalion from Sturgis and

assembled more than 336,000 square feet of bare base facilities, including a 7,100-square-foot dining facility and a 4,300-square-foot morale tent. They assembled 333,000 square feet of sunshades for use by A-10 aircraft, trenched more than 40,000 feet of electrical cable and buried more than five miles of underground water pipe. They built the largest water plant for an Air Force installation in the area of responsibility which was capable of producing 80,000 gallons of water per day, and they maintained power plants generating more than five megawatts of electricity.

The unit received several prestigious awards as a direct result of their contributions in Iraq including the William H. Deneke Award, as the outstanding civil engineer squadron in the Air National Guard, and the Maj. Gen. Robert H. Curtin Award, as the outstanding civil engineer squadron in the Air Force Reserve Components (ANG and AFRC). The 114th CES Readiness Flight was also presented with the Col. Frederick J. Riemer Award as the outstanding civil engineer readiness flight for both the ANG & AFRC in 2004.

1742nd Transportation Co.
March 11, 2003 – Aug. 6, 2004

The South Dakota Army National Guard's 1742nd

Transportation Company, headquartered in Sioux Falls with a detachment in Flandreau and a 48-member platoon from the Kansas National Guard, deployed 154 Soldiers March 11, 2003, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Senior Airman Josh Lebrun (left) from the SDANG and Tech. Sgt. Edward Hart from the SCANG are at work in the "small bombs" section of the "ammo dump" belonging to the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing at a desert air base in Southwest Asia April 2003.

The unit mobilized to Fort Carson, Colo., April 9. Upon arrival, the 1742nd set up operations at Camp Anaconda, just northeast of Baghdad. The transportation company hauled supplies and equipment throughout Iraq, hauling 68,500 tons of supplies and equipment.

The unit completed 211 missions and logged nearly 2.5 million miles.

**842nd Engineer Company
March 15, 2003 – Nov. 30, 2004**

The South Dakota Army National Guard's 842nd Engineer Company, split into three

communities with the headquarters and support platoon located in Spearfish, Detachment 1 (two equipment platoons) in Belle Fourche and Detachment 2 (maintenance) in Sturgis, deployed 153 Soldiers in 2003 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 842nd mobilized to Fort Carson, Colo., April 10, 2003, for seven weeks before deploying to Kuwait June 3. The unit moved to Baghdad International Airport and worked on numerous construction projects as well as provided security for the operations base.

Charlie Battery, 2nd Battalion, 147th Field Artillery & 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery

The South Dakota Army National Guard's Charlie Battery, 2nd Battalion, 147th Field Artillery mobilized to Fort Campbell, Ky., March 13, 2003, in anticipation of

an overseas deployment but returned to South Dakota May 21, 2003. The battery was mobilized again and deployed in July 2005.

1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery mobilized to Fort Sill, Okla., March 15, 2003, also in anticipation of an overseas deployment but also returned to South Dakota May 27, 2003. The battalion was mobilized again and deployed in April 2009.

216th Engineer Detachment (Firefighting Team) Dec. 7, 2003 – June 3, 2005

The South Dakota Army National Guard's 216th Engineer Detachment, headquartered in Sturgis, deployed eight Soldiers Dec. 7, 2003, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The unit provided support to the 1st Infantry Division as the first response effort for all emergencies within their area of operations. They had primary responsibility for fire protection to aircraft on the flight lines and always had medics available when they responded to an emergency.

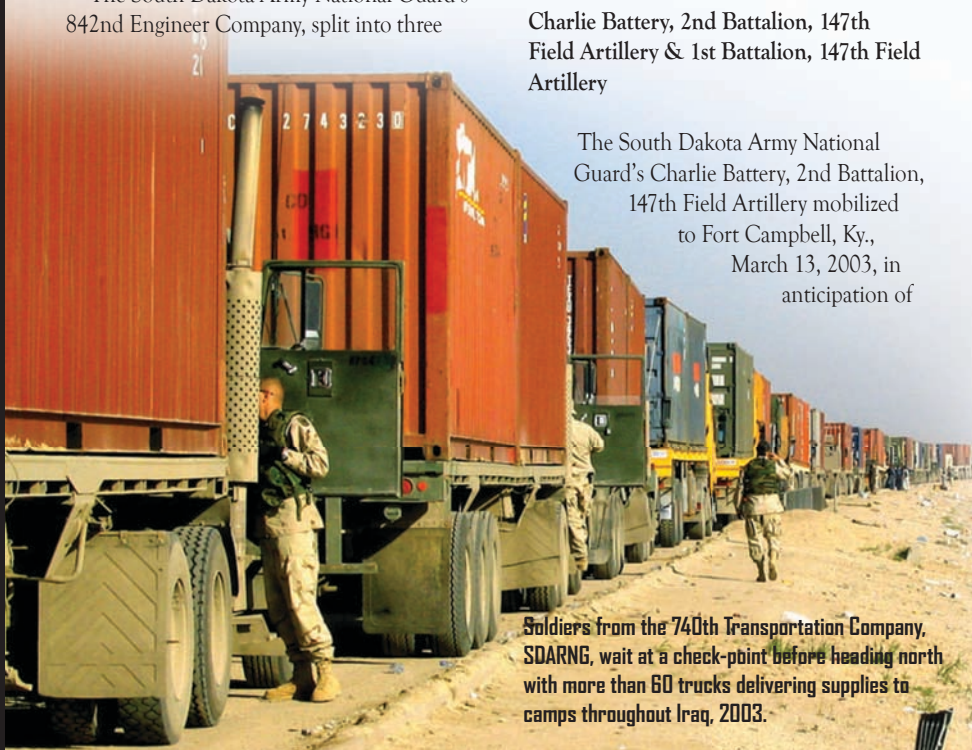
**153rd Engineer Battalion
Dec. 7, 2003 – June 3, 2005**

The South Dakota Army National Guard's 153rd Engineer Battalion headquartered in Huron, with subordinate units in Wagner, Winner, Parkston, Platte, Madison and De Smet, deployed 410 Soldiers to Iraq on Dec. 7, 2003, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The battalion conducted general engineering missions including reconnaissance and development of engineer estimates to repair or construct bypasses at all bridge and culvert locations on main supply route Tampa, construction of nine bridge bypasses on MSR Tampa where bridges were damaged by insurgent forces or at critical bridge locations, emplacement of culverts and construction of the entrance road into Forward Operating Base Kalsu.

The 153rd also provided two combat engineer line platoons that supported 1/5 Cavalry and 2/7 Cavalry with mobility, counter mobility and demolition efforts during combat operations. During route clearance missions, the 153rd discovered and neutralized 95 improvised explosive devices.

Although combat engineers by trade, the 153rd also conducted non-typical combat engineer tasks that ranged from general facility maintenance to operating a detention facility for more than six months.



Soldiers from the 740th Transportation Company, SDARNG, wait at a check-point before heading north with more than 60 trucks delivering supplies to camps throughout Iraq, 2003.

2nd Battalion, 147th Field Artillery
Dec. 18, 2003 – June 4, 2005

The South Dakota Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, headquartered in Watertown, with Battery A in Mitchell, Battery B in Aberdeen and Battery C in Redfield, deployed 381 Soldiers to Iraq Dec. 18, 2003, as a security force in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

While there, the unit secured and transported 145,000 tons of munitions to be kept at storage depots while slated for destruction. The battalion secured munitions at 18 different sites throughout Iraq, preventing enemy forces from using them as IEDs. The unit also provided vehicle convoy security for U.S. military, coalition forces and government contractors. These daily convoys totaled more than 2 million combined miles.

114th Logistics Squadron
February 2004 – August 2004

The South Dakota Air National Guard's 114th Logistics Squadron deployed five members of their vehicle maintenance section from February to August 2004 to Camp Spiker, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

These five members served with the 158th Air Expeditionary Forces Company and completed 500 missions covering more than 350,000 miles.

Three of these members were among the first in the nation awarded the United States Air Force Combat Action Medal while assisting with security on the M-923 gun trucks.

Detachment 3, Company F, 238th Aviation
Nov. 5, 2004 – April 12, 2006

The South Dakota Army National Guard's Detachment 3, Company F, 238th Aviation, headquartered in Rapid City, deployed 19 Soldiers to Camp Anaconda, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 238th provided intermediate level maintenance for Army helicopters supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. During the nine months spent in Iraq, the 10-member unit performed 20 UH-60 and CH-47 phases, completed more than 5,000 work orders and processed more than 25,000 parts requests. The Soldiers also used their civilian skills to help with numerous construction projects that helped improve the working conditions and quality of life for the battalion.



Soldiers from Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, of Yankton, administer first aid to a civilian July 2006 in Iraq.

Detachment 3, Company A, 249th Aviation
Dec. 1, 2004 – May 29, 2006

The South Dakota Army National Guard's Detachment 3, Company A, 249th Aviation, based out of Rapid City, mobilized eight Soldiers on Dec. 1, 2004, and deployed to the Middle East in January 2005.

The 249th was stationed at Logistic Supply Area Anaconda, about 45 miles north of Baghdad. The operated C-23 Sherpa cargo planes, each capable of hauling 3,500 pounds of cargo or about 20 personnel. The unit logged more than 5,000 flight hours, airlifting a total of about 20,000 personnel and 5 million pounds of cargo.

The 249th consists of four pilots and four flight engineers. The unit deployed with three other detachments from three other states to form Company A, 249th Aviation.

Charlie Battery, 1st Bn., 147th Field Artillery
July 13, 2005 – Sept. 30, 2006

The South Dakota Army National Guard's Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, headquartered in Yankton, deployed 174 Soldiers July 13, 2005, to Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The unit performed police transition team missions with the Iraqi Police, conducting joint patrols, route security, reconnaissance missions, personnel



A Soldier from Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, of Yankton, removes unexploded ordnance in July 2006.



Tech. Sgt. Michael Brizuela, a crew chief with the 162nd Fighter Wing, Arizona ANG, prepares to launch a Block 30 F-16 Fighting Falcon, flown by Capt. Eric Cleveringa, a fighter pilot with the 114th Fighter Wing, SDANG, for a mission from Joint Base Balad, Iraq, July 2010.

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.

**114th Security Forces Squadron
February 2006 – September 2006**

The South Dakota Air National Guard's 114th Security Forces Squadron, headquartered in Sioux Falls, deployed 13 Airmen in February 2006 to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

**129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
April 13, 2006 – July 15, 2007**

The South Dakota Army National Guard's 129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

headquartered in Rapid City, with a detachment in Bismarck, N.D., deployed 20 Soldiers on April 13, 2006, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

The unit conducted operations in U.S. Central Command's 27 areas of responsibility. MPAD Soldiers were also located at CENTCOM's headquarters at MacDill Air Base, Tampa, Fla., and the Digital Video and Imagery Distribution hub in Atlanta, Ga.; they traveled extensively throughout Iraq, Afghanistan and many other countries in CENTCOM's area of responsibility. The unit returned in June 2007 after 15 months of deployment.

**114th Fighter Wing
October 2006 – December 2006**

The South Dakota Air National Guard's 114th Fighter Wing, headquartered in Sioux Falls, deployed 235 Airmen in October 2006 to Balad Air Base, Iraq.

While deployed, they served as part of the United States Air Force's Air Expeditionary Force rotation plan in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

**Det. 3, Co. A, 641st Aviation Regiment
Oct. 10, 2007 – May 18, 2008**

The South Dakota Army National Guard's 641st, headquartered in Rapid City, deployed 10 Soldiers Oct. 10, 2007, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 641st was stationed at Logistical Support Area Anaconda, about 45 miles north of Baghdad. The detachment deployed with three additional detachments from Washington, Oregon and Oklahoma, to form Company A, 641st Aviation Regiment.

Specializing in transporting personnel and cargo with its C-23 Sherpa cargo planes, the 641st flew 4,045 hours, transported 21,047 passengers and hauled 9,140,165 pounds of cargo and equipment throughout the combat zone during the tour.

This was the unit's second deployment to Iraq as the unit mobilized as Detachment 3, Company A, 249th Aviation, on Dec. 1, 2004, and deployed there in January 2005, and returned in January 2006. The recent name change from the 249th to the 641st is due to the Army's transformation.

**Bravo Battery, 1st Bn., 147th Field Artillery
Oct. 25, 2007 – Oct. 23, 2008**

The South Dakota Army National Guard's Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, headquartered in Salem with a detachment in Sioux Falls, deployed 177 Soldiers to Iraq Oct. 25, 2007, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



An SDANG F-16 Fighting Falcon, waits in a hot pit area near a taxiway for his wingman as sunset approaches, in Balad, Iraq, August 2008.

To fulfill the need for more security forces, Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, set up operations at Contingency Operating Base Adder on Tallil Air Base near An Nasiriyah, Iraq, approximately 193 miles southeast of Baghdad.

While in Iraq, the Soldiers conducted a variety of security missions – 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.

114th Fighter Wing July 2008 – September 2008

The second 114th Fighter Wing's Air Expeditionary Forces deployment took place between July and September 2008 and included more than 275 members of the unit. As with the previous AEF deployment to Iraq, various job specialties and several of the unit's aircraft participated in this deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Members received the Iraqi Campaign Medal for their service.

1st Bn., 147th Field Artillery & 147th FSC April 15, 2009 – April 14, 2010

South Dakota Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, and 147th Forward Support Company mobilized more than 350 Soldiers to Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The battalion trained at Fort Hood, Texas, and deployed to Kuwait City, Kuwait. There they secured the Kuwaiti Sea Port of Debarkation/Embarkation. At the time, this port accounted for nearly 95 percent of all supplies for both the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

The Soldiers were responsible for successfully performing more than 200,000 individual searches and more than 80,000 vehicle searches while stationed in Kuwait. The unit's quick reactionary force traveled more than 60,000 miles in performing 377 missions.

114th Civil Engineer Squadron December 2008 – July 2009

The South Dakota Air National Guard's 114th CES PRIME Base Engineer Emergency Force team deployed 52 Airmen to Kuwait in December 2008 to work on numerous projects to support combat airpower in the Global War on Terror.



Soldiers from the 727th Transportation Company, unload cement barriers in Iraq 2003.

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.

114th Fighter Wing December 2009 – February 2010

The South Dakota Air National Guard's 114th Fighter Wing deployed one last time to Joint Base Balad, Iraq from December 2009

to February 2010 with 264 members. They provided 52 days of continuous air tasking order coverage with no sorties lost for either maintenance or operations factors. They flew 460 combat sorties totaling 1,500 flying hours and supported 94 convoys, 439 counter improvised explosive device missions and 30 raids during this time.

In addition to the mentioned unit deployments, the South Dakota Air National Guard has had approximately 65 unit members who have actively served in support of overseas contingency operations in Iraq.

Many of these members returned to the unit with individual federal awards including

A flight medic with Forward Support Medical Team, Company C, 1st General Support Aviation Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, SDARNG, conducts a daily pre-flight inspection at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, October 2011.



the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Outstanding Achievement Medal and the Iraqi Campaign Medal.

Detachment 3, Company A, 641st Aviation Regiment
Oct. 20, 2010 – Sept. 16, 2011

The South Dakota Army National Guard's 641st, headquartered in Rapid City, deployed nine Soldiers to Joint Base Balad, Iraq, on Oct. 20, 2010, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The fixed-wing aviation unit transported more than 2 million pounds of cargo and 8,000 passengers and flew more than 150 missions, all at night.

This was the 641st's third deployment since Sept. 11, 2001. They deployed twice in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, first from January 2005–January 2006, and again from October 2007–May 2008.

Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment
May 19, 2011 – Present

The South Dakota Army National Guard's Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, headquartered in Rapid City, deployed 67 Soldiers to Iraq May 19, 2011, in support of Operation New Dawn.

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

Since the end of the Iraq War on Dec. 15, 2011, the 189th is currently serving in Kuwait to fulfill their yearlong deployment.

139th Brigade Support Battalion
June 9, 2011 – Present

The South Dakota Army National Guard's 139th Brigade Support Battalion, headquartered in Brookings, deployed 64 Soldiers to Iraq on June 9, 2011, in support of Operation New Dawn.

The 139th provides logistical support to U.S. special operations forces.

Despite the end of the Iraq War, members of the 139th are currently serving in Kuwait until the end of their yearlong deployment.

The end of the war

Since taking office, President Barack Obama has fulfilled his promise to the American people by withdrawing all U.S. troops from Iraq by the end of 2011. In his first speech about the Iraq war, President Obama spoke of the sacrifices and dedication service members have made in Iraq over the last decade.

“By any measure, this has already been a long war. For the men and women of America’s armed forces – and for your families – this war has been one of the most extraordinary chapters of service in the history of our nation. You have endured tour, after tour, after tour of duty. You have known the dangers of combat and the lonely distance of loved ones. You have fought against tyranny and disorder. You have bled for your best friends and for unknown Iraqis. And you have borne an enormous burden for your fellow citizens, while extending a precious opportunity to the people of Iraq. Under the circumstances, the men and women of the United States military have served with honor, and succeeded beyond any expectation.”

In remembrance of the seven SDNG
 Soldiers who died in support of
 Operation Iraqi Freedom



Sgt. Dennis Morgan
 Valentine, Neb./Winner, S.D.,
 153rd En. Bn. – Iraq
 Jan. 8, 1982 – April 17, 2004



Staff Sgt. Cory W. Brooks
 Philip, 153rd En. Bn. – Iraq
 March 26, 1972 – April 24, 2004



CW2 Paul J. Pillen
 Keystone, 249th Aviation – Kuwait
 March 7, 1977 – Oct. 17, 2005



Sgt. 1st Class Richard L. Schild
 Tabor, Batt. C/1-147th FA – Iraq
 Nov. 29, 1965 – Dec. 4, 2005



Staff Sgt. Daniel M. Cuka
 Yankton, Batt. C/1-147th FA – Iraq
 June 24, 1978 – Dec. 04, 2005



Sgt. Allen D. Kokesh Jr.,
 Yankton, Batt. C/1-147th FA – Iraq
 June 12, 1984 – Feb. 7, 2006



Staff Sgt. Gregory Allen Wagner
 Mitchell, Batt. C/1-147th FA – Iraq
 Nov. 26, 1970 – May 8, 2006

What role do you choose?

Story by Capt. Eli Carr

Since 1964, our nation has taken a stance against active prejudice, also known as discrimination, by developing aggressive training programs to foster awareness and developing guidelines on how to resolve issues of conflict. The South Dakota National Guard is adamant about instilling the importance of diversity and has made tremendous progress in this area. These efforts have brought the existence of discrimination to the forefronts, yet at some level it still continues to exist within our ranks, whether reported or not. So why does this phenomenon continue? Instead of focusing on what our leadership calls big "D" diversity, why do some individuals feel compelled to continue this demoralizing behavior, even though they are fully aware that it is detrimental to the team and to the mission?

Discrimination is defined as "the unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people or things, especially on the grounds of race, age or sex." The cause of these actions is an individual's discomfort with an outward or knowable characteristic of another person. The moment he or she allows that discomfort to be demonstrated through action is when it becomes discrimination. This action is not just the sense of a physical demonstration of intimidation, but it could also be spoken words or the knowing act of separation or neglect.

Another way to look at this action is to refer to it as "bullying." In playground terms, bullying begins when an individual becomes an aggressor through the victimization of another with the same kind of behavior similar to the discrimination.

Traditionally, in bullying there are two parties: the bully and the victim. There has been plenty of debate on why it is better to be the bully than the victim and vice versa, but a recent study by Dan Olweus shows there are actually eight roles that create the bullying cycle. The commonly known bully, the one who starts the bullying and takes an active part, and the victim, the individual who is exposed to the discriminatory act, are the two main roles. The six supporting roles, but still significant

players in the cycle are: defenders of the victim, possible defenders, disengaged onlookers, passive supporters (possible bullies), supporters (passive bullies), and followers (henchmen).

Most Soldiers and Airmen are neither bullies nor victims, but several times we may have played a supporting role in the bullying cycle. Whether it was laughing at an inappropriate joke, listening to a story with a fellow team member as the punch line, or not standing up for someone who was in obvious discomfort or distress, we have our reasons for avoiding these situations.

A common fear is that if we were to stand up for someone who is being victimized by discriminatory actions, we then become the target and may face the same maltreatment. The reason discrimination still exists in our units is that this is learned behavior. Even if we are passive onlookers, we are showing that

in order to gain control of a situation, we must take control away from someone else. This causes cyclical discrimination, because the action leaves a bullied person needing to gain back control but the only way he or she knows how is to pay the action forward and victimize someone else.

In both the Air Force Core Values and the Army Values, integrity is an important part of who we are. Our moral compass tells us to do what is right, no matter who is looking. The challenge is that we should also add in the context, no matter what the repercussions may be. Not everyone has to stand up for those who are being targeted, and it may not even change the person who is being the bully, but it will make a difference in the person being victimized. Having the personal courage not just to step in, but to step up, is the call to action we as hometown heroes must do. In doing this, we may break the cycle that is breaking down our teams.



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Photo by Master Sgt. Christopher Stewart



Photo by Sgt. Thia Monteith

(Top) Master Sgt. Chad Popke and Staff Sgt. Joshua Lee, 114th Maintenance Group weapons loaders work to load a live AIM-120 missile to a 114th Fighter Wing F-16 aircraft during Combat Archer at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., Jan. 31, 2012.

(Bottom) Chief Arvol Looking Horse begins the blessing of a South Dakota Army National Guard UH-72 Lakota helicopter during a groundbreaking ceremony for the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe's Veteran's Memorial Park, Nov. 10, 2011. Chief Looking Horse calls the Memorial Park "Peace Park." "I pray for peace and unity among everyone," he chants. "I also pray for health and happiness among all people." The park is being created so it can not only benefit the people, but honor the people as well. Since the inception of the original park idea in 2010, the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks have successfully acquired almost 18 acres of land located next to Highway 212.



(Top) Employers of South Dakota Air National Guard members had an opportunity to observe a mid-air refueling between a KC-135 tanker from the 185th Air Refueling Wing, Sioux City, Iowa, and two F-16 Fighting Falcons from the 114th Fighter Wing, Sioux Falls, S.D., while en route to Tyndall AFB, Fla., for an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Jan. 31, 2012.



Photo by Master Sgt. Christopher Stewart



Photo by Maj. Anthony Deiss



Photo by Staff Sgt. Theanne Tangen

(Bottom) SDANG Staff Sgt. Dustin Clement, Ellsworth AFB, and SDARNG Staff Sgt. Eric Haivala, Sturgis, both members of the 82nd Civil Support Team, search for radiation sources during a rescue training exercise Jan. 19, 2012, at Jewel Cave National Monument near Custer, S.D. The 82nd CST and the National Park Service worked together to detect a radiation source during a rescue training exercise to strengthen their relationship and protocols for a real-life scenario.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Theanne Tangen

(Top) Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general for the South Dakota National Guard, thanks Mark Geib, center, and other community members for donating beef jerky sticks to South Dakota troops serving overseas Dec. 17, 2011, in Howard, S.D. Also pictured, from left, are Brad Jensen, Les Cummings, Mark Jensen and Tim Glanzer.

(Bottom) The South Dakota National Guard celebrates 150 years of service to the state and nation at Camp Rapid, Jan. 27, 2012. The SDNG finds its origins dating back to 1862 as part of the Dakota Territory militia. Left to right: Chief Master Sgt. James Welch, Air Guard command chief master sergeant; Brig. Gen. Wayne Shanks, Air Guard assistant adjutant general; Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general of the SDNG; Brig. Gen. Theodore Johnson, SDNG director of the Joint Staff; State Command Chief Warrant Officer 5 Darla Crown, SDARNG; and State Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Zimmerman, SDARNG.



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