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Maj. Gen. Timothy A. Reisch
The Adjutant General

Maj. Anthony Deiss
State Public Affairs Officer

2nd Lt. Chad Carlson
Public Affairs Specialist

Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen
Design/Layout

CONTRIBUTORS

Staff Sgt. Christina Sahrer
Staff Sgt. Nicole Dykstra
Sgt. Jessica Geiger
Sgt. John Hittle
Unit Public Affairs Representatives

Lt. Col. Reid Christopherson
Master Sgt. Nancy Ausland
Master Sgt. Chris Stewart
114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Sgt. Rebecca Linder
196th MEB

Master Sgt. Don Matthews
Sgt. Jacqueline Fitzgerald
SDARNG Visual Information Office



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

Bob Ulin
Publisher

Chris Kersbergen • Darrell George
Advertising Sales

Dakota Pack is a commercial enterprise publication, produced in partnership, quarterly, by the South Dakota National Guard and AQP Publishing, Inc. Views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the Departments of the Army and Air Force or the State of South Dakota. All photos are South Dakota National Guard photos unless otherwise credited.

Distribution: Dakota Pack is published for all South Dakota National Guard service members and their families. It is distributed through AQP Publishing, Inc. under exclusive written contract with a circulation of 5,500. It is also available at our web site: sdguard.ngb.army.mil.

How to reach us: Questions or comments for Dakota Pack should be directed to the SDNG Public Affairs Office: 2823 West Main Street, Rapid City, SD 57702, 605.737.6721, fax: 605.737.6264, pao@sd.ngb.army.mil.

Submissions: Print and photo submissions of general interest to members of the SDNG, their families, civilian employees, veterans and retirees are invited and encouraged. Please send article and photos with name, phone number, e-mail, complete mailing address and comments to: pao@sd.ngb.army.mil, 605.737.6268. Submissions are subject to editing. Electronic submissions are preferred and digital photos should be at least 300 dpi.

DAKOTA PACK

Magazine of the South Dakota Army and Air National Guard



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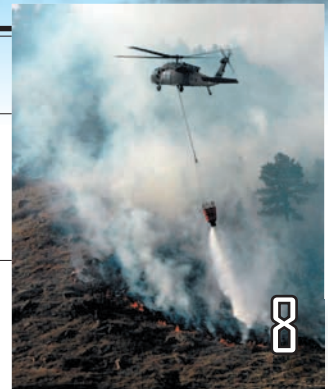
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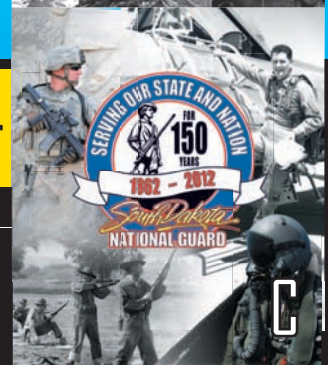
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On the cover

A collage of present and past photos of the South Dakota National Guard. (Illustrated by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen)



Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch
The Adjutant General

A distinguished organization despite future challenges

My fellow Soldiers and Airmen,

I want to start out on a positive note by congratulating the 114th Fighter Wing for the successful completion of their conversion to the newer Block 40 F-16 aircraft. Col. Russ Walz would be the first to point out that it took a team effort to bring the aircraft up to our standards and to complete all of the necessary training for this conversion. Hopefully, these Block 40s will carry us to the day when we will eventually be flying F-35s here in South Dakota.

I also want to congratulate our three Army Guard units who recently returned from their overseas deployment: the 200th Engineer Company, deployed to Afghanistan, and the 139th Brigade Support Battalion's Logistics Task Force and Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, who were both deployed to Iraq and Kuwait. All these Soldiers did an outstanding job in their missions and represented the SDARNG with distinction.

On much more of a sober note, in April I announced the relocation of six Army National Guard units across the state of South Dakota. The Soldiers assigned to armories in Miller, Platte, Redfield, Salem, Webster and Winner will begin drilling in other locations at various times between the fall of this year and the spring of 2013.

These unit relocations are driven by several factors. Many of our armories are getting old – 14 of them were built back in the 1950s and 60s. The federal government recently announced it would no longer fund the maintenance costs of facilities with less than 55 Soldiers assigned. This impacts more than a third of our 29 armories statewide. The nationwide rebalancing of the force by the U.S. Army is going to reduce our force structure by 258 part-time and 19 full-time positions on Sept. 30 of this year. These factors, coupled with the construction of the new Watertown Readiness Center, and the desirability of having units drill and train at the company and battery level, have driven us to make these tough choices.

The selection of these six particular communities has absolutely nothing to do with how the units have performed their mission in the past or the level of support received by the local communities. All six of these units and the communities they are located in have been shining stars for us for generations.

Relocating units isn't something that any adjutant general ever wants to do. This decision has been a particularly difficult one for me because I myself am a product of a small town Guard unit. I enlisted in my hometown Guard unit in Howard back in 1978. The Howard unit relocated 20 years ago. These small communities have served as the bedrock for much of the South Dakota National Guard's accomplishments over the years. If there was a viable way to keep them all in operation, I would certainly do it.

The South Dakota National Guard has distinguished itself in remarkable ways both here at home and overseas over the course of the last decade. Our state and nation needs a strong National Guard now, perhaps as much as at any other period in our lifetimes. My commitment to you as the adjutant general is that regardless of where our units are stationed, the South Dakota National Guard will continue to respond to the needs of our state and nation.

Sincerely,

Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch
The Adjutant General, SDNG

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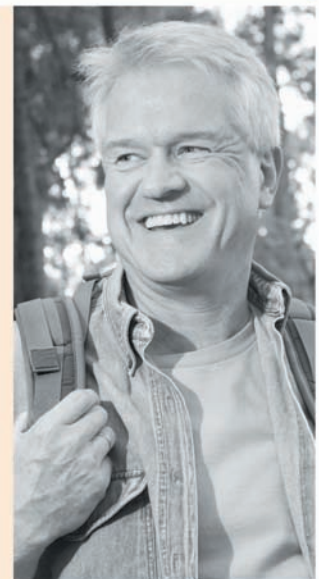
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Lt. Col. Bryan Jacobson
Director of SMFS

Meeting the needs of our service members, families & veterans

Dear Guard members and families,

My name is Lt. Col. Bryan Jacobson, the director for the Service Member and Family Support division for the South Dakota National Guard. I am excited to have the opportunity to share with you about who we are and what is coming up that may interest you. In fact, we have recently changed our name to Service Member and Family Support to accurately reflect what we do to enhance the lives of service members, their families and veterans throughout South Dakota. The services we provide in SMFS have not changed ... just our name. Currently, we have a team of 37 people, comprising contract employees, active Guard and Reserve, technicians, and active duty operational support to assist in supporting the adjutant general's number one priority - taking care of service members and their families.

We provide education, information, referral, service and support to service members, families and veterans, empowering them to be resilient throughout the full spectrum of the deployment cycle (before, during and after) and throughout a member's career and into retirement. We partner with many organizations throughout South Dakota to build greater community relations in order to meet the needs of our service members, employers, families and veterans.

The SMFS is preparing events and activities in the near future to include Yellow Ribbon events, the SD Military Youth Camp July 9-13 and an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve boss lift.

We are also having a logo contest to create a "fresh look" for the SMFS, and we need your talents to design our new logo. Be watchful for the details and spread the word to anyone with artistic abilities. Help us create our new appearance! The strength of the National Guard comes from service members, families, friends, employers, veterans, retirees and community partners like you. It is a privilege to serve. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Lt. Col. Bryan Jacobson

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SD Army Guard announces relocation of 6 units

RAPID CITY - The South Dakota Army National Guard announced April 12 that they will be relocating six units across the state.

Approximately 250 Soldiers from the Miller, Platte, Redfield, Salem, Webster and Winner armories will eventually conduct their drill training at other locations.

The unit relocations are a result of several factors including federal budget cuts, U.S. Army restructuring and the construction of a new Regional Readiness Center in Watertown. The rebalancing being enacted at the national level has caused the SDARNG to trim its current force of approximately 3,300 Soldiers by 258 traditional (part-time) Guard positions and 19 full-time positions by Sept. 30, 2012.

Additionally, many of South Dakota's 29 Army Guard facilities are becoming obsolete. Fourteen armories are more than 40 years old, and 10 are more than 50 years old. Funding available for armory maintenance falls far short of what's needed to adequately maintain the aging facilities.

According to SDARNG leaders, relocating these units to more centralized locations will save money, maximize resources, provide better training opportunities and develop more cohesive units that will be ready when a crisis or disaster strikes.

The Winner and Platte armories are scheduled to close by October and its units will relocate to Rapid City and Wagner.

The Salem armory is scheduled to close by November and its unit will relocate to Yankton.

The Redfield, Webster and Miller armories will close and its units will relocate to the new Watertown Readiness Center when its construction is completed in 2013.

152nd CSSB earns Phillip A. Connelly award

SIoux FALLS - Soldiers from the Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, of Pierre, earned the 2012 South Dakota Phillip A. Connelly award for providing the best quality food service to support their fellow Soldiers.

The Phillip A. Connelly award was established in 1968 to recognize excellence in Army Food Service and to improve the professionalism of the food service personnel.

The competition judges the Soldiers in the following areas: sanitation, serving and troop acceptability, food preparation

and quality, appearance of food service personnel, administration, training, supervision, accounting, command support, request-receipt-storage of rations, use and maintenance of equipment and kitchen site selection-layout.

Staff Sgt. Jason Christensen, Sgt. Jeremy Evan, Sgt. Daisy Spearow, Spc. Ashley Jungen and Private Angelo Anziano will represent the South Dakota Army National Guard at the Regional competition.

SDARNG receives U.S. Forest Service award

DENVER - The South Dakota Army National Guard received the Partner of the Year award from the Rocky Mountain Region of the U.S. Forest Service for their partnership and support to the Black Hills National Forest on April 4.

The SDNG was nominated for its contributions in providing resource protection and improvement, recreational facilities construction, and promoting the health and safety of the forest.

The Rocky Mountain Region award encompasses a five-state area, which includes Colorado, Wyoming, Kansas and Nebraska. Nominations for this award come from National Forest Service units in the region that partner with organizations, individuals or conservation groups that provide a mutual benefit to each other.

SDARNG Officer of the Year announced

DEADWOOD - The South Dakota National Guard announced 1st Lt. Cody Becker, of Brookings, as this year's recipient of the Lieutenant Colonel John J. Steele award, naming him the SDNG's Lieutenant of the Year.

The Lieutenant Colonel John J. Steele award was established in 1968 to annually recognize the most outstanding lieutenant in the South Dakota Army and Air National Guard. Selection is based on exceptional qualities of leadership, values and performance. Becker, who serves as the executive officer for Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery in Aberdeen,



1st Lt. Cody Becker

was selected as the most exceptional lieutenant within the battalion and the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade.

Becker has served as Battery A's executive officer since August 2011. With more than 10 years of service in the military, Becker has served seven of those years as an enlisted Soldier in the Fire Direction Command section as a battery display operator. In 2009, he delayed an officer commission to support his battalion during a deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. There, he said he served as a sergeant and squad leader to enhance his experience in leadership and character in a combat zone.

In addition to his responsibilities in the National Guard, Becker also serves as a production supervisor for Daktronics in Brookings where he works in the electronic assembly factory on the high-mix flow line.

Becker said his family - wife, Melissa, and sons, Logan, 3, and Trey, 2 - have also been a big supporter during his career.

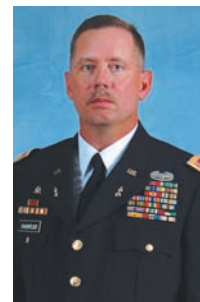
Other officers representing major commands for this year's award competition were 1st Lt. Nicole Franklin, 114th Fighter Wing, and 2nd Lt. Bridget Flannery, 109th Regional Support Group.

SDARNG Warrant Officer of the Year announced

DEADWOOD - The South Dakota Army National Guard announced Chief Warrant Officer 4 Kenneth Schoenfelder, of Mitchell, as this year's recipient of the CW4 Michael F. O'Connor award, naming him the SDARNG's Warrant Officer of the Year.

The CW4 Michael F. O'Connor award was established to recognize the most outstanding warrant officer in the South Dakota Army National Guard. Selection is based on exceptional qualities of technical knowledge, leadership, dedication and initiative.

Schoenfelder, who serves as the commander of the 927th Survey and Design Team of Sioux Falls, was selected as the most exceptional warrant officer within the 153rd Engineer Battalion and 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade.



CW4 Ken Schoenfelder

Schoenfelder took command of the 927th in October 2009. As one of the newest units in the SDARNG, the 927th and its 14 members

are preparing to deploy to Afghanistan in July. The unit's mission is to prepare, conduct and provide planning studies and tests for identified engineer work projects.

Schoenfelder is no stranger to mobilizations; he has deployed twice to Iraq. Over the course of his 31 years of service in the Guard, Schoenfelder said his career highlights are his service in Operations Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom, becoming a warrant officer and being selected for the year's O'Connor award.

In addition to his responsibilities as a unit commander, Schoenfelder also serves as a foreman for Northwestern Energy in Mitchell, where he works in the natural gas department managing construction and maintenance of their distribution systems in nine communities.

Schoenfelder said his family - wife, Michelle, son, Kyle, 22, and daughter, Haylee, 13 - have also been a big supporter during his career and deployments.

Other warrant officers representing their major commands for this year's award competition were CW4 Christian Frank, 109th Regional Support Group, CW2 Chad Vickers, Joint Force Headquarters, and CW2 Christian Johnson, 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute).

935th Support Bn. receives orders for Kuwait

RAPID CITY - The South Dakota Army National Guard's Detachment 1, Company B, 935th Support Battalion, has received its mobilization order for deployment to Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The 935th, of Rapid City, and its 33 assigned members are scheduled for deployment in June. The unit received an alert order for possible deployment Feb. 17. The mobilization order confirms that the unit will deploy overseas.

The mission of the 935th will be to provide aviation maintenance and repair support to aircraft armament and avionics equipment, and will give this support to the 35th Combat Aviation Brigade. The unit specializes in maintenance and repair of rotary-wing aircraft - the UH-60 Black Hawk, OH-58 Kiowa, and other U.S. Army rotary aircraft.

The unit will report to Fort Hood, Texas, to complete several weeks of theater-specific training prior to deployment overseas. This is the second mobilization for the 935th. They deployed to Iraq in 2004-2005 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

927th Survey and Design Team will deploy to Kuwait

RAPID CITY - The South Dakota Army National Guard's 927th Survey and Design Team, of Sioux Falls, has received their official mobilization order for deployment to Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The 927th and its 14 assigned members are scheduled for deployment in July.

The mission of the 927th is to plan, conduct, prepare and provide planning studies and tests for identified engineer work projects. They also provide guidance, legal descriptions, certification and surveys for engineer projects.

The unit will report to Fort Bliss, Texas, to complete several weeks of theater-specific training prior to deployment overseas. This is the unit's first deployment.

129th MPAD will mobilize for Afghanistan

RAPID CITY - The South Dakota Army National Guard's 129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment has received its mobilization order for deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The 129th and its 20 assigned members are scheduled for deployment in February 2013. The unit received an alert order for possible deployment in October. The mobilization order confirms that the unit will deploy overseas.

The mission of the 129th is to provide public affairs support to units across the state, as well as to deployed units in support of a combined, unified or joint operation. The detachment uses print and broadcast journalists to help tell the story of U.S. forces.

The unit's headquarters is located in Rapid City with a detachment in Sioux Falls.

The unit will report to Fort Dix, N.J., to

complete several weeks of theater-specific training prior to deployment overseas. This will be the third mobilization for the 129th. The unit was mobilized and sent to Fort Riley, Kan., in 2003 and also deployed in support of U.S. Central Command in Qatar and MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., in 2006.

Air Guard members deploy to Southwest Asia

SIOUX FALLS - The South Dakota Air National Guard deployed 31 members of its 114th Security Forces Squadron to Southwest Asia on April 9.

Hundreds of family, friends and fellow Guard members gathered to see the Airmen off during an activation ceremony at Joe Foss Field in Sioux Falls. Also wishing them good luck before they departed were Senators John Thune and Tim Johnson and Gov. Dennis Daugaard.

For the next six months, the security forces members will be providing law enforcement, troop escort and security work within a base in Southwest Asia.

730th Area Support Medical Company will not deploy

RAPID CITY - The SDARNG's 730th Area Support Medical Company, of Vermillion, will not deploy to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The 730th's 48 assigned members received word from U.S. Central Command that they would not be deploying in July to provide health care support to service members overseas.

The change in deployment status is a result of the gradual drawdown of U.S. forces in Afghanistan.

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Transition 1/12

Women are in the next generation of F-16 pilots

Two female fighter pilots join the 175th Fighter Squadron, the first the unit has seen in its 66 years of existence

By Senior Master Sgt. Nancy Ausland
114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The face of the South Dakota Air National Guard's F-16 pilot is changing. The next generation of fighter pilots will include two females, the first the unit has seen in its 66 years of existence.

Second Lt. Shanon Davis and 2nd Lt. Valerie Vanderostyne are among the four newest pilots of the 175th Fighter Squadron to pass their Initial Flight Screening in Pueblo, Colo. These women, along with 2nd Lt. Brant Ravenscroft and 1st Lt. Blake Schneider will be attending undergraduate pilot training in 2012-2013. The 13-month program will teach the young lieutenants the skills they need to follow in the footsteps of other outstanding pilots who have served with the unit.

Three of these outstanding pilot candidates are graduates of South Dakota State University, and two of them were former enlisted members of the 114th Fighter Wing. They are truly great examples of what the state has to offer.

Vanderostyne, SDSU graduate and a former enlisted member of the 114th Logistic Readiness Squadron Traffic Management, says she has always wanted to be a pilot with the unit.

"I always wanted to fly with the unit," says Vanderostyne. "The fact that I will be one of the first females to fly for the unit was not something that I aspired to, but it just kind of happened that way. I'm honored."

Davis found inspiration through her family to become an F-16 pilot.

"Both my parents were pilots in the Air Force, and so flying has always been a part of my life," said Davis.

Davis comes to the unit from Des Moines, Iowa and has a master's degree in engineering. The first time she put on an Air Force uniform



Photo by Master Sgt. Christopher Stewart

The four newest pilot candidates of the SDANG, left to right; 2nd Lt. Brant Ravenscroft, 2nd Lt. Valerie Vanderostyne, 2nd Lt. Shanon Davis and 1st Lt. Blake Schneider.

was when she went to the Academy of Military Science for officer training.

"I didn't find out until a couple months into the process that it was such a big deal that I was hired," says Davis when asked about being one of the first females to fly with the unit. "In my mind, I was always going to fly, and the fact that I was a female didn't matter. It was really a non-issue in my mind."

While the female pilot candidates may be getting the spotlight, the outstanding accomplishments of the new male candidates are also important. Ravenscroft was a former chaplain's assistant with the 114th Fighter Wing and served four years on active duty as an enlisted member prior to joining our unit. His degree from SDSU is in aviation education, and he's excited to start his new career as a pilot.

"I feel fine with Shanon and Val as my future wingmen," said Ravenscroft. "They have already

proved themselves at AMS and IFS. They have not only met the standards, but far exceeded many of their male counterparts so far."

The fourth pilot to begin his training to become a pilot is Schneider.

He is an SDSU ROTC graduate with a degree in electrical engineering. He will be departing for his ISF soon and looks forward to the challenges ahead.

"I'm very excited about it. This definitely is fulfilling a dream I've had to become a fighter pilot," said Schneider.

All four lieutenants are excited about their futures with the SDANG.

"I'm joining one of the best units there is, and there is nothing more gratifying than going out and then coming home to such a supportive and friendly environment," said Davis. "Everyone here is so nice, and I know all four of us are just excited to go get our training done so that we can come back and be a part of this great unit."



Photo by Master Sgt. Donald Matthews

A South Dakota Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter from the Army Aviation Support Facility drops 600 gallons of water on the Mallow Fire in Rapid City March 9. The helicopter crew conducted about 48 water-bucket drops in about three hours, refueling the aircraft only once, and released an estimated 25,000 gallons of water on the fire, providing much needed support to ground crews controlling the blaze.

Soldiers battle blaze in Rapid City

By Maj. Anthony Deiss
SDNG Public Affairs Office

South Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers from the Army Aviation Support Facility helped battle a wildland fire March 9 that started in dry grass and timber on the hills of Hanson-Larsen Memorial Park.

The fire was reported at about 11 a.m. near Mallow and Wood streets. Southeast winds drove the fire to the north, threatening homes on the eastern slopes of the park in Scott Addition.

The call for National Guard air support came in at approximately 1 p.m. from the South Dakota Division of Wildland Fire. A UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter, equipped with a 600-gallon water basket, was soon dispatched to the Mallow Fire to assist professional and volunteer fire fighters already on the scene trying to contain the blaze.

The helicopter crew of Lt. Col. Michael Snow, pilot-in-command, CW4 Christian Frank, pilot, and crew chiefs Staff Sgt. Jeremy Weich and Staff Sgt. Wayne Garner began to extract water from a pond at the Executive Golf Course, just southeast of the fire area, to douse flames along the fire's edge.

"Our first effort was to start laying water down on the crest of the hill to keep the fire from spreading further to the west," said Snow. "We then moved on to support ground crews working north and south fire lines. They gave us instructions on where to lay down water to best support their efforts in containing the fire."

Snow said they conducted about 48 water-bucket drops in about three hours, refueling the aircraft only once, and released an estimated 25,000 gallons of water on the fire.

"The water helped to drastically cool down or put out the fire," he said. "The ground crews did a good job digging trenches and creating barriers, and we were able to get out ahead of them to support their efforts."

As sunset approached, the flight crew had to return to the aviation facility because of deteriorating visibility conditions.

Snow said the dense smoke, terrain and power lines made this mission one of the more challenging in recent memory for this seasoned aviator.

"This was a different mission with the fire being in the city instead of the national forest," said Snow. "There were many wires to watch out for, and we had to avoid flying over houses or buildings if we could help it. The steep terrain, intense smoke and fire on two fronts made it very challenging."

The helicopter crew's efforts, along with about 125 firefighters on the ground, helped to control the blaze, which was largely contained just after 8 p.m. The fire was 100 percent contained by 5 p.m. Saturday. The fire scorched about 150 acres; however, no homes or structures were destroyed.

While the flight crew certainly made an impact in helping to contain the fire, Snow credits the ground crews for successfully ensuring its containment.

"I felt like we did some good on the fire and we were able to reach areas the ground crews couldn't get to," said Snow. "However, the ground crews did a great job working the fire and deserve the credit. They really helped to direct our efforts in the air to best support their needs on the ground."

The cause of the fire is reported to have been caused by heavy construction equipment doing a reseeded operation on Cowboy Hill, according to fire officials.

Snow said this is one of the earlier fires he has seen for this time of the year in recent memory. This is the first state active-duty mission of what is anticipated to be an early fire season for the Army Aviation Support Facility.

"I'm worried we are going to have extreme fire conditions this year," said Snow. "The dry conditions, low humidity, high temperatures and winds, this early in the season, could make for a long summer if we don't get a good dousing of rain. Regardless, the South Dakota National Guard will be ready to respond if called upon."

Snow also said the support they provided to the Mallow Fire wouldn't have been possible without the help of another ground crew, located at the aviation facility.

Other Soldiers that assisted in the operation were CW2 Andrew Busse, operations officer-in-charge, Sgt. Thia Monteith, noncommissioned officer-in-charge, Pfc. Bri Kiewel, operations specialist, and Pfc. Kota Simonson, aircraft refueler.

82nd CST and bomb squad train together at Mt. Rushmore

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen
SDNG Public Affairs Office

The South Dakota National Guard 82nd Civil Support Team worked through a new training scenario involving the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation's bomb squad and personnel from the National Park Service at the Mount Rushmore National Memorial, April 11.

The exercise gave South Dakota's all-hazard response team the 82nd CST and the state's DCI bomb squad the opportunity to test their equipment and procedures while working together. The CST specializes in chemical, biological and radiological detection while DCI has expertise with the disposal of explosive ordnance.

The emergency response exercise was based on a scenario in which a Mount Rushmore park ranger and his bomb detection dog discovered two suspicious packages in the parking lot. One of the packages was leaking fluid causing the ranger and the dog to become ill.

Twenty-two members of the CST and five members of the DCI bomb squad paired up to investigate the suspicious packages.

Having a combination of chemical and bomb materials further enabled the CST and DCI to test how the teams will work together in a real life event, said Maj. Dale Gadbois, 82nd CST, operations officer.

"Our Soldiers and Airmen benefit from this training by being able to interact with other agencies in our area with the local first responders, FBI, DCI, and the National Park Service here at Mount Rushmore," said Gadbois. "It's important to practice this in a peacetime environment, and the more we practice, the better off we will be if an event like this would occur."

To begin the investigation, the DCI sent their bomb disposal HD-1 robot with the CST's chemical sensors attached to it to assess the packages.

"Our role is to take care of any explosive device that may or may not be present," said Dan Satterlee, DCI bomb squad assistant director. "When dealing with any kind of chemical or biological threat, it is hard to operate without the CST. They have equipment and personnel that we don't have, and we have EOD (explosive ordnance disposal) equipment the CST doesn't have."

After the robot assessed the packages, the



Air Force Staff Sgt. Dustin Clement, of Faulkton, and Army Staff Sgt. Erik Haivala, of Sturgis, conduct maintenance on area monitoring equipment during an emergency response training exercise at Mount Rushmore National Memorial, April 11.



South Dakota's Division of Criminal Investigation bomb squad's Riley Cook prepares the HD-1 robot before taking samples from a suspicious package.

DCI suited up one of their men, Riley Cook, with a 100-pound bomb suit and a CST oxygen tank and mask, to protect him from a possible hazardous chemical.

Cook took samples and x-rays while fully covered in equipment and used the robot to communicate with the rest of the team. Once he extracted the samples from the packages, Cook brought them to the CST's decontamination team and lab for testing.

Ten hours after the CST and DCI received the initial call, the results confirmed that one package did have a hazardous chemical and the other one was an explosive device. During this particular exercise, the team decided to contain the chemical package and use the robot to disassemble the bomb.

"This training is realistic, and it is a good chance to test our equipment," said Army Staff



SDARNG 82nd Civil Support Team's Sgt. 1st Class Marcia Hento, of Pringle, decontaminates Riley Cook, South Dakota's DCI bomb squad.

Sgt. Erik Haivala, of Sturgis, CST, survey team member. "The only thing that is unrealistic is the time frame. An operation like this would take more than a day; it is usually up to a week long."

The CST has multiple training events throughout the year with various state and federal agencies. Each exercise has a unique scenario to give personnel opportunities to train and ensure that everyone is well-rounded in their fields.

Haivala added that they do work with the National Park Service on a regular basis because it is a high profile place, and Mount Rushmore gets millions of visitors every year.

"I am always able to learn something from these exercises. The biggest challenge tends to be our communication skills, but practice makes perfect," said Haivala.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Nicole Dykstra

Soldiers of the 200th Engineer Company arrived in the United States May 2 at Fort Dix, N.J., after a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan.

Three Guard units return home from deployment

Three South Dakota Army National Guard units returned home from deployments in May.

Soldiers of the 200th Engineer Company arrived in Pierre on May 12 after a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The 200th, of Pierre, Chamberlain and Mobridge, deployed with 184 members in May 2011. As a multi-role bridging unit, the 200th had a mission to maintain, repair and replace existing military bridges throughout Afghanistan.

Sixty-four Soldiers from the 139th Brigade Support Battalion were welcomed home in Brookings on May 17 after serving a nearly yearlong deployment to Iraq and Kuwait in support of Operation New Dawn.

The 139th, composed of Soldiers from the Brookings, Redfield, Watertown, Miller, Mitchell, Rapid City and Sioux Falls areas, deployed in July as a Logistics Task Force with a mission to provide supply, maintenance and transportation support to U.S. forces in Iraq and Kuwait.

Soldiers of Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment arrived home to Rapid City on May 19 after a yearlong deployment to Iraq and Kuwait in support of Operation New Dawn.

The 67 Soldiers of the 1-189th deployed in May 2011 with a mission to provide aerial medical evacuation support to U.S. and coalition forces in Iraq and Kuwait.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen

Lt. Col. Bruce Carter welcomes home Spc. Scott Loveland of the 139th Brigade Support Battalion as the unit arrived in the U.S. on May 10 in Fort Hood, Texas.



Courtesy photo

Leadership of the South Dakota Army National Guard welcomes home 67 Soldiers of Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, as the unit arrived in the U.S. on May 14 in Fort Hood, Texas.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen

Members of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 139th Brigade Support Battalion stand as they are officially deactivated during their welcome home ceremony on May 18 at the Swiftel Center in Brookings, S.D.



Photo by Maj. Anthony Deiss

Staff Sgt. Jeff Wright, a Soldier with the 200th Engineer Company shares a laugh with his niece, Lakyn, during the welcome home ceremony for the unit at Riggs High School in Pierre, May 12.



Photo by Maj. Anthony Deiss

Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general, SDNG, welcomes home Soldiers of the 200th Engineer Company, during the welcome home ceremony for the unit at Riggs High School in Pierre, May 12.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen

Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Schnee, of Tea, holds his 4-year-old daughter, Jenna, during the South Dakota Army National Guard's 139th Brigade Support Battalion's welcome home ceremony on May 18 at the Swiftel Center in Brookings, S.D.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen

South Dakota National Guard's Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general, applauds the Soldiers of 139th Brigade Support Battalion for a job well done, during their welcome home ceremony on May 18 in Brookings, S.D.

3 brothers, 2 war zones, 1 family deployed

By Maj. Anthony Deiss
SDNG Public Affairs Office



Sgt. 1st Class Michael Mullen
Operation Enduring Freedom



Sgt. Erik Mullen
Operation Enduring Freedom



Staff Sgt. Kristian Mullen
Operation New Dawn

The expression, “When the National Guard mobilizes for war, it’s not just communities that deploy but also families,” has held true for three brothers in the South Dakota Army National Guard. Sgt. 1st Class Michael Mullen, Staff Sgt. Kristian Mullen and Sgt. Erik Mullen served at the same time overseas in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation New Dawn.

Michael and Erik served with the 200th Engineer Company in Afghanistan, and Kristian served with the 139th Brigade Support Battalion’s Logistics Task Force in Kuwait.

While all three brothers share a family history of deploying overseas – their father Patrick deployed to Germany during the Vietnam War – their call to serve was for different reasons.

“I wanted to serve my community and country,” said Kristian, 35, of Miller. “Deploying was never on my mind when I joined the National Guard, but I did understand that it was always a possibility.”

“I joined during the time frame of the

first Gulf War. I wanted to join to get help with school benefits and to serve,” said Michael, 39, of Pierre. “By putting on this uniform, you have to plan on deploying.”

“Mike and Kris kept telling me that I needed to enlist when I was in high school,” said Erik, 30, of Madison. “However, for some reason, I never did until I graduated from college.”

Kristian, who works full-time for Company A, 139th BSB, in Miller as a truck driver, was performed duties in administration and customs for the 139th LTF in Kuwait.

Comprising 64 Soldiers from the Brookings, Redfield, Watertown, Miller, Mitchell, Rapid City and Sioux Falls areas, the 139th LTF deployed in July with a mission to provide supply, maintenance and transportation support to Special Operations Command units in Iraq. The LTF served about five months there before the drawdown of U.S. forces in December. The unit then relocated to Kuwait to assist in retrograde operations for the remainder of their tour.

With 15 years of service in the military, five on active duty with the U.S. Army, Kristian is not new to deployments. He deployed with Battery B, 1st Battalion, 147th

Field Artillery, to Iraq in 2007.

“This deployment is very different from the Battery B tour in every way,” he said. “On my last deployment, we provided base security and convoy escort. On my recent deployment, we provided logistics support to Special Operations Command.”

Michael, who works full time as an operations noncommissioned officer for the 200th Engineer Co., was also on his second tour, deploying with the 200th to Iraq in 2003. As the operations NCO for the unit, he is responsible for running the operations section and tracking its 180 Soldiers.

The 200th is a multi-role bridging company whose mission was to maintain, repair and replace existing military bridges throughout Afghanistan. In South Dakota, Michael tracks the unit’s members and their activities among three locations; Pierre, Chamberlain and Mobridge. In Afghanistan, he tracked Soldiers and their operations in five regional commands throughout a country nearly the size of Texas.

“The support sections were busy fixing and maintaining vehicles, and the recon teams conducted inspections and looked at possible bridge sites,” said Erik, a fire team leader and a bridge crew chief with

the 200th, “while the bridge platoons built, deconstructed, and repaired all military bridges in theater.”

Despite having the tough mission of tracking Soldiers and maintaining operations, Michael said living conditions had improved quite a bit since his last deployment.

“During my last deployment, we pushed into Iraq and were on an undeveloped camp that had little life support. We lived on MRE’s (Meals, Ready to Eat) and took water-bottle showers,” said Michael. “In Afghanistan, we were on a well-developed base that supplied us with all needed personal items and nice-to-have things.

“This deployment has been okay for the most part; however, the first deployment was by far a more rewarding experience,” continued the veteran of 20 years of service in the National Guard. “The most rewarding part was completing the full closure of a bridge in Iraq over the Tigris River in 2003.”

With nearly six years of service in the National Guard, Erik, a teacher with the Todd County School District, was on his first deployment, and said his deployment experience has had its times of fun and heartbreak.

“It was challenging at times, both mentally and physically,” he said.

Although there were challenges, Erik feels as if he made a difference in Afghanistan, and found ways to cope with the stress.

“While at the bridge sites, we had some Afghan National Army and Police helping with security, and that’s a promising sign,” said Erik. “The Afghanistan people use our bridges as much as we do. They depend on the bridges we build and maintain for their livelihood.

“During my downtime, I liked to send emails to family and exercise,” continued Erik. “With my squad living in small quarters, there tended to be a lot of jokes played on one another.”

When asked to summarize their deployment experience in one word, each of the Mullen brothers had an intriguing, and yet similar, answer.

“Organized mayhem,” said Michael. “Dealing with multiple commands

throughout the theater was a challenge.”

“Fluid,” said Kristian. “The one, real thing I have learned on this deployment is you must be fluid at all times. We have a quote here that sums it all up, ‘Stand by to be prepared to do something that is yet to be determined.’”

“When the National Guard mobilizes for war, it’s not just communities that deploy but also families,” has held true for three brothers in the South Dakota Army National Guard.

“Challenging,” said Erik. “Working with all the U.S. Armed Forces made it a challenge. Even though we are in the military, we all speak a different lingo.”

Even in a challenging environment, Michael and Erik had the comfort of being near each another in Afghanistan.

“I spoke with Erik on a daily basis when we were on Camp Leatherneck together,” said Michael. “We were fortunate to have Thanksgiving dinner together, along with going home on mid-tour leave at the same time.”

“It helped knowing that when I was not outside of the wire, I could see Mike every day,” said Erik.

However, contact between them and Kristian was a bit more difficult.

“It’s a worry not knowing what they were doing,” said Kristian. “However, I did get to see them both when they were en route on leave and had to make a stop in Kuwait.”

While staying in contact with each other was not easy for the Mullen brothers, perhaps even more difficult was maintaining contact with their families back home.

“Being away from my wife and daughter was a real challenge,” said Kristian, who left behind his wife, Rhona, and daughter, Kloe, 4. “It was rough on them. My wife and I married on March 30, and I left in June. We enjoy motorcycling and are planning a trip now that I am home.”

“It was difficult for them, since she was so far away from family and friends,” said Erik of his wife, Danielle, and son, Parker, 22 months. “I enjoy being able to hold my family and spend time with them.”

“It was challenging being away from

my family,” said Michael of his wife, Lori, and three children, Tyson, 20, Jory, 15, and Jayd, 14. “It was hard, but my kids are older and understand the complexity of the mission at hand. I would like to be eating at Cattleman’s Club in Pierre or Ricks Café in Mobridge with Lori and the kids, right now.”

Despite the difficulties of serving overseas, the Mullen brothers said growing up together has helped them cope with the stresses of war.

“Tough love – war between brothers was not uncommon, and I think it makes you stronger as a family,”

said Michael.

“The tough love we had between each other growing up – we liked to fight a lot, but it all made us stronger,” said Erik.

With love for their country, each other and their families, the Mullen brothers are ensuring that the tradition of the National Guard’s strong family roots take hold for generations to come.

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40 years later

Guard reflects on the Rapid City 1972 Flood

By SDNG Public Affairs Office



As the rain and flood waters descended upon Rapid City and surrounding Black Hills communities on June 9, 1972, so did members of the South Dakota National Guard.

In Rapid City's greatest hour of need, the National Guard was there to immediately assist in search and rescue and recovery operations. As fate would have it, more than 650 National Guardsmen were conducting their two-week annual training at Camp Rapid, as well as 1,500 Soldiers in the nearby Badlands, 50 miles to the east, and an additional 233 troops were at Roubaix, west of Rapid City in the Black Hills.

In what would be one of the largest state active duty missions in the organization's history, 2,952 South Dakota National Guard members were called up to serve in what some historians have deemed the worst natural disaster in South Dakota state history.

At approximately 6:45 p.m., the first call came in from local authorities for possible National Guard support of the impending danger. Immediately, alerts went out to commanding officers at Camp Rapid for a briefing on possible flood missions. Only moments after the briefing had begun, calls for assistance started to pour into state radio at the Emergency Operations Center.

By this point, most Guardsmen on Camp Rapid were reporting in for duty; however, more manpower was needed and the call went out over radio and TV for all Guardsmen at annual training to report to Camp Rapid. Calls for assistance were answered as rapidly as men reported in. The rescue units were made up of artillerymen, engineers, transportation, maintenance, medics, aviators and state headquarters personnel.

Rescue teams reported to various areas throughout Rapid City and surrounding communities assisting personnel caught in the flood water's wake. Rescue teams reporting back to Camp Rapid brought refugees and

recovered bodies. Refugees were taken to the armory and given cots, blankets and food. Medical personnel were at rescue sites and Camp Rapid to assist injured people.

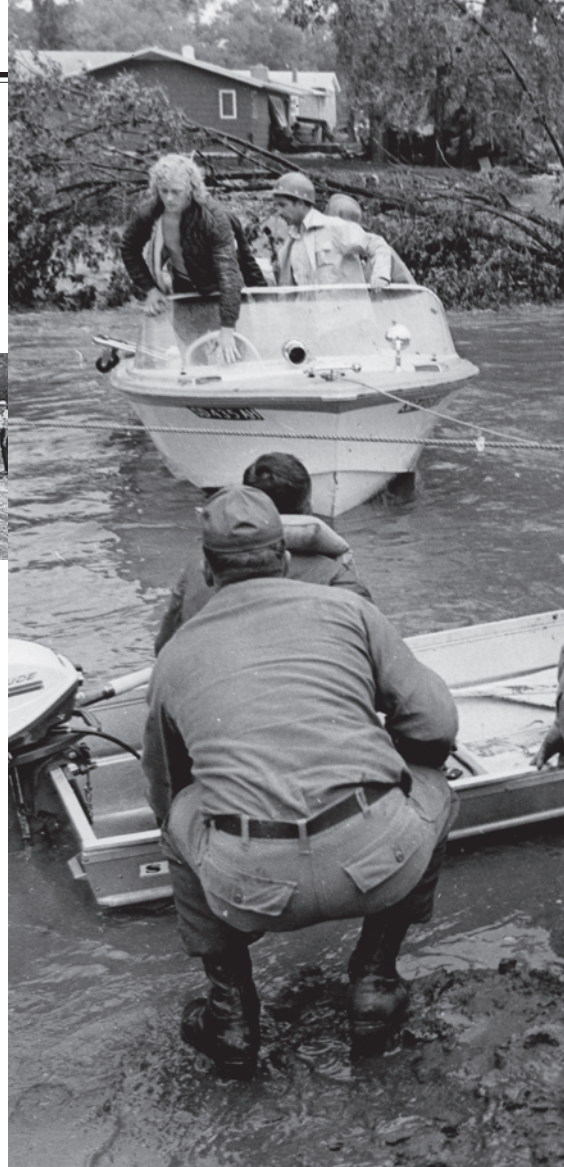
Early Saturday morning following the flood, units of the South Dakota National Guard were activated and converged on the stricken areas of Rapid City, Keystone, Sturgis, Box Elder and other areas of the Black Hills. Many of the units were diverted from their regular annual field training to aid in the disaster, while other units were activated.

The Guard used much of their personnel and equipment to continue in rescue and recovery operations the following morning. Engineer equipment, wreckers and cranes helped to sift through the debris of destroyed houses and cars, while cargo and dump trucks hauled it away, creating pathways and reopening roads. National Guard bridges were erected over creeks after permanent bridges were destroyed or deemed impassable. Helicopters were also used to help conduct aerial surveillance and emergency missions, while water purification engineers helped to produce drinkable water for those in need.

The swift action of the National Guard, working in concert with civilian authorities, helped maintain order and save lives in the Black Hills area. Some estimates were said to have run as high as 1,000 individuals saved. For the next 20 days, the National Guard remained on duty to continue clean-up and recovery efforts.

During the course of search and rescue operations on June 9, three National Guardsmen made the ultimate sacrifice; 2nd Lt. Gary Engelstad, 1st Sgt. Myron Corbin and Pfc. Freeman Phillips perished in the flood waters attempting to save the lives of their fellow community members.

On June 30, the last of the Guardsmen came off state active-duty orders. One Rapid City Journal headline expressed a sentiment shared by much of the community, "Guard Leaving City, But Not Hearts of the People."



SDNG Units called to fight flood

- State Headquarters
- 109th Engineer Group
- 153rd Engineer Battalion
- 137th Engineer Battalion
- 109th Engineer Battalion
- 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery
- 2nd Battalion, 147th Field Artillery
- 139th Transportation Battalion
- 842nd Engineer Company
- 854th Engineer Company
- 200th Engineer Company
- 211th Engineer Company
- 214th Engineer Company
- 1742nd Transportation Company
- 740th Transportation Company
- 665th Heavy Equipment Maintenance Company
- 235th Supply Company
- 216th Ordnance Company
- 730th Medical Company
- 1085th Helicopter Ambulance
- 147th Army Band
- 129th Public Information Detachment





T

he South Dakota National Guard is celebrating 150 years of service to the state and nation since its birthdate of Jan. 27, 1862.

With a proud 150-year heritage of serving as the state's militia, the SDNG finds its origins dating back to 1862 as part of the Dakota Territory.

Since that time, SDNG units have served in nearly every major war or conflict since the Civil War, as well as provided assistance to the state in times of domestic emergencies such as floods, fires, tornadoes and winter storms.

"We are very proud to be celebrating this historic milestone in our organization's history, and we look forward to continuing that lineage of service to our state and nation," said Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general of the SDNG. "Other than during World War II, when there was a total mobilization of the South Dakota National Guard, these past 10 years clearly rank among the most significant periods of our history."

The Beginning of the South Dakota National Guard

The journey of the Dakota militiaman begins during the Civil War with Companies A and B of the Dakota Cavalry. On March 2, 1861, President James Buchanan signed the act establishing the Dakota Territory. By that

time, Vermillion, Bon Homme and Elk Point were growing communities. The territory tended to be people who were genuine settlers, mostly immigrants from Germany, Norway and Sweden.

Earlier in the 1850s, the U.S. Army had established garrisons at Fort Pierre and Fort Randall on the Missouri River. Their mission was to protect the 5,000 settlers from the threat of Native American attacks.

However, when the Civil War started, the Army withdrew three companies from Fort Randall leaving it in an exposed position. This led to the Dec. 7, 1861 proclamation by the Territorial Governor William Jayne to raise two companies of volunteer militia.

Recruiting centers were then established in Yankton, Vermillion, and Bon Homme. The citizens were very patriotic with a lot of local pride, and in just over one month enough men had enlisted to assemble the first company of citizen-Soldiers. On Jan. 27, 1862, Capt. Nelson Miner, company commander, formed the unit in Yankton: Company A, Dakota Cavalry.

This was the first unit of the Dakota Territory Militia. This was the birth of the South Dakota National Guard.

History of the South Dakota National Guard

Since that historic date in 1862, the SDNG has seen combat during the Spanish-American War, World Wars I and II, Operation Just Cause

and Operation Desert Storm. The National Guard was also called up during the Mexican Border Conflict, Korean War, Berlin Crisis and peacekeeping missions in Bosnia and Kosovo.

Since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States, each of South Dakota's 28 National Guard communities has experienced a unit mobilization in support of Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn. More than 4,600 Soldiers and 1,500 Airmen have deployed in support of these operations and continue to deploy today.

The National Guard is the only military component that holds a dual mission consisting of both federal and state roles. The federal mission is to maintain trained and equipped units available for prompt mobilization for war or a national emergency. At the state level, the governor reserves the ability, under the state constitution, to call up members of the National Guard in times of domestic emergencies.

Throughout the years, natural disasters have called forth the Guard's spirit of teamwork and sacrifice to battle floods, fires, blizzards and tornado destruction. From the Rapid City Flood of 1972 to the 1998 Spencer Tornado to Hurricane Katrina and Rita in 2005, and most recently the 2011 Missouri River Flood, the SDNG has helped its fellow South Dakotans and Americans in times of need.

Celebrating 150 YEARS of service



The South Dakota National Guard Today

Today's SDNG remains strong with nearly 4,400 Soldiers and Airmen available to execute its dual mission on the state and federal levels. The Guard is now in 28 communities throughout South Dakota and is composed of 64 separate Army Guard units and detachments, and 16 Air Guard units. These units perform a variety of missions: everything from command and control, administration, engineering, field artillery, transportation, logistics, communications, maintenance, aviation, public affairs, military police, firefighting and medical.

The Guard is no longer a strategic reserve to the active component, but an operational force directly integrated into active-duty deployments and missions. The force structure of the SDNG is designed to meet the needs of the future force, giving the Guard an enhanced capability to respond in times of emergencies and natural disasters and to support Overseas Contingency Operations.

The SDNG has a significant impact on the state's economy, with more than \$181 million dollars in expenditures and wages in 2011. The SDNG is also one of the largest employers in the state with more than 960 full-time employees, along with nearly 3,400 traditional Guard members who train on a part-time basis while pursuing a career or civilian education.

These full-time employees, along with state employees and civilian contractors, work to assist the traditional Guardsman by providing administrative, training and logistical support. This support collectively goes into helping units meet mobilization and readiness requirements.

The South Dakota Army National Guard remains strong with nearly 3,300 Soldiers available for state and federal missions. The nerve center for the SDARNG is the state headquarters at Camp Rapid in Rapid City, an 84-acre training site first developed in 1924.

The South Dakota Air National Guard is located on the southeast corner of Joe Foss Field in Sioux Falls and was federally recognized in 1946. It has nearly 1,100 Airmen assigned to its headquarters and the 114th Fighter Wing. The mission of the SDANG is to provide combat capability to the war fight, security for the homeland and to provide combat-ready units in three roles: federal, state and community.

The proud heirs of the militia tradition can be found in the men and women of today's SDNG. They stand ready to leave the comforts of home and family to help their friends and neighbors, defend the nation's interests and bring peace and hope to people throughout the world.

"We are very proud to be celebrating this historic milestone in our organization's history, and we look forward to continuing that lineage of service to our state and nation. Other than during World War II when there was a total mobilization of the South Dakota National Guard, these past 10 years clearly rank among the most significant periods of our history."

**- Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch
Adjutant General of the SDNG**

SOUTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD THROUGH THE YEARS



1862

Birth of the SDNG

When the Civil War started, the Army withdrew three companies from Fort Randall leaving it in an exposed position. This led to the Dec. 7, 1861, proclamation by Territorial Governor William Jayne to raise two companies of volunteer militia.

Recruiting centers were then established in Yankton, Vermillion, and Bon Homme. The citizens were very patriotic with a lot of local pride, and in just over one month enough men had enlisted to assemble the first company of citizen-Soldiers.

On Jan. 27, 1862, Capt. Nelson Miner, company commander, formed the unit in Yankton: Company A, Dakota Cavalry. This was the first unit of the Dakota Territory Militia.



1884

Dakota Territory Militia Reorganized

1889

South Dakota Statehood

By 1889, statehood was coming for both North and South Dakota, and so was the need to divide the existing militia units between the two states. North Dakota formed the first regiment and South Dakota the second. Dakota Territory split into two states by the enabling Act of Congress. With an estimated population of 400,000 and twenty-seven years as a territory, southern Dakota was in the forefront of the statehood drive and generally was considered the more deserving.



1893

South Dakota National Guard Renumbered

Along with the new state, this also organized the militia of South Dakota, redesignated South Dakota National Guard March 6, 1893. Redesignated Sept. 9, 1893, as the 1st South Dakota Infantry Regiment.

1862

1884

1889

1893

1898

Spanish-American War & Philippine Insurrection

When the Spanish-American War broke out in 1898, the 1st South Dakota Infantry Regiment was sworn into federal service in April as the First South Dakota Volunteer Infantry.

The regiment left South Dakota for the Philippines in May and served through the early months of the Philippine Insurrection after the Spanish-American War ended. The regiment returned to South Dakota in October 1899 when they were welcomed home by President McKinley in Aberdeen. They had served 129 days in combat in the Philippines under Gen. Arthur MacArthur, the division commander. South Dakota also furnished five troops of cavalry in 1898, which were assigned to the Third U.S. Volunteer Cavalry Regiment, known as "Grigsby's Cowboys." They went to Camp Chickmauga, Ga., served out their term there and were discharged in December 1898.



1917

World War I

On March 25, 1917, the 3rd Battalion of the Fourth South Dakota Infantry was mobilized to guard bridges on the Missouri and the James Rivers. On July 15, 1917, both the South Dakota Fourth Infantry Regiment and the First Cavalry Regiment were mobilized. The units from South Dakota were reorganized into other types of units and returned from France in 1919. They were demobilized on May 23, 1919. The South Dakota units ended up in the 40th, 41st, 32nd, 34th, and 88th Divisions, being reorganized into artillery, supply trains, machine gun battalions or replacements for other units. The 147th Artillery Regiment participated in the following battles in France: Toul-Boueq, Center Sector, Champagne-Marne, Aiene-Marne, Oisne-Marne, Avscourt, and Meuse-Argonne, from June 12, 1918, through Nov. 11, 1918. They were demobilized at Camp Dodge, Iowa, on May 23, 1919.

1940

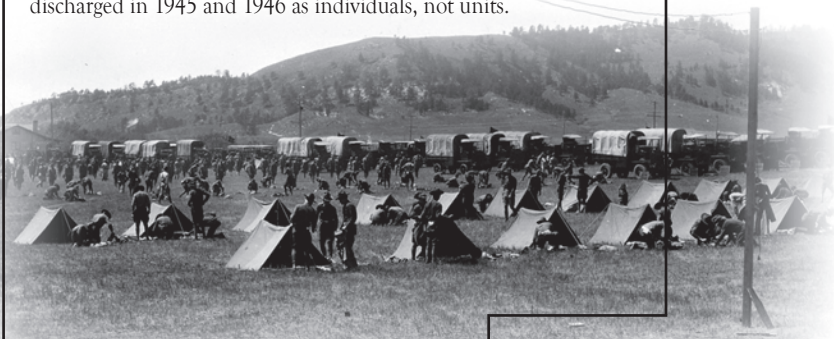
World War II

Pacific Theater of Operations

On Nov. 25, 1940, units of the South Dakota Army National Guard were called up for a one-year training period. The 147th Field Artillery Regiment was the first to go on active duty at Camp Ord, Calif. After training at Camp Ord, they embarked on Nov. 22, 1941, for duty in the Philippine Islands. They departed Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on Nov. 30, 1941, and were west of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, when they were diverted to Brisbane, Australia. They were in Australia until 1943. After some reorganizations, they began the long battle of retaking the various islands of the Pacific and were part of the occupation of Japan. The 147th was inactivated in January 1946.

European Theater of Operations

On Feb. 10, 1941, the 109th Engineer Regiment, 109th Quartermaster Regiment, and the 34th Signal Company were called into active service, and assembled with the 34th Division at Camp Claiborne, La. The 34th Division, which contained the South Dakota units, set sail for Ireland on Jan. 14, 1942. The 1st Battalion, 109th Quartermaster and Company A, 109th Engineers, were part of this movement, and the first Soldier to disembark in Ireland was a Soldier from Pierre named Baer Schliussmann. The 34th Division landed in Oran, Algeria, North Africa, in January 1943. They participated in the North Africa Campaign, the Italian Campaign and the occupation of Northern Italy after May 1945. The other reorganized units went to Corsica, France and Germany. The South Dakota troops were discharged in 1945 and 1946 as individuals, not units.



1898

1917

1940



1946

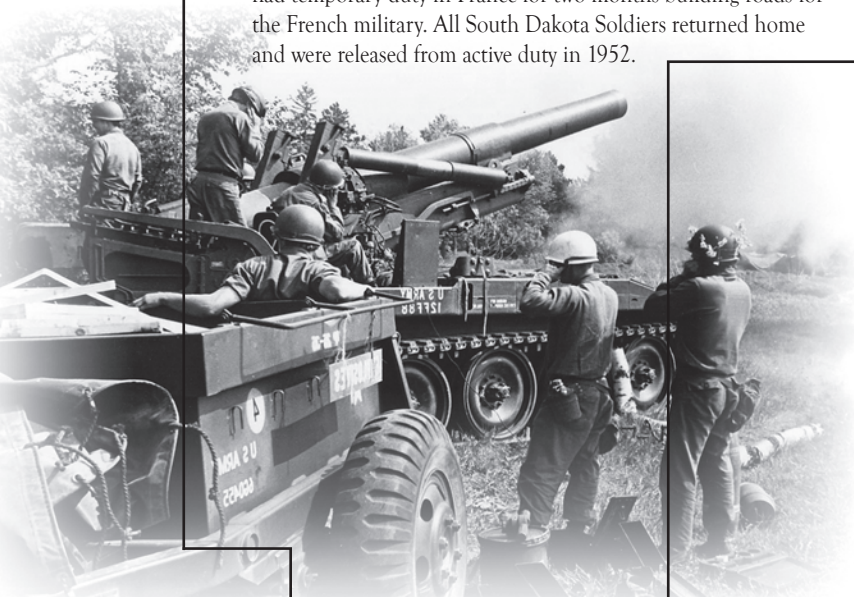
Recognition of SD Air National Guard

The South Dakota Air National Guard was founded by Joseph J. Foss on Sept. 20, 1946, at Sioux Falls, S.D., with federal recognition of the 175th Fighter Squadron. The 175th Fighter Squadron was assigned to the 132nd Fighter Group, Des Moines, Iowa. The unit was equipped with the F-51D Mustang and several types of support aircraft.

1950

Korean War

In July 1950, South Dakota National Guard units were mobilized with the 196th Regimental Combat Team going to Alaska. The Combat Team was made up of three infantry battalions: the 147th Field Artillery Battalion, the 200th Engineer Company, and a medical detachment. The 109th Engineer Battalion, with units in Rapid City, Sturgis, Hot Springs and Lead, was mobilized on Sept. 3, 1950, and trained at their mobilization station, Fort Bragg, N.C., for eight months prior to being sent to West Germany. During their one-year tour in Germany, they controlled bridging operations over the Rhine River. They also had temporary duty in France for two months building roads for the French military. All South Dakota Soldiers returned home and were released from active duty in 1952.



1961

Berlin Crisis

The mounting East-West tensions over the situation in Berlin during August and September 1961 prompted increased military readiness. South Dakota National Guard units were called into active federal service on Oct. 1, 1961. The 740th and 741st Transportation Company from Milbank and Clear Lake reported to Fort Carson, Colo. The 211th Engineer Company from Lemmon reported to Fort Lewis, Wash. The 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery (HQ & HQ Battery, Battery A, B, C, and Svc), from Sioux Falls, Madison, Flandreau and Canton reported to Fort Sill, Okla. The 115th Signal Company Wire Platoon from Yankton and Vermillion reported to Fort Riley, Kan. The 214th Engineer Company from Mobridge reported to Fort Polk, La., and the 730th Medical Company to Fort Riley, Kan. All units were released from active duty between Aug. 6-12 1962.

1990

Operation Desert Storm

In 1990, the South Dakota National Guard mobilized six units for duty in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq. South Dakota units participating were the 109th Engineer Group, 730th Medical Company, 1742nd Transportation Company, 740th Transportation Company, 747th Highway Regulating Team, and 57th Movement Control Team. Also, a total of 68 South Dakota Air National Guard members were activated and completed various duty assignments stateside and in Saudi Arabia.



1946

1950

1961

1990

1972*Rapid City Flood*

On June 9-10, 1972, extremely heavy rains over the eastern Black Hills of South Dakota produced record floods on Rapid Creek and other streams in the area. Nearly 15 inches of rain fell in about six hours near Nemo, and more than 10 inches of rain fell over an area of 60 square miles. According to the Red Cross, the resulting floods left 238 people dead and 3,057 people injured. In addition to the human tragedy, total damage was estimated in excess of \$160 million (about \$664 million in 2002 dollars), which included 1,335 homes and 5,000 automobiles that were destroyed.

**1998***Spencer Tornado*

On May 30, 1998, the most destructive and the second deadliest tornado in the history of South Dakota - and the most intensely observed and analyzed - struck Spencer. The 1998 Spencer Tornado required the Guard to provide search and rescue, medical services, food services, cleanup, and many other support activities.

1999*Oglala Tornado*

A twister tore through the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation June 4 over night. Gov. Bill Janklow and the National Guard traveled to Oglala to assess the damage and clean up. Guard members brought in a water tank for people to pick up donated drinking water from relief workers. Troops also assisted in search and rescue missions.

1997*Blizzard Relief*

The Blizzard of 1997 initiated the largest domestic call-up of National Guard personnel and equipment since the 1972 Rapid City Flood. The Army and Air National Guard operated snowblowers, heavy equipment, and helicopters. Thousands of volunteers helped with the disaster recovery in North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and Minnesota during 1997-1999. Blizzards from the winter of 1996-97 left snowbanks 20 feet high in many places and killed livestock of all kinds in the three-state area. Manpower from the South Dakota National Guard helped to break through hundreds of roads. The snowdrifts in some places were packed so hard, they were measured at 300 pounds per square inch.

1972

1997

1998

1999



2000

Jasper, Flagpole & Maitland Fires

National Guard members activated to help contain the Maitland Fire near Spearfish on Aug. 24, 2000. On the 7,000-acre Flagpole west of Angostura Reservoir, in August, Gov. Janklow ordered 17 National Guard bulldozers to respond. The Jasper Fire a few weeks later burned more than 84,000 acres in the Southern Hills west of Custer, making it the biggest ever in the Black Hills. The S.D. National Guard also played a significant role by providing helicopter and heavy equipment support; 250 Army and Air National Guard personnel were put on order to fight the multi-day fire.

2001

Operation Enduring Freedom

The war in Afghanistan began on Oct. 7, 2001, as the U.S. Armed Forces launched Operation Enduring Freedom in response to the Sept. 11 attacks with the stated goal of defeating Al-Qaida and ending its use of Afghanistan as a base for terrorist operations and defending the homeland.

To date, 13 South Dakota National Guard units from 12 South Dakota communities and more than 1,000 Soldiers and Airmen have mobilized in support of OEF. The units provided this support throughout the various regions of Afghanistan, and provided engineers, security forces, military police, public affairs professionals, firefighters, aviation personnel, training teams, and command and control elements.



2001

2003

Operation Iraqi Freedom

The Iraq War, or Operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn, was a conflict that occurred from March 2003 to December 2011. The beginning phases of operation found 13 SDNG units mobilized and deployed to various locations. Their time on active duty varied from six to 18 months. Some of the units were involved in the initial push from Kuwait into Iraq and Baghdad. Their missions included transporting supplies, ammunition, equipment, building bridges, airport and base camp construction and security. There were 28 units from 30 South Dakota communities and more than 3,360 Soldiers and Airmen who deployed in support of the nearly decade-long war.



2001

Operation Noble Eagle

President George W. Bush authorized a partial mobilization of the reserves Sept. 15, 2001, for homeland defense and civil support missions in response to the terrorist attacks Sept. 11 at the New York World Trade Center and the Pentagon. The 665th Maintenance Company mobilized in South Dakota to support security operations at Ellsworth Air Force Base near Rapid City and Joe Foss Field near Sioux Falls, home of the South Dakota Air National Guard. Detachment 3, 665th Maintenance Company, conducted similar operations at Fort Sill, Okla., and the National Training Center. The 235th Military Police Company also mobilized to provide security support at Fort Carson, Colo.

2000

2003

2010

James River Flood & Northern SD Blizzard

The South Dakota Army National Guard mobilized Soldiers and sent equipment to the Aberdeen area to assist Brown County emergency management sandbagging operations in response to spring flooding in late March. More than 60

Guardsmen from units across the state helped fight the flood. SDARNG's Palletized Load Systems and Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Trucks were used in the sandbagging operations. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the James River hit a record level, peaking at 20.8 feet compared to the previous year's record of 19.98 feet. A major winter storm swept across South Dakota in late January taking down 6,300 utility poles across the state, leaving 11,500 residents without power. Ice from the storm weighted down utility lines causing the poles to snap in half. Cooperative crews made up of Guard members and utility company personnel, made quick progress dropping the total number of rural South Dakota without power to nearly 3,000 residents within a few days. The Guard put more than 70 personnel on state active duty; nine bulldozers were used for power restoration with eight heavy expanded mobility tactical trucks.



2011

Missouri River Flood

Gov. 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 where Soldiers worked 24-hour operations by filling sandbags, building and patrolling levees, and directing traffic.

As the Missouri River releases continued to rise and move downstream the Guard moved into the Dakota Dunes area of southeast South Dakota.

By mid-June, levee construction and sandbagging operations in Pierre/Fort Pierre and Dakota Dunes communities had come to a close, with an estimated three million sandbags in the Pierre/Fort Pierre area and more than 500,000 filled in Dakota Dunes. With these missions complete, the 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 flood relief efforts in security and maintenance of levees. With water levels remaining high until late August, troops remained on site until then, but their numbers dwindled with the decreasing water level.



2006

Suriname

The South Dakota-Suriname State Partnership Program was formally established in August 2006 to develop mutually beneficial partnerships between the two entities. The partners were selected based upon similarities in population size, land mass, agricultural-based economies and lack of language barriers. During the past several years, there have been more than 800 individuals who have directly interacted in the SPP. Participants included key leaders representing South Dakota and Suriname: government, education system, military, private businesses and communities.

2006

2010

2011



Photo by Sgt. John Hittle



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen



Photo by Master Sgt. Nancy Ausland



Photo by Spc. Bruce Jones

TOP LEFT: South Dakota Army National Guardsman, 1st Sgt. Kory Urban, of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 153rd Engineer Battalion, came upon the First Dakota Cavalry guidon at the Huron Dakotaland Museum in January. The Capt. Nelson Miner family, who organized Company A, Dakota Cavalry, in 1862 donated the flag.

TOP RIGHT: Members of the SDNG salute Ashlyn Tangen, 6, of Bruce, during a Young Hero award ceremony at the Sioux Valley Elementary School for her courage and bravery in overcoming an e.coli infection and kidney failure April 13. Ashlyn received the Young Hero award sponsored by the SDNG Enlisted Association.

BOTTOM: Members of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 211th Engineer Company (Sapper), of Madison and Desmet, load a Soldier into a U.S. Army Black Hawk medevac helicopter during a simulated battlefield casualty training exercise, near Elk Point, at the SDNG's Austin Training Area, April 14.

MIDDLE RIGHT: Col. Michael Meyers, 114th Operations Group commander, is retiring with more than 25 years of service, Meyers is congratulated by other pilots of the SDANG with the traditional drenching by the fire department hose and nonalcoholic bottle of champagne after his "Fini Flight" in the F-16 Fighting Falcon.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen



Photo by Staff Sgt. Christina Sahrer



Photo by Staff Sgt. Rebecca Linder



Photo by Sgt. Jessica Geiger

TOP LEFT: Soldiers of the SDARNG's 881st Troop Command, of Sturgis, went to each radio station booth to shout out "hooah" after donating \$500 during the New Rushmore Radio's One Call One Miracle Radiothon for the Children's Miracle Network at the Rapid City Regional Hospital, March 9.

MIDDLE LEFT: Newly enlisted Soldiers of the SDARNG Recruit Sustainment Program make a tunnel for players of the Sioux Falls Storm to come out of during the Storm's military appreciation game in Sioux Falls, S.D. on April 1. The game was filled with memorable events to honor all past and present service members.

TOP RIGHT: Sgt. Darbi McIntyre performs an "arm trap and roll" on Spc. Aryn Novotny. Both are members of the South Dakota Army National Guard's Detachment 1, 155th Engineer Company, of Winner. They participated in Modern Army Combatives Training Feb. 4, at the Winner Sports Center.

BOTTOM: Gov. Dennis Daugaard visits with members of the South Dakota Army National Guard's Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, of Rapid City, while in Kuwait April 17. The governor was on a Department of Defense trip to get a first-hand look at military operations.



her·i·tage [her-i-tij]
Noun: transmitted from the past,
handed down by tradition

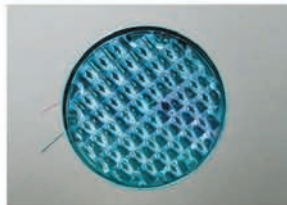
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