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



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

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Magazine of the South Dakota Army and Air National Guard



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On the cover

Col. Russ Walz, 114th Fighter Wing commander (second from right), accepts the 2011 National Guard Bureau Excellence in Diversity Award on behalf of all members of the SDANG in Reno, Nev., May 24. South Dakota won the award, for the first time, for outstanding efforts in fostering an environment of diversity in the workplace.



Maj. Gen. Timothy Reisch
The Adjutant General

Demands of the National Guard have not relaxed

My fellow Soldiers and Airmen,

As I begin this column, meteorologists are predicting another 100-degree day here in Rapid City, which makes for a lot of complaints by people. But as I sit here in my air-conditioned office, my mind is fixed on many other things that are infinitely more important than the weather.

I think about and pray daily for the 227 Soldiers and Airmen currently deployed and for their family members here at home. These troops are performing magnificently, and their families' hearts ache every day in anticipation of their safe return home. We also have 217 Soldiers and Airmen who have been actively preparing for a deployment that will occur between three months and a year from now. They are absolutely focused on preparing themselves as well as possible for their future missions.

The 211th Engineer Company has received the news that they have been sourced for another deployment in February 2014. It hasn't yet been a full two years since they returned from an extremely challenging deployment clearing IEDs from the roads of Afghanistan, resulting in 18 members receiving Purple Hearts.

The paragraphs above make it clear that the demands on the National Guard today have not relaxed significantly in spite of our country's exit from Iraq last December. It is truly impressive how well our units and individuals have performed during the deployments of the past decade, but equally impressive is the way our units have maintained their readiness levels after returning home. There are always a handful of

individuals who decide to retire or separate after returning home, but almost instantly it seems, new patriots step forward to take their place.

Another thing that has been on my mind a lot lately, is the fact that Army and Air Force planners are working feverishly on their fiscal year 2014 budget proposals, which could certainly be less than the fiscal year 2013 submissions that are currently being debated by Congress. There are several things we can do to best protect ourselves from being targeted by force structure reductions that are almost certain to come in the years ahead:

- We must continually focus on retaining as many of our current members as possible. This is accomplished best by executing my top priority of taking care of our Soldiers and Airmen and their families.
- We must continually recruit high-quality, prior and non-prior service personnel, in order to stay at or above our assigned personnel strength goals.
- We must continually meet or exceed all readiness levels established by National Guard Bureau.

If we successfully execute the three tasks above, we will put ourselves in the best possible position to retain our current force structure. I know that you are up to the task.

In closing, I want to again tell you how proud I am of our great organization. Congratulations to the 114th Fighter Wing on their selection for the NGB Excellence in Diversity Award, to the SDARNG Facility Management Office for being awarded the Fred Aron Excellence Award for installation management, to the 740th Transportation Company for being awarded the Pershing Trophy for having the top unit marksmanship in the nation and to the 82nd Civil Support Team for being the first CST in the nation to earn the Superior Unit Award. You never cease to amaze me.

Sincerely,

Maj. Gen. Timothy Reisch
The Adjutant General, SDNG

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Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Zimmerman
State Command Sergeant Major

A fast and furious summer, preparing for the fall season

Dear Guardmembers,

I would like to send greetings to the South Dakota National Guard from JFHQ. It has been a fast and furious summer for all of us. As I write this letter, the Guard has helped with many fires already and accomplished recovery operations for the crash of a North Carolina Air National Guard C-130 in the Black hills.

This was very tragic, with four lives of some great heroes lost in that accident.

With the fall season upon us, I must address the enlisted Soldiers and give you all some insight into the new program beginning Oct. 1. This program is called Self Structured Development (SSD) and will be a new norm for all of us to grow into. This program will create distance learning for anyone needing NCOES schooling. Many of the courses will require 40-120 hours of computer based training on your own prior to reporting to the school.

This requirement given to us by the Army will not be waived and can cause a Soldier to be sent home from school if not completed. The commands will know who needs the schooling and what the Soldier needs to do for this course. Please get with your local chain of command for further clarification prior to attending any NCOES courses after Oct. 1, including WLC, ALC, SLC and USASMA.

In January 2013, my time as your state command sergeant major will end. The three-plus years have flown by like the summer. The systems, training and organizational missions that have spanned

this short tenure are too numerous to mention.

Just a few short and beautiful memories are the mobilizations and demobilizations of many great units and individuals. Visiting Soldiers and Airmen in Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan are definitely highlights of that time. I often reflect as I watch the sun setting or rising in Rapid City, S.D., on the men and women that are in harm's way while I sit peacefully at home.

It digs deep into the core of my being, knowing that we have lost and may lose more of these great local heroes that we call our SDNG Soldiers and Airmen. I feel some resolve, though, realizing they are the best of the best and trained like no other in the world.

The new chapter in my life will still involve many of these great heroes and even more as I step into the role of secretary of veterans affairs for this great state. We have more than 72,000 veterans, and there is a fantastic opportunity to make their lives better. The Guard is a huge part of that world also with more than 7,000 deployments of Soldiers and Airmen in the last decade.

Thank you all for your support and this great run from 2009 to 2013. This great group of people will always be at the top of my list as the BEST OF THE BEST!

Sincerely,

Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Zimmerman
State Command Sergeant Major

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Guardsman receives Medal of Valor for saving child's life

MILBANK – Maj. Jason Kettwig, a Soldier with the South Dakota National Guard, was awarded the South Dakota Medal of Valor June 15 for the act of heroism he displayed while saving a young child's life.



Maj. Jason Kettwig

Kettwig, who was relaxing with his family poolside when he heard a scream, was staying at a hotel with his family in Marshall, Minn., Oct. 28, 2011, when the event occurred. He saw a mother diving into the pool to get her daughter, who was unconscious.

He assisted the mother in pulling her daughter out of the pool and upon noticing the girl had no pulse and had turned blue, immediately began trying to resuscitate the young girl. She soon started gasping for air after two to three minutes of compressions.

Kettwig, who serves with the 139th Brigade Support Battalion, said he credits the combat lifesaver training he received through the military and his local community for his ability to react to the situation immediately.

He also said his experience could serve as a reminder of how important it is for all parents and grandparents to learn how to perform life-saving resuscitation, and that the potential for something like this to happen is present every day.

The South Dakota Medal of Valor is awarded to any individual who, while a member of the South Dakota National Guard, distinguishes themselves by heroism – not involving actual conflict with an armed enemy – while in the Armed Forces of the United States. It is awarded for heroism while performing normal civilian functions and/or duties while a member of the South Dakota National Guard

235th Military Police will mobilize for deployment

RAPID CITY – The SDARNG's 235th Military Police Company has received their official mobilization order for deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The 235th and its 124 assigned members are scheduled for deployment in January. 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 235th is to provide security for U.S. military personnel, installation and facilities and to guard prisoners of war and civilian internees. The unit's headquarters is located in Rapid City with a detachment based in Sioux Falls.

The unit will report to Fort Bliss, Texas, to complete several weeks of theater-specific training prior to deployment overseas. This will be the third mobilization for the 235th – deploying in support of Operation Noble Eagle at Fort Carson, Colo., in 2003, as well as in support of OEF in Afghanistan in 2006.

Commander in chief of Canada honors Rapid City man with meritorious service medal

ARLINGTON, Va. – Retired Army Maj. Gen. Raymond Carpenter, the former acting director of the Army National Guard, was invited by the governor general and commander in chief of Canada to an award ceremony at Rideau Hall June 22 in Ottawa, Ont., where Carpenter was awarded the Canadian Meritorious Service Medal.

Carpenter, who now resides in Rapid City, was recognized for his instrumental efforts in enhancing the Army Guard's relationship with



Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Raymond Carpenter

the Canadian Army Reserve during his 29 months spent as the acting director.

According to the governor general's website, the Canadian MSM recognizes a military deed or activity performed in a highly professional manner, according to a very high standard that brings benefit or honor to the Canadian Forces.

According to the award citation, Carpenter's influence further enhanced the unique relationship between Canada and the United States, delivering considerable benefits to the Canadian Forces.

As the acting director, Carpenter was responsible for the execution of a budget of about \$40 billion, the procurement of more than 300,000 equipment items, and he oversaw the deployment of 80,000 Soldiers.

Additionally, he balanced recruiting efforts to meet changing congressional mandates on the size of the Army National Guard while approximately 100,000 Soldiers were recruited and trained.

During his time as acting director, the Army National Guard also supported the surge in Afghanistan and the withdrawal from Iraq, responded to Hurricane Irene, the tornado in Joplin, Mo., and Operation Deep Water Horizon.

SD Army Guard transitions into new dress uniform

By Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen
SDNG Public Affairs Office

RAPID CITY – The SDARNG's United States Property and Fiscal Office at Camp Rapid is sending the new blue Army Service Uniform to units for enlisted Soldiers.

Five Soldiers from the 139th Brigade Support Battalion, of Redfield, have unpacked hundreds of boxes to sort out sizes

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SD Guard wins 2012 Fred Aron Award for excellence

By Sgt. Jacqueline Fitzgerald
SDNG Visual Information Office



Col. Kit Cline with
Col. Kimberly O'Keefe

RAPID CITY - The SDARNG's Construction and Facilities Management Office won the Fred Aron Award for Excellence in Facilities Programs for being the best performing facilitators program in the nation.

Col. Kimberly O'Keefe, Army National Guard installations division chief, presented the 2012 award to Col. Kit Cline, SDARNG construction and facilities management officer, at the annual CFMO conference in Atlanta, Ga., in April.

South Dakota outperformed the other 49 states and four U.S. territories in the nine performance areas used to tabulate the winning score. These areas include military construction program execution, financial management, budget estimate and energy management, to list a few.

"I attribute the team's success to their ability to work together, their work ethic and their desire to continually improve processes," said Cline.

There are three different categories of planning that go into consideration while maintaining military installations: Master Planning is a 25-year vision, Future Years Defense Plan is a five-year process and Military Construction design and construction is a four- to five-year process.

"The biggest challenge is planning and programming to meet the changing needs of the Army National Guard," said Cline. "The compilation of the planning leads to the operation and maintenance of facilities for the next 100 years or more."

The CMFO has shifted focus from the Joint Force Headquarters and Training Center facilities on Camp Rapid to constructing a much-needed readiness center in Watertown.

"As the National Guard transitioned from a strategic reserve to an operational force, we've got more personnel and new equipment that's bigger, stronger and faster, and it doesn't fit in existing buildings," said Cline. "The older buildings don't meet today's needs, which leads to the need for military construction to build new armories."

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.

Winning the Fred Aron Award hasn't put the CFMO at ease. The office continues to strive for excellence as new projects arise across the state.

"For us it's business as usual," said Cline. "Receiving the award is great, but it doesn't change our workload; we're still doing things we need to do to support our Soldiers by providing top notch training facilities and buildings."



and organize uniforms needed for each Army National Guard unit in the state.

"There are approximately 5,541 pieces of clothing to sort out to include women's slacks, coats, skirts and men's trousers and coats," said Staff Sgt. Damon Bohnet, USPFO supply technician.

The new blue Army Service Uniform will replace the green Army Service Uniform that has been issued to Soldiers since 1954. Soldiers will no longer be authorized to wear the green uniform after July 2014.

Although Soldiers are being issued a new uniform, there are still items of the green uniform that are the same: oxford shoes, necktie and beret.

The only item not readily available to the Soldiers will be the white blouse, which will be issued by their unit's supply noncommissioned officer in charge.

Sgt. 1st Class Penny Dicks, Joint Force Headquarters, who has 26 years of service in the SDARNG, is looking forward to wearing the new uniform.

Dicks said when she first joined the military in 1979, she was issued a winter and summer version of the green ASU.

The new ASU will be one uniform worn year-round for special events and ceremonies.

Sgt. Maj. Phillip Lakner, JFHQ, who has 34 years of service in the SDARNG, says the new uniform looks sharp except for one detail.

"I believe the changes to the new dress uniform are 98 percent right," said Lakner. "The problem I have is that the unit patch is not a part of the uniform. I feel that Soldiers should wear their unit patch to show their pride and dignity in the unit they belong to."

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Two members of the Standing Rock Sioux Nation dance in traditional attire around a South Dakota National Guard UH-72 Lakota helicopter after a blessing ceremony for the aircraft in Cannonball, N.D., June 10.



Guard participates in Lakota Nation's Flag Day

Story and photos by Sgt. Jacqueline Fitzgerald
129th Mobile Public Affairs Department

CANNONBALL, N.D. – The relationship between the South Dakota National Guard and the Lakota Nation continues to grow. Members of Company D, 1st Battalion, 112th Aviation Regiment, traveled to the Standing Rock Reservation for their Flag Day celebration in a UH-72A Lakota helicopter, June 10.

The Standing Rock Reservation stretches over the North Dakota and South Dakota border. Every year in Cannonball, the Lakota Nation takes time to remember and honor their deceased during their Flag Day celebration.

During the ceremony, 52 American flags were flown in honor of the fallen. When a service member dies the family receives an American flag from the military. Each flag flown was brought by the family of a deceased veteran.

“Seeing these flags flying makes me think of individuals of the past who served in the armed forces, and served with honor,” said Richard Fiddler, Post 173 commander, Fort Yates, N.D. “These people felt compelled to go out and join the military. I like to think they are looking down on us today and are proud to see what we are doing to inspire the next generation.”

Elders and leaders of the Standing Rock Reservation not only honored their fallen heroes of the past but performed a traditional blessing for the helicopter. The blessing is to help protect the aircraft and the pilots during their missions. A sacred red-tailed hawk feather was presented to the crew in honor of the partnership.

“Our Lakota helicopters are based right in the center of the Lakota Nation, so we decided to form a connection between the Lakota Nation and the National Guard,” said Master Sgt. Kelley Moore, who has played a vital role in fostering relations between the Guard and the Lakota Nation. “One of the important steps in establishing a relationship with the Lakota community is the ceremonial blessing of the aircraft.”

This is the third helicopter to be blessed by the tribe. Its purpose is to provide medical and casualty evacuations, disaster relief and to aid in homeland defense.

Robert Dunsmore, a retired U.S. Army veteran, says it costs \$10,000 – \$30,000 for a Life Flight helicopter to respond to emergencies in rural areas.

“We know the Lakota helicopter is a backup for us,” said Dunsmore. “We still only have one Life Flight helicopter covering four reservations. If that one helicopter is busy, and if we are in need of one, it is good to know that the Guard will be there to help.”

Overall, the partnership and the Lakota helicopters provide a solid connection between the SDNG and the Lakota Nation, and the two groups are hoping to inspire youth to get involved in their community.

“Having the Lakota community welcome us here and accept the partnership spurs us on and gives us inspiration,” said Moore. “I’ve driven up here a couple of times on my own just to be a part of it. This partnership is probably one of the more significant things I’ve done in my life.”



Master Sgt. Kelly Moore, Company D, 1st Battalion, 112th Aviation Regiment, celebrates with Richard Charging Eagle, retired U.S. Marine veteran (left) and Robert Dunsmore, retired U.S. Army veteran (right), after a blessing ceremony for the UH-72 Lakota helicopter.



SDARNG Soldiers, emergency response crews and Black Hills Life Flight personnel evacuate an injured hiker during a rescue mission in Badlands National Park, near Interior, June 7. A SDARNG UH-72 Lakota helicopter was used to perform a cable-hoist extraction of a park visitor who was hiking, fell and was injured on Notch Trail.

Photos by the National Park Service

Soldiers assist in rescue mission in National Park

By Maj. Anthony Deiss
SDNG Public Affairs Office

BADLANDS NATIONAL PARK – Four SDARNG Soldiers assisted in a rescue mission in Badlands National Park, near Interior, June 7.

The Soldiers, using a UH-72 Lakota helicopter, conducted a cable-hoist extraction of a park visitor who was hiking, fell and was injured on Notch Trail, according to a National Park Service press release.

Dave Johnson, 57, from Audubon, Penn., was hiking alone and ventured off the trail and slipped and slid into a crack, according to the release. Park officials stated he started hiking at 7:30 a.m. and had been trapped and unable to get help until he was discovered by other park visitors at approximately 10:30 a.m. He was experiencing severe leg and back pain along with numerous cuts and scrapes.

Park rangers and the Interior Volunteer Fire Department were first on the scene after hiking in about three-quarters of a mile to find Johnson. Multiple agencies responded to the incident including Kadoka and Philip Ambulance, Jackson County sheriff's officers and the South Dakota Highway Patrol.

The call for assistance to the Guard came at about 11:30 a.m., after Park Service and emergency response personnel determined that the safest and most appropriate method of rescue would be by helicopter, especially



considering the difficulty of bringing a litter down the wood/cable ladder that connects the upper and lower parts of Notch Trail, according to the release.

Incident command officials at the scene made the determination that the SDARNG's UH-72 Lakota helicopter had the right capabilities to extract the injured hiker.

This was the South Dakota Guard's first live rescue mission in the state with the new UH-72 Lakota helicopter, which was fielded in May 2011. The Guard, along with the National Park Service and other agencies, trained for this exact scenario about a week earlier.

"We trained for this type of scenario on May 30," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Christian Frank, pilot in command. "That's how important the interagency coordination and training is. The rescue mission went smoothly."

The SDARNG flight crew from the Army Aviation Support Facility hoisted the patient

out to a nearby parking lot. The patient had been secured in a Stokes litter by Black Hills Life Flight personnel, which was already on scene with both a flight nurse and paramedic to provide advanced medical care.

The hiker was then transferred to the Life Flight helicopter for evacuation to Rapid City Regional Medical Center.

Other SDARNG crew members assisting in the rescue operation were 1st Lt. John Barnes, co-pilot, and crew chiefs Staff Sgt. Anton Oerlline and Sgt. Jarred Fusselman.

"This is what the Guard does – helping people," said Oerlline. "The training we go through prepares us to be able to respond and assist to an emergency quickly and efficiently."

"Using the Lakota in this manner is what it was purchased for," said Frank. "The awareness by our interagency partners of our capabilities, as well as our training together makes us a valuable asset to the state and the people.

"Bridging bonds with other agencies and the people makes success possible when an emergency arises," Frank said. "We were happy to be of assistance to the emergency crews on the ground and to help get the patient the care he needed."

Coincidentally, the Black Hills Life Flight helicopter was piloted by retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Wes Barnes, father of 1st Lt. John Barnes.

SD Guard first in nation to receive new equipment

By Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen
SDNG Public Affairs Office

STURGIS – The South Dakota Army National Guard was the first in the nation to receive four new 120M motorized road graders during a fielding ceremony in Sturgis, May 17. The 842nd Engineer Company, of Spearfish, Belle Fourche and Sturgis, was the first unit to receive the new equipment.

The National Guard is issuing 300,000 new pieces of equipment to units across the nation in order to ensure that Soldiers have the best tools available to do their missions.

The need for new and improved equipment has been in the works at the National Guard Bureau for the past six years, which became evident during natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and the Greensburg, Kan., tornado in 2007.

“During the Greensburg tornado, where it basically wiped the town off the map, the governor announced on national TV that ‘we have Soldiers here supporting us but they do not have the equipment they need,’” said retired Maj. Gen. Raymond Carpenter, native of Sturgis, former acting director of the Army National Guard.

Carpenter said Soldiers having to work with outdated equipment used in the Korean and Vietnam War eras, as well as the Kansas governor’s announcement on television, fueled the National Guard to take action to ensure that Guardsmen have the necessary equipment to complete their mission.

Due to Carpenter’s leadership during his nearly 30-month tour as the acting director of the Army National Guard, funding was secured to improve the readiness of our Soldiers, said Col. Masaki Kuwana, chief of the Army National Guard’s material programs division.

“This is great for the state of South Dakota and the 842nd Engineer Company to be the first to receive this new equipment; it’s a tribute to Gen. Carpenter,” said Kuwana.

Carpenter first enlisted in the SDARNG in 1967 as a 62 Kilo, a grader operator, and knows first-hand how the new equipment will help the Soldiers do their job.

“This is a magnificent machine with modern technology; it doesn’t have a steering wheel – everything is with a joy stick,” said



The SDARNG’s 842nd Engineer Company is the first Army National Guard unit to receive four new 120M motorized road graders during a fielding ceremony in Sturgis, May 17. The new high-tech grader (right) uses six computers to operate compared to the old grader, which was operated manually. Seen left, is the older grader used by 842nd.

Photo by Master Sgt. Donald Matthews

Carpenter. “If I had a chance to operate this kind of equipment when I joined years ago, I would have thought I died and gone to heaven. This equipment is a great add to the National Guard inventory. It allows us to do both of our missions in the overseas fight and emergency operations here at home.”

The SDARNG’s current graders are about 30 years old and have exceeded their life expectancy, said Chief Warrant Officer Brian Maschino, field maintenance shop supervisor.

“Overall they are in good condition, but they did start to show their age when the 842nd returned home from Iraq in late 2004,” said Maschino.

There are many new advantages to having the new grader said, Maschino.

“All machine functions are computerized versus doing everything manually,” said Maschino. “With the old grader, the operator was always moving his hands from the controls to the steering wheel. Now, the Soldier can use the joy sticks, allowing more visibility to the task at hand.”

Some of the new aspects of the grader



Photo by Master Sgt. Donald Matthews

Retired Maj. Gen. Raymond Carpenter, former acting director of the Army National Guard, talks to the 842nd field maintenance shop about being the first ARNG unit to receive four new 120M motorized road graders.

can only be understood and appreciated by someone trained as a road grader operator.

“The machine has shuttle shift capabilities – you do not have to bring the machine to a complete stop to switch directional control – the computer will automatically slow the machine and switch direction in a safe manner,” said Maschino.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the National Guard to receive high-tech equipment, and it is an opportunity that will not happen again for a long time, said Carpenter.

“This equipment will be well taken care of because the National Guard members are the best maintainers in the military,” he said. “I think it is going to serve us well for many decades to come.”

Air Guard holds Operational Readiness Exercise

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



Lt. Col. Eric Gerber, 175th Fighter Squadron pilot, participates in aerospace control alert intercept training in Sioux Falls, June 19. Assisted by the local wing of the Civil Air Patrol, the pilots of the SDANG practice intercepting a Cessna 182 aircraft from which this photo was taken.

Courtesy photo

SIoux FALLS - Members of the 114th Fighter Wing went to war in early June. The unit held its annual Operational Readiness Exercise at Joe Foss Field in Sioux Falls, June 7-10. This exercise was somewhat different for the members of the unit since it was a four-day event which covered both Phase I, the deployment phase, and Phase II, the employment phase.

The unit would usually spread this exercise out over two months of unit training assemblies. This year's exercise was a more realistic opportunity for unit members to practice the combined processes, which will be tested by higher headquarters during a future Operational Readiness Inspection.

"The Operational Readiness Inspection will be done over a week, so we wanted to ensure our members had an idea of what to expect" said Col. Russ Walz, 114th Fighter Wing commander. "These four days were intense, but that is what we want. We

want our members to be put under pressure so that they have a realistic understanding of what they may face in the future."

The Operational Readiness Exercise is a chance for all areas of the unit to practice and evaluate processes and procedures to make improvements and find areas of concern.

"This exercise culminated months of preparation," said Lt. Col. Steve Mielke, exercise and evaluation team manager. "We not only want to exercise the unit on every aspect of their mission, but we want them to perform under the stress of wartime conditions. Equally important, we want them to take the lessons learned and improve upon them, as future operational exercises will become more robust in nature."

The four days of exercises met the designed training objectives. While there



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Quinton Young

After exiting his F-16 aircraft, a pilot with the South Dakota Air National Guard gets assistance from a crew chief in donning his over cape in a simulated contaminated area during the 2012 Operational Readiness Exercise, June 9.

were some areas that met and even exceeded expectations, there were others that needed improvement.

"That is the purpose of this ORE," said Walz. "We need to identify our shortcomings and take the steps needed to meet the standards and maintain our status as the "Best of the Best."

Air Guard receives national Excellence in Diversity Award

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

RENO, Nev. – The National Guard Bureau awarded the South Dakota Air National Guard the Excellence in Diversity Award in Reno, Nev., May 24.

The award is given to one Air National Guard wing each year by the NGB to recognize a unit's outstanding promotion of programs that support a diverse workforce.

The award was presented to Air Force Col. Russ Walz, 114th Fighter Wing commander, along with other representatives of the state during the 2012 National Guard Joint Diversity Conference.

This is the first time a National Guard unit from the state of South Dakota has won the award.

"We're very proud of this award," Walz said. "It represents the commitment at all levels of the organization to enhance mission effectiveness by building an inclusive and diverse professional workforce."

As the National Guard experiences demographic shifts, evolving military requirements and increasing budgetary constraints, diversity has become a growing challenge within the National Guard.

Understanding and integrating diversity into the mission through leadership training and workshops, the South Dakota Air National Guard has offered their members the tools necessary to stay a vital and diverse workforce.

"Embracing diversity is clearly one of our top priorities," said Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general of the SDNG. "The 114th Fighter Wing's selection as the top wing in the nation is a testament to their years of effort focusing on how diversity enhances our organization."

The award was announced by Phyllis Brantley, chief of the Diversity and Special Emphasis programs at the NGB and was presented by Air Force Gen. Craig R. McKinley, chief of the National Guard Bureau.



Courtesy photo

Col. Russ Walz, 114th Fighter Wing commander (fourth from right), accepts the 2011 National Guard Bureau Excellence in Diversity Award on behalf of all members of the SDANG in Reno, Nev., May 24. South Dakota won the award, for the first time, for outstanding efforts in fostering an environment of diversity in the workplace.

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Two Guard units activated for Operation Enduring Freedom

Story by Maj. Anthony Deiss
 Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tannen
 SDNG Public Affairs Office



Chief Warrant Officer 3 John Wurtz, commander of the SDARNG's Det. 1, Company B, 935th Support Battalion, addresses the audience during the activation ceremony, June 6.

RAPID CITY - The South Dakota Army National Guard activated 22 Soldiers from Detachment 1, Company B, 935th Support Battalion, at a ceremony in Rapid City, June 6, as they prepared to deploy for a yearlong tour to Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Several hundred family members and friends gathered at the Army Aviation Support Facility to see the Soldiers off, including Gov. Dennis Daugaard, Rapid City Mayor Sam Kooiker and Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, SDNG adjutant general.

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

The unit reported to Fort Hood, Texas, to complete two months of theater-specific training prior to deployment overseas. This is their second mobilization. The 935th previously deployed to Iraq in 2004-2005 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In early July, the SDNG activated 14 Soldiers from the 927th Engineer Detachment (Survey and Design Team) at a deployment ceremony at the Multi-Cultural Center in Sioux Falls, as they also prepared for a nine-month deployment to Kuwait.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard, Sen. Tim Johnson and Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch were featured speakers at the ceremony.

The Sioux Falls-based 927th has a mission of planning, conducting, preparing and providing planning studies and tests for identified engineer work projects. They also provide guidance, legal descriptions, certification and surveys for engineer projects.

The unit reported to Fort Bliss, Texas, to complete several weeks of theater-specific training prior to deployment overseas. This is the first mobilization for the 927th.



Pfc. Damon Lappe, with his niece, Ava Jaure, 4, both of Box Elder, pray during the activation ceremony for the SDARNG's Detachment 1, Company B, 935th Support Battalion, June 6.



Staff Sgt. Wayne Garner comforts his son, Andrew, 8, of Winner, during the activation ceremony for the SDARNG's Guard's Det. 1, Company B, 935th Support Battalion, June 6.



Gov. Dennis Daugaard shakes the hand of Spc. Jerome Meins, of Sioux Falls, during the deployment ceremony of the SDARNG's 927th Engineer Detachment (Survey and Design Team) at the Multi-Cultural Center in Sioux Falls, July 6.



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Kenneth Schoenfelder, of Mitchell, commander of the SDARNG's 927th Engineer Detachment (Survey and Design Team), addresses family and friends during their ceremony, July 6.



ABOVE: Sgt. Steve Bellman, of Sioux Falls, comforts his son, David, 6, during the deployment ceremony of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 927th Engineer Detachment (Survey and Design Team) at the Multi-Cultural Center in Sioux Falls, July 6.

RIGHT: Staff Sgt. Shawn Jensen, of Rapid City, shows his daughter, Mara, 4, how to use the controls on a helicopter before the activation ceremony for the SDARNG's Detachment 1, Company B, 935th Support Battalion, June 6.



Golden Coyote

By Maj. Anthony Deiss
SDNG Public Affairs Office



The South Dakota National Guard hosted the 28th annual Golden Coyote training exercise in Rapid City and the southern Black Hills June 9–23, with nearly 2,000 service members participating from across the country and the world.

The two-week exercise allows military forces to conduct combat support and combat service support missions in a realistic training environment and provide valuable services to the public.

Created in the mid 1980s with the cooperation of the National Forest Service and Custer State Park, the exercise provides relevant training opportunities in support of overseas contingency operations and homeland defense. Golden Coyote has developed into one of the nation's top training opportunities for National Guard, reserve and active-duty forces, as well as military personnel from foreign countries.

"This exercise is a great opportunity for units to tailor their training to their needs," said Brig. Gen. Jeff Marlette, commander of forces for Golden Coyote. "Nationwide there are very few exercises that are designed for National Guard, U.S. reserve and international forces to come together and train. It helps to prepare units to be able to go abroad and support operations overseas, as well as train on homeland security missions right here in the United States."

The 2012 training exercise hosted 37 units representing 17 states and six foreign

nations from multiple branches of military service – Army, Navy, and Air Force – working together to create an invaluable training experience. This included medical, chemical, transportation, signal, aviation, military police, engineer and quartermaster units. These military forces trained on their equipment and employed tactics to prepare them for any future overseas deployment.

"Military forces were able to participate in numerous warrior training tasks and battle drills, such as urban combat operations, medical aid, and day and night convoy operations," said Maj. Travis Eastman, exercise coordinator.

Units also participated in combat patrols, fire arms training and reacting to improvised explosive devices, said Eastman.

Participating units also completed various projects that help improve the forest and local communities. Local residents receive numerous benefits of the many engineering projects being conducted during the exercise.

Units repaired roadways, provided reclamation of hazardous wilderness areas and hauled cut timber from the forest.

"We had transportation units moving timber cut by the National Forest Service for fire control purposes to Native American reservation communities who can use it as firewood," said Eastman. "Our engineers also repaired hazardous wilderness areas and made them safe for public use, and re-surfaced local roadways that had fallen into disrepair."

"This exercise is a great testament to how we come together with the civilian public," said Marlette. "We coordinate with the National Forest Service, Custer State Park and other local agencies, and the event allows both their agencies and us to be better prepared to meet homeland security missions and provide services to the public."

This year's exercise included members from the United Kingdom, Denmark, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Suriname.

"The goal for this exercise was the interoperability with our allies and synchronization between different work forces and equipment," said United Kingdom Territorial Army Maj. Andrew Inglis, Headquarters, 71st Engineer Regiment. "We were looking to provide aid to your civil community here; mainly to conduct route construction, hauling missions and other construction projects.

"As combat engineers we are soldiers first, so we took part in the exercise's warrior lanes," continued Inglis. "The majority of (soldiers) here will probably deploy in the next two to three years, so this was a method for the sub-unit commander to look at his people and make sure they are ready to deploy."

"The international units here provided us an opportunity for joint operations that we will conduct serving our countries abroad," said Marlette.



S.D. Guardsmen advance to national cooking competition

By Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen and Sgt. Charles Butler
SDNG Public Affairs Office

RAPID CITY – The South Dakota Army National Guard’s 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, of Pierre, advanced to compete in the national Philip A. Connelly cooking competition in October.

The 152nd earned the highest score from a panel of three judges during the 2012 annual Golden Coyote training exercise in June to win the Region VI Philip A. Connelly title.

The Philip A. Connelly Award was established March 23, 1968, to recognize excellence in Army food service. The program is named for the late Philip A. Connelly, former president of International Food Service Executive Association, who was responsible for obtaining IFSEA’s sponsorship of the event.

“The 152nd was the best overall,” said retired Chief Warrant Officer 5 Roger De Witz, a senior evaluator. “They competed against the North Dakota and Oregon Army National Guard during the regional competition.”

The competition judges the mess section in 10 categories including sanitation, food safety, water safety, noncommissioned officer development, equipment knowledge and maintenance, presentation, portion size, temperature and taste.

Competition at the national level will be similar to competing at the regional level.

“They will be cooking the same menu as they did this summer,” said De Witz. “The only difference is they are competing for the Best Army National Guard Field Kitchen and runner-up title. There will be a total of seven states competing.”

Each of the seven units will be judged in their home states. The 152nd will be judged at their armory in Pierre on Oct. 14.

The 152nd had some help in preparing for the competition from

two Soldiers who competed at the national level for the SDARNG’s 200th Engineer Company in 2007 – Sgt. 1st Class Jackie Bierman, 152nd battalion senior supply sergeant, and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jeff Urban, SDARNG’s food service officer.

Sgt. Jeremie D. Evans, of Pierre, a cook with the 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, South Dakota Army National Guard, prepares chicken breasts at West Camp Rapid near Rapid City, June 18, during a regional Philip A. Connelly Award of Excellence in Army Food Service competition.



Spc. Ashley Jungen, of Sioux Falls, a cook with the 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, South Dakota Army National Guard, serves lunch to Soldiers at West Camp Rapid near Rapid City, June 18, during a regional Philip A. Connelly Award of Excellence in Army Food Service competition.

“I had no doubt that the 152nd would advance to the national level,” said Urban. “Their food was excellent! They work well as a team, and they made sure the food didn’t burn, despite having little control of the temperature in a field kitchen – it is either high or low.”

The competition is designed to promote professionalism in the Army food service, raise the standards of service and recognize the outstanding service provided.

“The 152nd is setting the standards high for cooks in the South Dakota Army National Guard,” said Urban. “This competition shows that we have cooks who do their job well and can cook a meal above the Army standard.”

The 152nd will go through the same process once again at the national level with three judges evaluating them for a four-hour period before the meal is served. The judges will evaluate the entire kitchen operation with the cooks’ goal to serve a quality meal to the Soldiers on time.

One of the ways to judge the meal is by what the Soldiers think of it, said retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Paul Gilmore, the senior evaluator.

“We tell if the meal was good by looking into the garbage can,” said Gilmore. “If the garbage can is full of food, we can tell they did something wrong, but if it is only empty plates and cups it must have been a pretty good meal.”

Urban said the competition reinforces the importance of providing a quality meal to Soldiers working in the field.

“Sometimes when Soldiers are out in the field for weeks eating MRE’s – Meals Ready to Eat – the only thing they may have to look forward to is coming in for a warm meal,” said Urban. “The biggest morale booster in a field environment is a well-cooked meal.”

The following Army National Guard units from across the United States will be competing against the 152nd CSSB: the 119th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, New Jersey; 1032nd Transportation Company, Virginia; 690th Military Police Company, Florida; 212th Support Maintenance Company, Ohio; 1167th Brigade Support Company, Nebraska; and the Forward Support Company, 528th Engineer Battalion, Louisiana.

Soldier returns home to deliver humanitarian aid

Story and photos by Sgt. Charles Butler
SDNG Public Affairs Office

WANBLEE – When Sgt. Marcus Martin joined the South Dakota Army National Guard, he knew he was signing up to support his state and nation. What he didn't know was that he would one day provide support to his hometown community of Wanblee.

Martin, a truck driver with the 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion from Pierre, grew up in Wanblee and got his first chance to directly help his hometown community as a part of the Golden Coyote training exercise's timber-haul mission – a joint operation with the National Guard, National Forest Service and Custer State Park.

The mission is to deliver humanitarian aid in the form of timber to be used by local Native American communities for heating and ceremonial purposes.

The reception to his coming home in uniform was heartwarming, said Martin.

"This community has made a huge impact on my development as an individual and as a Soldier," he said. "I am glad to come back to this community and show my support and give back to them for all the love they have showed me over the years."

Wanblee was just one of 10 timber drop-off points on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

The 152nd CSSB provided the command and control of the mission with the help of the 2113th Transportation Company from Paducah, Ky., which transported the timber. The goal of the timber-haul mission was to haul 97 loads of timber with the total aim of 450–500 cords delivered to the 10 sites.

Martin said it was a great mission that the Guard is conducting with the timber hauls.

"This is a huge blessing for the community," said Martin. "It is hard for the elderly to find enough fire wood to get them through the winter months."

Wanblee is in the Eagle Nest district, one of nine districts of the Oglala Sioux Tribe on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

Kim Conroy, a local resident, said that she was glad to see Martin back in the community.

"We are very proud of Marcus, he is one of the few that took the initiative to get out



Sgt. Marcus Martin, a member of the 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion from Pierre, operates a forklift while unloading timber from a flatbed trailer in his hometown of Wanblee, June 16.



and join the military from our community," said Conroy. "It is always a great honor to see a young man come home and take pride in where he comes from."

The timber is hauled in on military semi-trucks and off-loaded near the community's center, so it is easily accessible for the whole district.

"We really appreciate the wood, said Conroy. "Our community uses the wood for fences and burning at our traditional ceremonies, as well as heating," Conroy said. "It saves the few trees we have in the area, and it's good commotion for the kids to see the big military trucks come into town."

Marian White Mouse, a local resident, said she was also glad to see Martin and the Guard bring timber into the community.

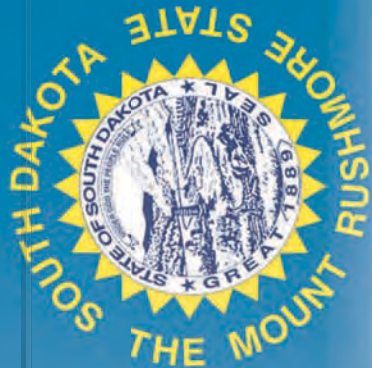
"It is such a big honor for us to have Marcus come back to our community," said White Mouse. "It means a lot to people around here that still burn wood for heating their homes. We don't have much timber around here that we can readily get access to."

Sgt. Marcus Martin, a member of the 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion from Pierre, stands with his nephew as they observe the unloading of timber in his hometown of Wanblee, June 16.



South Dakota hosts Suriname leaders

By Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen and Sgt. Charles Butler
SDNG Public Affairs Office



The South Dakota National Guard recently had a few opportunities to host soldiers from Suriname, their partner nation in the Department of Defense's State Partnership Program.

The SDNG welcomed four Surinamese soldiers to share information about how to improve each other's Joint Operations Centers at Camp Rapid in Rapid City May 7–9.

During the visit, the Surinamese and SDNG Soldiers exchanged ideas on managing operations in response to domestic emergencies or natural disasters.

"Our JOC is different from Suriname's, yet we are similar in the fact that we both have the same mission," said Maj. Kathleen Dirk, state partnership coordinator. "It doesn't matter where you are in the world, we all have to respond to natural disasters. We are showing the Surinamese soldiers how we operate and are seeing if how we do business fits the needs of their country."

The JOC serves primarily as an information hub, where emergency operations are tracked and coordinated with leaders making decisions at emergency or disaster sites.

The Surinamese built a JOC three years ago to help respond to domestic emergencies in their country and are seeking information on how to make their operations more streamlined, said Dirk.

Sgt. Boyd Reiwnitz (left) of the SDARNG's 235th Military Police Company, demonstrates restraint techniques to Suriname Army military police members Cpl. Marcy Karijosentono and Sgt. Irene Thijndal, during the Golden Coyote training exercise in Rapid City, June 13.

"The Surinamese are primarily concerned with how to effectively use their JOC if a flash flood were to occur," said Dirk. "In South Dakota, we have dealt with several floods in our recent history so we have relevant information to share with them."

Lt. Col. Dan Iverson, assistant director of military support, gave the soldiers a tour of the SDNG JOC and discussed the lessons learned during the 2011 Missouri River Flood.

"Everyone has learned a lot on this trip to South Dakota," said Capt. Bob Mangal, Suriname's joint operations center officer in charge. "We now know how to get where we want to be."

"We learned how to brief our commander about the status of his organization and that we need to have specialized people working in the JOC," continued Mangal. "We are thankful for what we have learned from the South Dakota National Guard, and we look forward to making our JOC better so we can respond quicker when we are needed to serve our country."

SOLDIERS EXCHANGE POLICE TECHNIQUES

The 235th Military Police Company, of Rapid City, worked alongside Suriname Army military police on a Subject Matter Expert Exchange, or SMEE, June 14 at the Range Road armory.

The SMEE was held in conjunction with this year's Golden Coyote where Suriname was one of six foreign nations participating in the training exercise.

The Soldiers discussed investigation techniques, restraint tactics, riot and crowd control and vehicle searches. The Suriname soldiers also met with investigators from the Rapid City Police Department on different types of tactics they use.

Sgt. Boyd Reiwnitz, of Mitchell, a member of the 235th, worked directly with the soldiers from Suriname. This was his second time participating in the SMEE. Reiwnitz traveled to Suriname last summer with a squad from the 235th and spent two weeks working with the Suriname military police.

"It was just as rewarding visiting with the soldiers down in Suriname as it was here," said Reiwnitz. "They were very receptive to the new techniques, and then they would show how they preformed similar techniques."

The Suriname police are members of a 200-soldier unit and are an active police force in Suriname.

"It was interesting to learn how their military police units operate compared to how our units run," said Reiwnitz.

LEADERS RECEIVE NEW OUTLOOK ON TRAINING

The South Dakota National Guard also hosted Suriname military leaders from the Army, Navy and Air Force during Golden Coyote.

Service chiefs from the Suriname military included: Lt. Col. Marino Acton, Suriname Navy commander and Lt. Col. Robert Kartodikromo, Suriname Air Force commander.

The Suriname dignitaries observed training operations, leadership tactics and the different capabilities the South Dakota National Guard has to offer, said Lt. Col. John Weber, South Dakota–Suriname State Partnership Program director.

“These visits are important for them to see the different types of training we conduct,” said Weber. “This way they can determine what is going to best suit them in training their units.”

The Suriname dignitaries were able to observe and participate in training exercises on West Camp Rapid. They took part in the Leader Reaction Course, where Soldiers are tasked to accomplish goals that require the use of team work. The Suriname leaders observed the Military Operations on Urban Terrain training, where Soldiers are put into scenarios they may encounter in a deployed situation.

The Suriname dignitaries also had the chance to operate the Virtual Convoy Operation Trainer, where Soldiers simulate combat convoys in realistic conditions in a combat zone.

“Our goal is to set-up lasting relationships,” said Weber. “We want them to be able to ask us for the help in setting up different types of training. Anytime one of our Soldiers gets a chance to work with the Suriname military it’s a valuable lesson in working with other cultures and how other countries operate.”



SDARNG’s Lt. Col. Dan Iverson, assistant director of military support, explains how the SONG responds to an emergency using the Joint Operations Center at Camp Rapid in Rapid City, May 8.

The simulators that the South Dakota National Guard uses could benefit our troops greatly, said Maj. Richardo Breinburg.

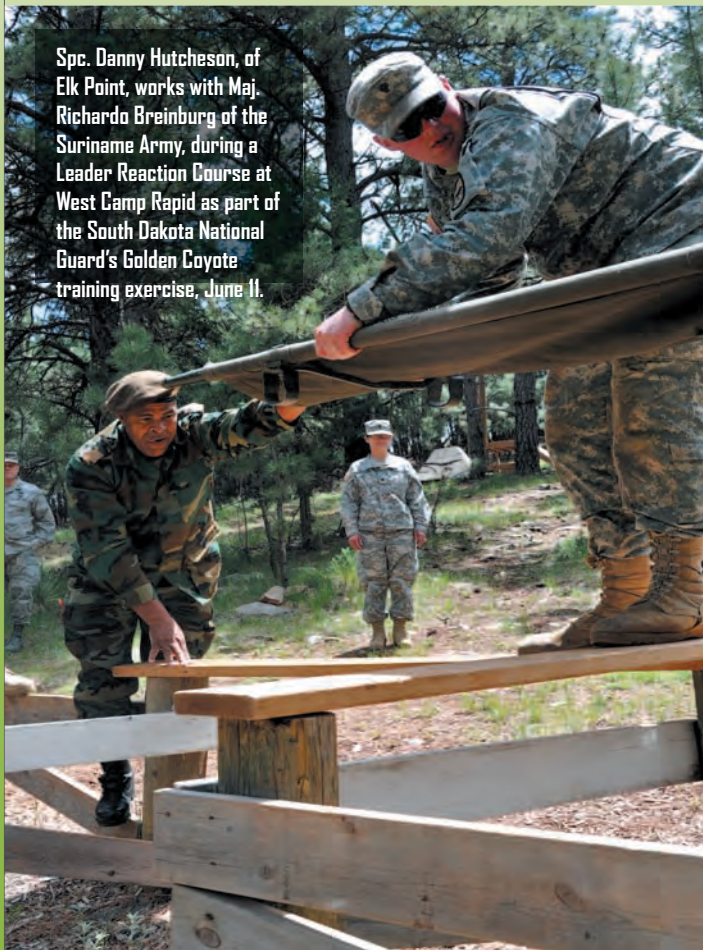
“We are seeing training that will be useful to take back to our country,” he said. “It will be easy to take back with the help of the Guard.”

The State Partnership Program is a 20-year-old program that includes 65 nations who partner with the 54 National Guard states and territories. The partnership of South Dakota and Suriname was established in 2006 and has been growing since with several visits a year.

“Senior leaders visit yearly to ensure that everyone continues to stay engaged in our partnership,” said Weber. “We want them to start thinking of ways that they would like to see us help them in their operations and training.”

Similarities between the two partners makes the relationship beneficial because they can use and share ideas that will work well for each other. South Dakota was chosen to partner with Suriname because of their similarities in population size, land mass, agricultural based economies, and lack of significant language barriers.

Sgt. 1st Class Cyron Doemoeng of the Suriname Army’s military police force instructs riot control techniques to Suriname soldiers during the Golden Coyote exercise in Rapid City, June 13.



Spc. Danny Hutcheson, of Elk Point, works with Maj. Richardo Breinburg of the Suriname Army, during a Leader Reaction Course at West Camp Rapid as part of the South Dakota National Guard’s Golden Coyote training exercise, June 11.





Team Huxford
greatstrides2012
TAKING STEPS TO CURE CYSTIC FIBROSIS

Soldier runs to raise awareness of cystic fibrosis

By Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen
SDNG Public Affairs Office

For one South Dakota Army National Guard Soldier, running has become more than a measure of his physical fitness; it has become his weapon against a disease that is affecting his children. Maj. Kevin Huxford runs to raise awareness of cystic fibrosis and to combat the illness with hopes of helping to find a cure.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen

Kevin and his wife, Caren, began their journey with cystic fibrosis nine years ago when their first son Caleb was born; one year later, their second son Logan was born and diagnosed as well.

This deadly genetic disease causes the body to produce abnormally thick, sticky mucus that clogs the airways leading to chronic, life-threatening lung infections. These thick secretions also obstruct the pancreas, causing inadequate digestion. About 30,000 people in the United States have been diagnosed with cystic fibrosis, with about 1,000 new cases each year.

“Because such a small percentage of the United States is diagnosed with CF, it is considered an orphan disease, making money and research limited,” said Kevin, of Rapid City.

These limitations are what created “Team Huxford.” Kevin, Caren, their four children, Caleb, 9, Logan, 8, Cybil, 3, and Lenox, 2, along with other family and friends, make up Team Huxford, who have raised more than \$80,000 for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation by hosting a Great Strides 10K run/walk for the past six years.

“When we moved to Rapid City, we were introduced to five other families dealing with cystic fibrosis and decided that we should do a Great Strides here,” said Kevin, a Great Strides participant prior to moving to the Black Hills in 2003. “South Dakota currently has approximately 100 individuals with CF, and 12 of them, including Caleb and Logan, live in the Black Hills area.”

Team Huxford is doing more than the Great Strides event. They are raising awareness and money to the point where the CF National Headquarters hired a full-time employee to oversee the volunteers and fundraising events for both North and South Dakota.

A member of Team Huxford, Kevin’s co-worker, Sgt. Maj. Todd Grabow, recently raised money by running his first 100K (62.9 miles) run at the Black Hills 100 in honor of Caleb and Logan.

“I asked for donations to help support their foundation,” said Grabow. “A nickel a mile or a dime a mile; every bit helps.”

Grabow said he was completely ignorant of the disease until he sat down and talked with Kevin.

Every day, twice a day, Kevin’s boys do 45 minutes of breathing treatments. The treatment includes inhaling nebulized medication and using a vest airway clearance system to dislodge mucus from their lungs. They also take special enzyme medication with each meal and snack to aid in digestion and to help gain and maintain weight.

Kevin said the treatments are behind the scenes and no one really knows the boys are taking medication because they look and act like any other kid.

“The boys know they are different from their friends because they have to take medication,” he said. “They’re actually shy about it and hide their treatments from their peers. It is unfortunate that two of my kids have CF, but it is fortunate that they have each other and know that they are not doing this alone. They have a support system within, and they can rely on each other.”

Even with the demanding needs of treatment, Caleb manages to wake up at 5:45 a.m. during the school year to go for a two-mile run.

“Caleb is so driven for a 9 year old,” Kevin said. “His New Year’s resolution was to run 100 miles, and I believe he has already passed that goal.”

Listening to what Kevin and his family go through on a daily basis is what gave Grabow the desire to help.

“What is amazing to me is that Caleb runs with a much smaller lung capacity than the average person.”

—Sgt. Maj. Todd Grabow



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen

Maj. Kevin Huxford runs with Caleb, 9, near the old Storybook Island Park, July 10. Two of Huxford’s boys have been battling cystic fibrosis since they were born. Huxford is helping to raise awareness of cystic fibrosis by coordinating and participating in fundraisers such as the Great Strides 10K run/walk event.



Courtesy photo

Team Huxford, made up of family and friends, participated in the annual Great Strides 10K run/walk event to raise money and awareness of cystic fibrosis. The team has raised more than \$80,000 in the past six years.

“What is amazing to me is that Caleb runs with a much smaller lung capacity than the average person,” said Grabow. “What really struck me to my core is that the average life expectancy for someone with CF is into their late 30s. But what touched me the most is that his boys, especially his 9 year old, are avid runners.”

Grabow said the 100K was challenging and thanked Team Huxford for bringing some meaning to the race.

“It is probably the only thing that gave me the extra push to the finish line,” he said. “I know the money raised will help buy some days, weeks, months or years for anyone dealing with this disease.”

“They are getting so close to finding a cure. All they need is time and the money to do more research. Ninety cents of every dollar that goes toward the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation is donated to research. If they can cure one strain, I am hopeful they will find a cure for my boys.”
—Maj. Kevin Huxford

Cystic Fibrosis Foundation senior development director Patrick Kirby said the dollars and support are paying off.

“On Jan. 31, the first drug ever to target the underlying cause of cystic fibrosis was approved by the FDA. Kalydeco (VX-770) has been noted as a major advancement in the search for a cure for cystic fibrosis,” said Kirby.

Kevin said the new pill only targets four percent of the CF population. The medication tricks genes into not producing mucus leading to the first CF patient to be removed from the lung donor list.

“Although this new treatment will not benefit Caleb and Logan, the drug is raising new hope for those like our children,” said Kevin. “We know the science behind this new drug soon will be used to develop treatments for all those living with cystic fibrosis.”

The next strain they are going to work on is the one Caleb and Logan have, and the most common among CF patients, the Delta F508 gene, said Kevin.

To get involved with Team Huxford or attend the Black Hills Great Strides 10K run/walk held annually during Memorial Day weekend at the old Storybook Island Park in Rapid City, please visit the website at: www.cff.org/Great_Strides/TeamHuxford. Participants can donate time, money or take part in the 10K run/walk event.

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740th Trans. wins national weapons qualification award

By 2nd Lt. Chad Carlson
SDNG Public Affairs Office

The South Dakota Army National Guard's 740th Transportation Company was named the winner of the 2011 National Guard Association Pershing Award for having the nation's highest weapons qualification rate.

The South Dakota unit, headquartered out of Milbank with Detachment 1 in Aberdeen, edged out a unit from the Idaho Army National Guard, as well as units from across the country to win the national award for the second time in six years.

The 740th Transportation earned the highest figure of merit score during annual qualification firing with assigned individual weapons. The unit's overall weapons qualification rate was 99.4 percent: qualifying 64 experts, 75 sharpshooters and 30 marksmen, giving them a figure of merit score of 95.4 percent.



Soldiers from the 740th Trans. Co., headquartered out of Milbank with Det. 1 in Aberdeen, qualify with their M-16 rifles in 2011. This is the second time in six years the unit has won the National Guard Association Pershing Award.

Photos by Sgt. Kathleen Holscher

"This award reflects deeply on the skills and devotion of the Soldiers of the 740th," said Capt. Jeremy Schafer, company commander. "It reassures that the training is effective and sufficient."

"Marksmanship is something our Soldiers have learned so well, that whether they are qualifying on the range or sighting in their deer rifles, they use the techniques they were taught," said Staff Sgt. Matthew Tjaden, 740th training noncommissioned officer.

Tjaden said the unit's application of soldiering techniques goes beyond the rifle range.

"Most of our unit takes the training they receive home with them, in all areas," Tjaden said. "From rifle qualification to vehicle operations to treating a casualty, almost everything can be applied to everyday life and these guys know that."

The award was established in the 1930s in honor of Gen. John J. "Black Jack" Pershing, the only Soldier who served as General of the Armies in his lifetime.

"The 740th takes pride in marksmanship and will continue to push the limits to continue to excel," said Schafer. "What the 740th does sets the standards."

82nd Civil Support Team earns Superior Unit Award

By 2nd Lt. Chad Carlson
SDNG Public Affairs Office

The South Dakota Army National Guard's 82nd Civil Support Team, located at Ellsworth Air Force Base, became the first civil support team in the nation to receive the National Guard Bureau's Superior Unit Award.

The award is presented in recognition of outstanding achievement in three categories of criteria: personnel, training and inspections.

Some of the 82nd's achievements from these categories include maintaining an assigned strength of 95 percent each month, 95 percent of the unit is duty military occupation skills qualified, and a mission essential task list assessment well above the 75 percent requirement.

"Any time a unit gets an award like this, it reflects the dedication and training program of the unit that gets us to that point," said Lt. Col. James Selchert, 82nd CST commander. "It really speaks to the quality of our noncommissioned officers, as they are in charge of the training. They ensure everyone from the commander on down receives quality training."

All members of the CST were also a first-time-go on the Army Physical Fitness Test and Air Force Fitness Assessment, and the unit received a 99 percent on the NGB Standardization Evaluation and Assistance Team inspection, placing the unit in the top 10 of all CSTs nationwide.

"Everyone in the unit is high-speed, top-notch," said 1st Sgt. Michael Weyrich. "Everyone in the unit excels at physical fitness, accountability and maintenance of equipment and training to standard, because this is what our senior NCOs expect."

The commander said the award is the result of a consolidated team effort, from both the Soldiers and Airmen that make up the unit.

"Obviously you don't get an award like this because of one or two people; it is the entire unit," Selchert said. "It comes down to the NCOs in the unit that ensure we train on our warrior tasks to standard. We approach our hazardous materials training with the same due diligence that we approach our warrior tasks."

"We have strict training guidance from higher command, from NGB down to the 109th Regional Support Group, and we follow it," said Weyrich. "We don't deviate but ensure that we are proficient in both our garrison and hazardous material jobs. We follow our standard operating guidance to ensure our training reflects what we would do in our 'real world' actions."



Air Force Staff Sgt. Dustin Clement, Ellsworth AFB, and Army Staff Sgt. Eric Haivala, Sturgis, both members of the SDNG's 82nd Civil Support Team, search for radiation sources during a rescue training exercise Jan. 19 at the Jewel Cave National Monument near Custer.

SNAPSHOTS



Photo by Tech Sgt. Quinton Young



Photo by Samuel King Jr.



Photo by 1st Lt. Aaron Getzke



Photo by Sgt. Thia Monteith

TOP LEFT: Members of the 114th Fighter Wing Medical Group attend to a moulaged injury victim during an Operational Readiness Exercise at Joe Foss Field in Sioux Falls, June 9. The four-day exercise was held to assess the readiness of the Air National Guard.

TOP RIGHT: Tech. Sgt. Jarrod Healy, of the 114th Security Forces Squadron, takes up a defense position during the first counter-insurgency operation of the three-day Brave Defender field training exercise April 26 at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

BOTTOM: Wild land fire members hook up nets of equipment that they would use in a fire during interagency training using an SDARNG Black Hawk helicopter piloted by Chief Warrant Officer 4 Christian Frank and 2nd Lt. Levi Lee, with Staff Sgt. Anton Derline as the crew chief at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Rapid City, June 8.

MIDDLE RIGHT: Officer candidates exercise to increase stress at the commencement ceremony for the Officer Candidate School Battalion, 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) at Fort Meade, Md., June 3. The 196th conducts OCS every June and July to train Soldiers to become 2nd lieutenants in the Army National Guard.



Photo by Sgt. Charlie Jacobson



Photo by Tech Sgt. Quinton Young



Photo by Sgt. Charles Butler



Photo by Sgt. Andrew Turner

TOP LEFT: Brig. Gen. Jeff Marlette (left), SDARNG's assistant adjutant general, receives a briefing from Spc. Peter Lemons, an intelligence analyst with the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, on the command post of the Future software system June 17, at the 196th's annual training site in Sioux Falls.

MIDDLE LEFT: Members of the 114th Fighter Wing prepare one of the unit's F-16 aircraft as part of the Operational Readiness Exercise in Sioux Falls. The exercise is an opportunity to test the unit's ability to respond to real-world situations.

TOP RIGHT: Spc. Spencer Mewes, of Mitchell, a Soldier from Alpha Battery, 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion, negotiates an obstacle on West Camp Rapid during the SDARNG's 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade Best Warrior competition June 8-10, in Rapid City.

BOTTOM: Spc. Bronson Odle, of Rapid City, of the 235th Military Police Company, holds security while his team members provide medical care to simulated wounds at the Combat Lifesaver course at Camp Rapid June 19. The 235th is scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan in January 2013 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

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