

DAKOTA PACK

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



THREE UNITS RETURN

After yearlong deployments in Afghanistan

ENTERTAINMENT

2012 Sioux Falls
Airshow

STATE PARTNERSHIP

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making strides

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Maj. Gen. Timothy A. Reisch
The Adjutant General

Maj. Anthony Deiss
State Public Affairs Officer

2nd Lt. Chad Carlson
Editor

Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen
Design Editor

CONTRIBUTORS

Sgt. 1st Class Neal Stratman
Spc. Kevin Gibson
147th Field Artillery

Master Sgt. Nancy Ausland
Staff Sgt. Trisha Smeenk
114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Charles Butler
SDNG Joint Force Headquarters

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 • Darrell George & Scott Aston
Publisher Advertising Sales

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DAKOTA PACK

Magazine of the South Dakota Army and Air National Guard



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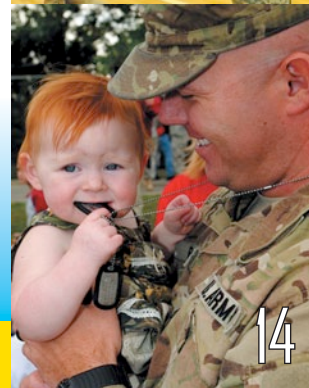
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On the cover

Parker Campbell, 3, and her dad, Spc. Daniel Campbell, of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 842nd Engineer Company, are reunited, Sept. 27 at the Donald E. Young Center in Spearfish. Soldiers of the 842nd arrived back in the Black Hills after completing a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The Spearfish, Belle Fourche and Sturgis-based unit deployed in September 2011 with a mission to provide horizontal construction and engineering support.





Maj. Gen. Timothy Reisch
The Adjutant General

Taking care of Soldiers, Airmen and their families is my priority

My fellow Soldiers and Airmen,

I want to begin by thanking Brig. Gen. Jeff Marlette for 32 years of exemplary service to his state and Nation. He commanded skillfully at all levels from platoon leader through brigade commander and served as assistant adjutant general-Army with great distinction. He is a strategic thinker with a genuine passion for the S.D. National Guard. He will be sorely missed.

Congratulations to Brig. Gen. Craig Johnson as he takes the reins of the SDARNG. His record of accomplishments is also impressive, serving many years as a full-time federal technician, leading the 109th Engineer Battalion in combat and serving as the United States Property and Fiscal Officer for several years. I look forward to his leadership of the Army Guard.

Congratulations also to Brig. Gen. Matt Jamison who was also recently promoted in the chief of staff's position in the Air Guard. A former flight, squadron and group commander, he served with distinction as vice commander of the 114th Fighter Wing, and will certainly thrive as the Air National Guard chief of staff.

As I type these words, it is somewhat comforting to finally have fewer than 100 Soldiers and Airmen deployed in harm's way. Welcome home to the 842nd Engineer Company, to the 451st Engineer Detachment and to Detachment 48, OSA Command. Each of these units served with great distinction, and we are extremely happy to have you home.

The reduced number of deployed troops will not last for long however, as several more units are preparing to go out the door in the coming months. In fact, we have more than 500 Soldiers and Airmen preparing for deployments that will commence between now and the end of 2014. I ask for your continued prayers for their safe return.

During the past two drills, I've had the somber duty to preside over ceremonies in Miller, Platte, Salem and Winner, marking the end of several generations that we've had units stationed in those communities. It is a truly difficult task to look into the eyes of current and former unit members as their colors are cased and the final chapters of their units' histories are written. I pledge to all four of these communities (and to Redfield and Webster as well) that in spite of our departure we remain committed to assisting them with events they have come to rely on us for support with over the years.

I had the opportunity to tour the construction site of the new Regional Readiness Center in Watertown recently, and it is going to be a truly magnificent facility. The general contractor is on track to finish in the coming months, which should facilitate our taking occupancy in late spring. It would be great to be able to secure funding for several more facilities like that elsewhere in the state; however, the constraints on the federal budget make that unlikely in the near term. We will continue to do our best to maintain our facilities in the hope of landing precious MILCON project dollars in the future.

The Air Guard was honored recently with a visit by Gov. Dennis Daugaard and Lt. Gov. Matt Michels. Both our commander in chief and the lieutenant governor were impressed with our state of readiness, as well as our potential to compete for the next round of stationing for the F-35. Three days after the governor's visit, Gen. Mike Hostage, commander of the Air Combat Command, stopped for a visit. I want to commend Col. Russ Walz and his team for their remarkable professionalism during both of those high-level visits.

In closing, I want to reiterate the importance of suicide awareness throughout our organization. I rely on NCOs and officers at all levels to make certain that during every training assembly we take the time necessary to check on our Soldiers and Airmen. Each of us must take a genuine interest in those individuals assigned to us and to intercede when necessary to ensure their safety. Taking care of our Soldiers and Airmen and their families is my number one priority. I cannot do it without your help.

Sincerely,

Maj. Gen. Timothy Reisch
The Adjutant General, SDNG

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Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Jeff Marlette
Assistant Adjutant General, SDARNG

Good, Better, Best...Never let it Rest...

Dear Guardmembers,

To bid farewell to the people and organization that have been such a major part of my life for the past 32 years, is without a doubt a hard task to complete. First and foremost, I want to say thank you to the countless Soldiers, leaders, peers, supporters, mentors and friends that have made this such an enjoyable journey. I have been richly blessed to have had the opportunity to be part of the South Dakota Army National Guard and to have worked with each of you.

I write this today, knowing that our organization is the strongest, best equipped, best trained and best manned that it has ever been in the history of the South Dakota Army National Guard. I say this not because of any of my contributions, but rather because that is who we are today. These past 10-plus years of war have served to drive us to higher and higher levels of capability. Today, we take things in stride that would have been major undertakings in years gone by. In recent years, we have been called over and over again to step into the breach of combat, and we have over and over again shown up at the right place, at the right time, with a full holster, always accomplishing our mission without fail. That in itself is not special. That is just who we are, because we are that good. Every Soldier in our organization should be very proud of that fact. I know each and every Soldier will accept nothing less.

In closing, I feel compelled to one last time share with you a few challenges I believe to be essential to our future success as an organization. First, never settle for good enough training. Our Soldiers deserve the very best from our organization and its leaders at all levels. Never count on having more time to prepare your Soldiers for their mission...do it today. Second, realize we can always be better than we are today, both as individuals and as an organization. "Good, Better, Best...Never let it rest, till your good is better and your better is best." Never settle for good enough! Lastly, always incorporate safety, standards and discipline into everything you do. Safety - nothing is more unforgivable than to injure or kill a Soldier because we were unsafe. Safety is everyone's business! Standards - nothing hurts morale quicker than for leaders to tolerate substandard performance or low standards. Discipline - no individual or organization will achieve greatness without proper discipline.

I wish each of you and the South Dakota National Guard the very best of success in all you do. I will not be far away, and I will be watching with deep pride as you continue to grow and achieve great things.

Sincerely,

Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Jeff Marlette
Assistant Adjutant General, SDARNG

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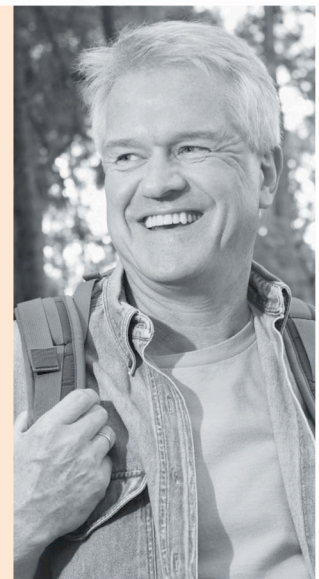
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881st Troop Command changes leadership

FORT MEADE - Lt. Col. Todd Bartunek, of Rapid City, took command of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 881st Troop Command during a change of command ceremony Sept. 8 at the Fort Meade Parade Field.



Lt. Col. Todd Bartunek

Bartunek assumed responsibility from Lt. Col. Mark Harder, of Rapid City, who served in the position since July 2011.

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

Bartunek also works full time for the SDARNG as a logistics management officer at Camp Rapid in Rapid City. Harder will transfer to the Joint Force Headquarters on Camp Rapid and will serve as the future operation branch chief.

139th BSB changes command

BROOKINGS - Lt. Col. Jeffrey Norris, of Rapid City, took command of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 139th Brigade Support Battalion from Lt. Col. Patrick Stapleton, of Sioux Falls, during a change of command ceremony Sept. 15 at the Brookings Readiness Center.



Lt. Col. Jeffrey Norris

Norris will now oversee the Brookings unit that Stapleton commanded since October 2010.

As the commander of the 139th, Norris is responsible for the command and control of about 500 Soldiers in eight separate units in seven communities throughout South Dakota. The 139th assists assigned units in meeting training, administrative and logistical requirements to maintain the unit's readiness

in support of their state and federal missions.

In civilian life, Norris works as the deputy chief court services officer for the 7th Circuit Court in Rapid City.

Stapleton will be assigned to the operations section of the Joint Force Headquarters in Rapid City.

Soldiers commissioned as second lieutenants

STURGIS - Four South Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers took the Oath of Office and were commissioned as second lieutenants during a ceremony Aug. 18 at the Sturgis Community Center. The second lieutenants completed Officer Candidate School with the 196th Regiment, Regional Training Institute, at Fort Meade, the first step in their officer training and development.

"Today you are stepping into an entirely new role," Brig. Gen. Jeff Marlette, assistant adjutant general for the South Dakota Army National Guard, told the second lieutenants prior to administering the Oath of Office. "Today you are going to raise your hand and swear that at all times you will be physically, technically and tactically ready to lead. Your superiors, your peers, your subordinates, your families and the families of every Soldier you will lead are counting on you to do just that."

The Soldiers were placed in high-stress, high-intensity environments and challenged to make leadership decisions throughout their three phases of OCS.

"Officer Candidate School is a stressful and demanding course," said OCS Company Commander Maj. Corey Norris. "It teaches candidates the importance of things like timeliness, attention to detail, physical fitness and mental toughness, so when they're leading Soldiers in a combat situation, they're able to give direction and guidance and when they face setbacks to continue to push forward even in the face of danger and adversity."

Three of the lieutenants completed the traditional, 14-month course, and another the fast-track, eight-week course.

"You are commissioning at a time when the likelihood of you being a combat leader is extremely high," Marlette told the second lieutenants. "I will tell you today, that during your career you will be called upon to lead in some of the most challenging and important times in the history of our country. You will be called upon to fight in wars all around the world and at the same time you must be prepared to handle every possible contingency here at home."

The second lieutenants will now be assigned to units across the state and will attend Basic Officer Leaders Course, where they will continue to train in leadership, tactics and branch specific capabilities.



Brig. Gen. Jeff Marlette, right, assistant adjutant general of the SDARNG, administers the Oath of Office to four newly commissioned second lieutenants. From left, 2nd Lt. Alan Armstrong, 2nd Lt. Rebecca Linder, 2nd Lt. Tyler Skoglund and 2nd Lt. Jason Sussner.

Photo by 2nd Lt. Chad Carlson

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Soldier earns direct commission as judge advocate

RAPID CITY

- Karla Marie MacArthur, of Rapid City, swore in as an attorney and then as an officer in the South Dakota Army National Guard Sept. 21 at the Pennington County Courthouse in Rapid City.



1st Lt. Karla MacArthur

MacArthur, who has served in the South Dakota Army National Guard since 2006, most recently as a human resource specialist, will now serve as a judge advocate.

Judge advocates investigate, prosecute and defend those charged with crimes in the military, provide legal advice for Soldiers and work with international contracts.

"First Lt. MacArthur proved herself as a great Soldier and noncommissioned officer," said Col. Robert Pasqualucci, SDNG staff judge advocate. "I have no doubt she will prove to be a great officer and judge advocate."

MacArthur graduated from the University of South Dakota in 2007 with a bachelor of science in criminal justice and a minor in sociology. She worked for the Department of Social Services until being accepted into law school at the University of South Dakota, where in May 2012 she graduated with honors and a juris doctor degree.

"I'm honored to be an attorney in the state of South Dakota, and I'm honored to be a judge advocate for a wonderful organization like the South Dakota National Guard," said MacArthur. "Before I ever enlisted, they asked 'What do you want to do and how can we help?' I told them I wanted to be attorney, I wanted to be a judge advocate, and I wanted to serve, like many in my family have done in the past. They said if I did the time and the work that they would get me here - and they did. I'm truly thankful for everyone who has helped along the way."

SD Guard receives upgraded helicopter



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen

The SDARNG's Rapid City-based Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment received its first L-model UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Rapid City in August. The Black Hawk will provide an enhanced capability for air crews combating wild-land fires and other support missions. The L-model Black Hawk increases the operational load capacity of the aircraft through improved engines, transmission and flight control. The UH-60L will be assigned to the Rapid City-based Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, which returned from deployment in Iraq and Kuwait in May. The unit now has five A models, in addition to the L model.



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Alpha Battery sends rockets down range

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Neal Stratman and Spc. Kevin Gibson

Alpha Battery, 1-147th Field Artillery



CAMP RIPLEY, Minn. – By way of tank trails and dusty roads, a convoy of more than 30 tactical vehicles, employed by 10 attached Forward Support Company Soldiers, eight Bravo Battery Soldiers and 62 Alpha Battery Soldiers, began the trek to Camp Ripley, Minn., for a three day field training exercise. The field training exercise would come on the front end of the South Dakota Army National Guard's Alpha Battery, 147th Field Artillery conducting their first Multiple Launch Rocket Systems live fire in four years.

Soldiers trained in skills relating to their military occupational specialties such as training area occupation, preventative maintenance checks and services, fire mission processing, ammunition resupply, convoy operations and warrior skills training. They also refined rifle, grenade launching and machine gun skills by spending “trigger time” on the ranges. Soldiers shot M-16A2 rifles, M-203 grenade launchers, M-249's, M-240B's, MK-19's, .50-caliber machine guns and M-9 semiautomatic pistols. Over the course of 12 hours, more than 300 Soldiers of the 1-147th Battalion fired nearly 50,200 rounds from six different weapon systems, tallying a rate of fire of nearly 4,200 rounds per hour.

The following day, the battalion of 16 M-270A1 launchers were roaring through the tree lines and tank trails to stage for the mother of all ranges. As the adrenaline grew with launcher crews loading live rocket pods and the battle operations centers fluttering with anxiety, Soldiers of 1-147th FA had the game faces of warriors in check. When the first “call for fire” rang over the frequency, the first launcher took its position for safety verification. That first crew was A Battery's own.

Staff Sgt. Neil Clemens, Sgt. Josh Lunzman and Spc. Joe Kraft were first to be crowned king of returning “steel rain” back to the

147th FA. The launcher crew received the battalion coin from Command Sgt. Maj. Todd Rose for safely firing the first rocket down range since June 2008. The famous words of “stand by...FIRE!” chimed over the radios and the game was on, with a muffled “shot out” followed shortly thereafter with “rounds observed...rounds safe... rounds complete” echoing over the frequency. Plus, of course, some cheers and sighs from the distant onlookers that were still trying to grasp what they had just witnessed.

After a flawless live fire, units rallied together in their respective areas of operation for a short after action review, tear down procedures and movement brief before moving into the garrison for recovery operations. Upon arrival into cantonment, Alpha Battery worked tirelessly into the evening to bring equipment on line and begin a three-day maintenance recovery and organization of re-deployment back to home station in Aberdeen.

“Alpha Battery Soldiers trained hard during this annual training on MOS skills that they haven't used in a while and safely completed the FTX with a successful live fire,” said 1st Sgt. Mike Wilkening.

Alpha Battery Soldiers got back into tactical mode by sliding into recovery and maintenance operations. Over the next five days, Soldiers and equipment slowly filtered home, vehicles hauled, parked and tucked back in their motor pools as Soldiers began the administrative functions of inventories and completing final checklists for annual training.

“It took a few days to get our feet under us, but once we got a good battle rhythm, the troops performed flawlessly,” said Capt. Chad Hardy, battery commander. “All in all, a good AT. I couldn't be more pleased with the performance of the Alpha Battery Soldiers.”

Female firsts for the South Dakota Air Guard

Story and photo by Senior Master Sgt. Nancy Ausland
114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

STOUX FALLS -2012 was a great year for the South Dakota Air National Guard in the area of diversity. Not only did the unit receive national recognition by being awarded the National Guard Bureau Excellence in Diversity Award, but they also had many "firsts" for females of the unit.

This year marked the first time in the history of the unit that a female was appointed to a group commander position in the unit.

On Jan. 7, Lt. Col. Tamara Mielke accepted command of the 114th Mission Support Group and became the first female to do so.

"It has been an honor and a privilege to be given the opportunity to lead such an amazing group of men and women," said Mielke. "It's been a busy year for the Mission Support Group. Numerous personnel changes, the Operational Readiness Exercise, and our air show preparation and execution. Our Mission Support Group personnel met each challenge with a smile and a "can do" attitude.



Angela Lynn Schuster

Their tenacity, dedication, and desire to continually exceed mission requirements, inspire me to do my best. My hope is that we will always be known as the "Get-R-Done Group."

In May 2012, the unit commissioned its first female pilots when 2nd Lt. Shanon Davis and 2nd Lt. Valerie Vanderostyne graduated from Initial Flight Screening in Pueblo, Colo. They are currently attending Undergraduate Pilot Training and are scheduled to return to the unit in early 2013.

The latest female to make her mark at the 114th Fighter Wing is new to the Air National Guard family. Angela Lynn Schuster, Sioux Falls, was sworn in to the unit on Sept. 15 and will be the first female firefighter the unit has ever had. Angela is the mother of two children, Noah and Caleb, and works full time as a civilian at the Military Entrance Processing center in Sioux Falls.

Females currently make up approximately 18 percent of the total force of the 114th Fighter Wing, up from about 16 percent just a few years ago. As the numbers continue to grow it is expected that many more women of the unit will be the "firsts" and will carry on the motto of the unit that has applied to all members: Proud, Prepared and Professional.

SD honors veterans with Purple Heart Memorial Highway

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

RAPID CITY - The South Dakota Transportation Commission officially designated Interstate 90 from the Wyoming border to the Minnesota border as the Purple Heart Memorial Highway during a dedication ceremony at the Valley Springs and Spearfish rest areas along the interstate Aug. 7.

South Dakota is among 46 states and Guam to name parts of their roads in honor of Purple Heart recipients.

"It seems like a small token of appreciation in comparison with what has been given by those that we are honoring today," said Darin Bergquist, secretary of the South Dakota Department of Transportation. "I am hopeful that as people travel Interstate 90 in South Dakota they will see the sign and be reminded to take a minute to remember, to reflect and thank those that have been awarded the Purple Heart for their service and sacrifices."

Several Purple Heart recipients attended the ceremony including Edwin Petranek, who earned four Purple Hearts during World War II; H. Marty Nelson, who served in Korea; Doc Jackson and Jack Schooler, who both served in Vietnam; and Eric Jennings, who served in Afghanistan.

"Having I-90 named the Purple Heart Memorial Highway is an honor," said South Dakota Army National Guardsman 1st Sgt. Eric Jennings, awarded the Purple Heart Nov. 1, 2004. "But what is truly an honor, is to stand next to these four other recipients from World War II, Korea and Vietnam."



SDNG's Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general, addresses the audience during the dedication ceremony to officially designate the part of Interstate 90 in South Dakota as the Purple Heart Memorial Highway at the Spearfish rest area near the Wyoming border, Aug. 7.

The South Dakota National Guard has 42 service members who have received the United States military decoration within the past 10 years against the Global War on Terror. The Purple Heart is awarded in the name of the president to those wounded or killed while serving on or after April 15, 1917.

It has been estimated that 320,000 Purple Hearts were awarded during World War I, more than one million during World War II, 118,000 during the Korean War, 351,000 during the Vietnam War, more than 35,000 in Iraq and we are now approaching 10,000 in Afghanistan said South Dakota National Guard Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general.

"This designation of the Purple Heart Memorial Highway here in South Dakota is a very simple way to honor the veterans who left their families, homes and communities to serve this great country in a time of war," said Reisch. "It is my hope that this marker will serve as a reminder of the price that has been paid for the many freedoms we often take for granted here in the United States."

SD Guard earns Governor's Safety Award

SDNG Public Affairs Office

SIOUX FALLS -The South Dakota Safety Council awarded a Governor's Safety Award to both the South Dakota Army and Air National Guard for excellence in workplace safety and health.

The Army and Air Guard were among 59 employers who were recognized at the annual Governor's Safety Awards luncheon at the Sioux Falls Arena and Convention Center on Oct. 3.

"The South Dakota National Guard receives a lot of awards, but I can tell you that these safety awards mean a great deal to me because they align directly with my top priority of taking care of our Soldiers and Airmen and their families," said Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general of the SDNG.

The Governor's Safety Awards recognize South Dakota employers with better than average safety records. Participants submit injury information which is compared with state and national data, as well as the entrant's past performance. Ongoing safety programs and activities are also considered, and winners are recognized at three levels.

The Army Guard received a Meritorious Achievement Award, the entry level award, for better than average incident rates and answers to screening questions. This is the first time the Army Guard has submitted for the award and received it.

The Air Guard received the Award of Honor, the highest level of award, for exceptional accomplishment in reduction of injuries and illnesses in the workplace. This is the second straight year the Air Guard has received this honor.

"The South Dakota National Guard receives a lot of awards, but I can tell you that these safety awards mean a great deal to me because they align directly with my top priority of taking care of our Soldiers and Airmen."

**—Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch
The Adjutant General, SDNG**



Courtesy photo

Soldiers from the SDARNG receive a Governor's Safety Award for Meritorious Achievement awarded by representatives from the South Dakota Safety Council during the annual Governor's Safety Awards luncheon at the Sioux Falls Arena and Convention Center on Oct. 3. The Governor's Safety Awards recognizes S.D. employers with better than average safety records. The Army and Air Guard were both recipients of awards this year.

"These awards are significant because they indicate that our leaders deem safety as very important for the readiness of the South Dakota National Guard," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Lonny Hofer, SDNG state safety officer. "These supervisors engage their employees as stakeholders in their facility safety programs to use best practices and the freedom to report hazards to aid in accident prevention."

The Governor's Safety Awards luncheon was part of the 20th South Dakota Safety & Health Conference, coordinated by the South Dakota Safety Council. The conference is the largest gathering of workplace safety and health professionals in the region. The South Dakota Safety Council, founded in 1949, is a non-governmental, not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in South Dakota by preventing unintentional injuries ("accidents").

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Tops in Blue makes stop in South Dakota

Story by Staff Sgt. Trisha Smeenk
114th Fighter Wing

SIOUX FALLS - The Washington Pavilion was alive with song on the night of Aug. 22, when the United States Air Force's Tops in Blue 2012 made a stop for a one show performance. More than 400 people enjoyed the talented song and dance ensemble as they performed music from their world tour entitled "Listen." Among those watching were family and friends of one of the performers who has a local connection to Sioux Falls and the 114th Fighter Wing.

Staff Sgt. Katie McGuire, 114th Civil Engineer Squadron Emergency Management technician, was chosen as one of the 35 Airmen in the country to be a part of the Air Force's premiere touring performance ensemble, Tops in Blue 2012.

At the time of the performance in Sioux Falls, McGuire had completed more than half of her yearlong tour with this prestigious group and had visited more than 18 states along the way. She will continue to tour with the group through February 2013 and by the time she is done will have performed close to 130 times throughout the United States and in more than 20 countries.

As a girl growing up in rural South Dakota, McGuire never imagined that she would be jet-setting around the world sharing music on an Asian and European tour.

"I had no intentions of going into music," said McGuire. "I just wanted to do it for fun, but I had such a great time substitute teaching pep band with middle school kids, I thought 'that's my calling,' so I changed my major to music education at South Dakota State University. I have been teaching now for four years, and I love it."

McGuire worked as a K-12 music teacher in Avon, where she instructed more than 130 students in music until this opportunity came up. She said joining Tops in Blue has been her dream since she saw them perform at Lackland Air Force Base several years ago.

"I saw them when I graduated from Basic Military Training and loved them! I decided to send in my application eight years later and made it. It's been a great experience, and I'm glad I'm doing it," she said.

McGuire has come a long way from that girl in third grade learning to play the accordion and the piano. She recently reached her tenth year as a member of the South Dakota Air National Guard and feels lucky to be at this point in her life and career. She credits her parents for supporting and helping her in this transition.

"I've always looked for open doors, and that's how I came to be in the South Dakota Air National Guard," said McGuire. "Never believe that you can't do something. You can find a way if you really want something."



Staff Sgt. Katie McGuire

The Tops in Blue team works hard and sometimes gets only two to four hours of sleep per night. They are in essence their own "road crew." Under the guidance of five technical personnel, the performing team is responsible for setting up more than 60,000 pounds of staging, lighting, audio, video and special effects equipment required for each performance.

"It's always opening night wherever we are. It's a new place and a new crowd each time. We change little things here and there but we always give it our best every time," said McGuire.

Although it's demanding, sometimes stressful, and lots of work, McGuire says it's worth it. "The tour has been more challenging than I thought it would be. I've

learned that you have to really stay on your toes and just keep thinking ahead. It's been a huge learning experience, and I'm glad to have had this opportunity."



Tech. Sgt. Joshua Tarrant, drummer, plays the drums as Staff Sgt. Katie McGuire, keyboard musician, blindfolds him during the Tops in Blue 2012 World Tour, "Listen," at Hoban Hall on Barksdale Air Force Base, La., Aug. 2. Tops in Blue has performed for servicemen and women around the world for 59 years.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Benjamin Gonsier



Photo by Maj. Anthony Deiss

Relocation, reflagging ceremonies

SDNG Public Affairs Office

Capt. Michael Bierle, commander, and 1st Sgt. Wade Hofer case the Detachment 1, 155th Engineer Company, guidon in Winner Sept. 8.

RAPID CITY - The South Dakota Army National Guard conducted four relocation ceremonies for units from Winner, Platte, Salem and Miller, as well as a reflagging ceremony for Yankton, in September and October.

Soldiers from Winner's Detachment 1, 155th Engineer Company, Platte's Detachment 2, 155th Engineer Company, Salem's Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion, and Miller's Detachment 2, Company A, 139th Brigade Support Battalion, are now conducting their drill training at other locations.

Yankton's Charlie Battery, 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion, has been reflagged as Bravo Battery, transferring from Salem.

The South Dakota Army National Guard announced in April that they would be relocating six units, approximately 215 Soldiers, throughout the state.

The SDARNG will go from being stationed in 28 communities to 22.

Five of the unit armories are co-located with the school districts, and their lease with the SDARNG will be terminated. Exclusive



Photo by Maj. Anthony Deiss

SDARNG's Capt. Damien Fisher, commander of Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion, center, and 1st Sgt. Beitema, right, case the unit guidon as part of a relocation ceremony Sept. 8 at the Salem armory.

control of the Salem armory will be turned over to the city. The future use of the armories' space will be determined by the respective school districts and community leaders.

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, the relocation and consolidation of 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.

"With a mission to train for wartime operations and respond to state emergencies, it is the responsibility of the South Dakota National Guard to ensure that South Dakota's sons and daughters, who have volunteered to serve their state and nation, have the best training and facilities available," said Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general of the SDNG. "By consolidating our units to regional readiness centers, we will be able to maximize our resources and training capabilities."

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

"It is with genuine sadness that I announce these unit relocations because all six of these communities have supported the National Guard in a truly outstanding manner for decades," said Reisch. "But in the end, these changes will help the Guard be more fiscally responsible and enhance our training readiness status. The bottom line is that the federal government makes adjustments to funding, and we too must adjust our operations to ensure we can continue to respond to both our state and federal missions in a highly effective manner."



Photo by Maj. Anthony Deiss

SDNG Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general, addresses the audience at the Platte armory on Sept. 8, on the relocation of Detachment 2, 155th Engineer Company, to Wagner. Approximately 215 Soldiers from the Miller, Platte, Redfield, Salem, Webster and Winner units will eventually conduct their drill training at other locations. The SDARNG will go from being stationed in 28 communities to 22. Five of the unit armories are co-located with the school districts, and their lease with the SDARNG will be terminated.



Courtesy photo

In a file photo from 1985, Col. (Ret.) Robert Jamison pins bars on his son, 2nd Lt. Matthew Jamison, during a pinning ceremony held during the younger Jamison's graduation and commissioning as an officer in the SDANG.



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Nancy Ausland

Col. (Ret.) Robert Jamison pins a star on his son, Brig. Gen. Matthew Jamison, during a ceremony held at Joe Foss Field, Oct. 5. Brig. Gen. Jamison assumed the position of chief of staff, Headquarters SDANG, in January. This is the same position his father retired from as a colonel in 1985.

After 27 years, 2nd Lt. Jamison makes it to the top

Story by Senior Master Sgt. Nancy Ausland
14th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

SIoux FALLS - There have been two Colonel Jamisons in the South Dakota Air National Guard over the years. The first, Col. (Ret.) Robert Jamison, was followed by his son, Col. Matthew Jamison. On Oct. 5, the senior Jamison had the distinct pleasure of pinning a star on the shoulder of his son.

Brig. Gen. Matthew Jamison received federal recognition on Sept. 24, and it was a day that the new general gives much credit to his father for.

"I've followed in my father's footsteps ever since I was a small child, and during a hunting trip in 1979, he talked my brother and me into joining the South Dakota Air National Guard," said the younger Jamison.

Like his father before him, Brig. Gen. Jamison enlisted and was a crew chief with the unit before accepting his commission and becoming a pilot in 1985.

The two have shared many similarities throughout their careers in the South Dakota Air National Guard. Both served as pilots, both were the 175th Fighter Squadron commanders and now both will have served as the chief of staff, Headquarters, South Dakota Air National Guard.

Robert Jamison served for 38 distinguished years with the unit including serving in the Korean War. He has been a well respected businessman in Sioux Falls since opening a car dealership in 1965 and served with many of the founding fathers of this unit since enlisting in 1947. He retired in 1985 in the position that his son will now hold. The difference is that this time around there will be a Gen. Jamison in the position.



Courtesy photo

Col. (Ret.) Robert Jamison; center; listens to orders during a briefing held at Camp Williams in his early days as a lieutenant and pilot with the South Dakota Air National Guard.

When asked how he felt about his son reaching the rank of brigadier general, Robert Jamison replied, "I'm a little envious because he made it and I didn't. But really, I'm just very proud. As a parent you always hope your kids do better than you did, and he has done that."

Brig. Gen. Jamison is a command pilot with more than 3,800 total fighter hours in the A-7D and F-16C aircraft. He has more than 125 combat hours in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Northern Watch and Operation Southern Watch.

What does Brig. Gen. Jamison see for his future as the chief of staff? "I have focused a lot of my career on accomplishing our federal mission. I'm looking forward as the chief of staff to focus more now on our state mission and the joint missions of the Army and Air National Guard," said Jamison.

SD Army Guard has new assistant adjutant general

SONG Public Affairs Office

RAPID CITY – Brig. Gen. Craig D. Johnson is the new assistant adjutant general for the South Dakota Army National Guard.

A Transfer of Authority ceremony took place between Johnson and the outgoing assistant adjutant general, Brig. Gen. Jeffrey P. Marlette, at the Joint Force Headquarters on Camp Rapid in Rapid City Oct. 13.

As the assistant adjutant general, Johnson is responsible to the South Dakota National Guard's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, for strategic planning, strength management, troop readiness and mobilization support of the state's nearly 3,300 Army National Guard Soldiers.

Johnson, of Rapid City, replaces Marlette, who served in the position since April of 2011. Marlette, of New Underwood, will retire from the Guard after 32 years of service to the state and nation.

"I want to thank Brig. Gen. Marlette for his exemplary service and the great job he did serving as the assistant adjutant general. He is truly an outstanding leader, tremendous manager and fearless advisor," said Reisch, during the ceremony. "I have great trust and confidence in our new assistant adjutant general, and I wish Gen. Johnson the very best in this new position."

"Thank you, General Reisch, for this opportunity to work with you in this position, it has been an absolute pleasure," said Marlette. "It has been an honor to be a member of this organization and a greater honor to work with all the great Soldiers of the South Dakota Army National Guard. I wish General Johnson the best of luck, and I know you are all in good hands."

During the ceremony, Johnson was promoted from the rank of colonel to brigadier general.

"Serving one's country is a noble calling, and I believe among life's greatest work. Therefore, this promotion is a new beginning, a rebirth of my commitment to work and serve my country with a renewed spirit," said Johnson. "I look forward to the responsibility of my continued service in this great organization."

Johnson began his military service by enlisting in his hometown Guard unit in



Photo by Staff Sgt. Charles Butler

Craig D. Johnson is promoted to the rank of brigadier general and pinned by his two sons, John, left, and Joshua, during a Transfer of Authority ceremony Oct. 13, at the Joint Force Headquarters, Camp Rapid.

Platte in 1976. He received his commission through the Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Ga., in 1977. Johnson's command assignments include serving as the commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 12th Engineer Battalion, 8th Infantry Division in Dexhlem, Germany, and as the battalion commander of the 109th Engineer Battalion. Johnson is a combat veteran, having led the 109th in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from January to August 2003.

Johnson began his full-time career with the South Dakota Army National Guard as the training technician for the 137th Engineer Battalion, where he also served as the administrative officer. He then went on to serve as the state equal employment manager and an administrative officer for the 109th Engineer Group. Upon his return from Operation Iraqi Freedom, Johnson was assigned as the deputy chief of staff for information management. He later attended the United States Army War College, and upon his return, was reassigned as the deputy chief of staff for information management. Johnson was then appointed as the United States Property and Fiscal Officer for South



Photo by Staff Sgt. Charles Butler

The new assistant adjutant general for the SDARNG, Brig. Gen. Craig D. Johnson, speaks during a Transfer of Authority ceremony Oct. 13.

Dakota in March 2008, where he served until Sept. 30, 2012.

"My successful career isn't really about my success; it is more about the hard working and dedicated noncommissioned officers, warrant officers and officers that have made up the great National Guard units that I have served in during my career," said Johnson. "These are the individuals that were dedicated to making National Guard units and their members successful in all missions."

Welcome home Soldiers

The 842nd Engineer Company returns after a yearlong deployment

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



Sgt. Scott Bleeker, of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 842nd Engineer Company, is reunited with his daughter, Kora, 1, Sept. 27 at the Donald E. Young Center in Spearfish.

Soldiers of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 842nd Engineer Company arrived back in the Black Hills Sept. 27 after completing a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

A welcome home ceremony was held in their honor at the Donald E. Young Center at Black Hills State University in Spearfish, where more than 1,500 family members, friends and community supporters gathered to greet them, including Gov. Dennis Daugaard, Sen. John Thune, Rep. Kristi Noem, Spearfish Mayor Jerry Krambeck, Sturgis Mayor Mark Carstensen, Belle Fourche Mayor Gary Hendrickson and Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, the adjutant general of the SDNG.

"Today is a day to enjoy life, to be glad to be back together with your family and friends and to enjoy each other's company," said Daugaard. "We are so proud of you. Welcome home to all of you and we are glad you are back safe and sound."

"Thank you, 842nd, for what you have done for our state and for what you continue to do for our communities and our country. We are all blessed by your service," said Thune.

The 160 members of the Spearfish, Belle Fourche and Sturgis-based unit deployed in September 2011 with a mission to provide horizontal construction and engineering support. Equipped with bulldozers, scrapers, cranes, loaders and 20-ton dump trucks, the unit built and maintained roads, constructed base force protection measures and provided limited clearing operations.

While on deployment, the 842nd partnered with Afghan Army soldiers to train them on engineering techniques, worked alongside coalition partner nations such as Norway,

Poland and Germany for various operations, conducted missions at 58 different locations throughout Afghanistan and completed 123 operations. The total value of all their engineering efforts totaled \$21 million.

The unit also completed 275 miles of road construction and improvements, traveled 16,000 convoy miles, completed more than 373,000 cubic yards of cut and fill, maintained 445 pieces of equipment, and was awarded 247 medals for their accomplishments.

"We had a highly successful deployment," said Capt. Allen Godsell, 842nd commander. "The Soldiers remained focused, they remained diligent and they got the job done time after time. It speaks volumes to the quality of Soldiers before you and to the dedication they have to doing the job right."

"It's quite remarkable the accomplishments of the unit over that year's time," said Thune. "The efficiency, the professionalism, the skill, the courage with which you have done your jobs is a great tribute to not only you and your families but also to our state and country, and I cannot tell you how grateful we all are for your service."



Parker Campbell, 3, waits for her dad, Spc. Daniel Campbell, of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 842nd Engineer Company, Sept. 27 at the Donald E. Young Center in Spearfish. Soldiers of the 842nd arrived back in the Black Hills after completing a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The Spearfish, Belle Fourche and Sturgis-based unit deployed in September 2011 with a mission to provide horizontal construction and engineering support.



Sgt. Colin Nelson, of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 842nd Engineer Company, embraces his father, Steven Nelson, a Chief Warrant Officer 3 in the SDARNG and a member of the Patriot Guard, at the Rapid City Airport, Sept. 27.



Gov. Dennis Daugaard welcomes home Spc. Tyrel Boettcher, a Sturgis native and member of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 842nd Engineer Company, at the Donald E. Young Center in Spearfish, Sept. 27.



Sgt. Corbin Peterson, his wife, Krista, and daughter, Blakeley, 15 months, reunite at the Donald E. Young Center in Spearfish, Sept. 27.

Firefighters and aviation Soldiers return home

Story by Sgt. Jacqueline Fitzgerald
SDNG Public Affairs Office

The South Dakota Army National Guard welcomed home six Soldiers from Detachment 48, Operational Support Airlift Command, Aug. 22 at the Army Aviation Support Facility near the Rapid City Regional Airport, after completing a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Rapid City-based unit deployed in August 2011 with a mission to provide aerial surveillance in support of ground forces. Det. 48 is a fixed-wing aviation unit comprised of pilots and operations specialists, which operate the C-12 King Air.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard, Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, the adjutant general of the SDNG and Rapid City Mayor Sam Kooiker were featured speakers at the ceremony.

This was the second mobilization for Det. 48, having deployed to Afghanistan for seven months in 2008.

Two weeks later, on Sept. 7, seven Soldiers from the SDARNG's 451st Engineer Detachment (Firefighting Team) returned home after completing a one-year tour to Afghanistan in support of OEF.

A welcome home ceremony was held in their honor and nearly 200 family members and friends gathered at the Duke Corning Armory in Rapid City for their arrival.

The Sturgis-based 451st deployed in September 2011 and provided structural fire protection of bases in Marmal, Afghanistan. This was the unit's first deployment.

Daugaard and Reisch were featured speakers at the ceremony and commended the Soldiers for a job well done.

"We're glad you're back, not only so you can come back to the way of life we're so lucky to have here in America, but because we know you're safe," said Daugaard. "Whether training Afghans or working with other firefighters from other states or other countries, we're very proud of what you did."


While deployed, the 451st responded to 21 emergency and non-emergency calls for aid, provided fire and life safety evaluations, assisted in a flood relief operation, trained with German forces and trained Afghan National Army soldiers on firefighting techniques.

"The South Dakota National Guard has a tremendous legacy that goes back over 150 years. Each of our units that goes off carries that legacy with them," said Reisch. "The 451st has done its part to maintain and extend the legacy. Thank you for what you've done and welcome home."

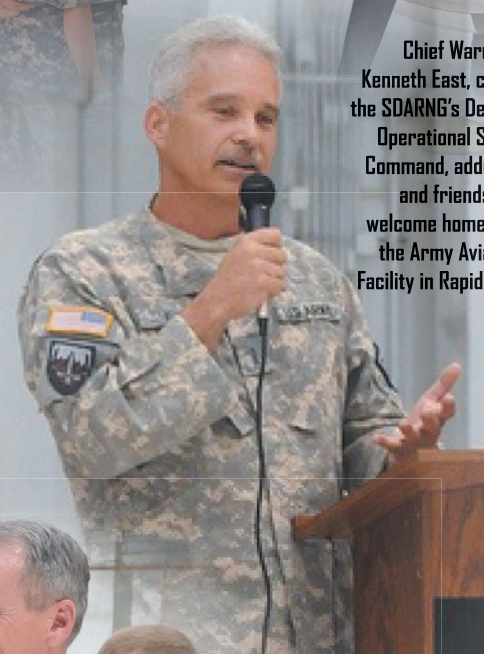
BELOW: The seven Soldiers of the 451st Engineer Detachment (Firefighting Team).

Photo by Sgt. Jacqueline Fitzgerald






Chief Warrant Officer 2 William Preston shows his niece, Allie Baker, 3, the propeller of the C-12 aircraft after the SDARNG's Detachment 48, Operational Support Airlift Command's welcome home ceremony at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Rapid City, Aug. 22.



Chief Warrant Officer 5 Kenneth East, commander of the SDARNG's Detachment 48, Operational Support Airlift Command, addresses family and friends during their welcome home ceremony at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Rapid City, Aug. 22.



Gov. Dennis Daugaard shakes the hand of Sgt. 1st Class Randall McCann, a member of the SDARNG's Detachment 48, Operational Support Airlift Command, during the unit's welcome home ceremony at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Rapid City, Aug. 22.

Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen

Sioux Falls Airshow

Story by Staff Sgt. Trisha Smeenk
114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

The 114th Fighter Wing hosted more than 100,000 people at Joe Foss Field during the Sioux Falls Airshow 2012 in July. Military members, their family members and friends, and community members endured skyrocketing temperatures of more than 100 degrees during the “Power on the Prairie” airshow.

Every three years, visitors travel from across the state and nation to witness some of the world’s most advanced aircraft on display and in the sky at the Sioux Falls Airshow. Hot weather did not deter fans from driving from as far as 10 hours away to attend the event.

Not only were 114th Fighter Wing members’ eyes in the sky, but their morale was sky high as well. This is because during the airshow, unit members also participated in their annual Family Day activities. This is a rare day every year when unit members are allowed to bring their family members to work with them.

Staff Sgt. Stahl, 114th Logistics Readiness Squadron, brought his sons, Prestyn and Peirce, as well as his parents, Jean and Tyrone Stahl, to enjoy the event.

“It was a blast,” said Stahl. “I think it gives our families an appreciation for what we do. I got to give a tour to my two boys and my mom and dad. My dad said he liked the Harrier the best.”

Under the watchful eye of their grandfather, Stahl’s two boys played on the ground with small toy airplanes depicting F-16s while the real ones buzzed overhead.

Master Sgt. Christopher Stewart said this is what Family Day at the airshow is all about.

“When Family Day is combined with an airshow, it gives us a chance to really show off for our families, and they see the Air Force at its best,” said Stewart.

For the past nine years, Stewart has traveled across the state from Rapid City to attend unit training assemblies. Because of the great distance, he said, his family doesn’t often get the chance to visit the base. He was grateful for the opportunity to bring his family along this time.

“Family Day gives them an excuse to come down with me for the weekend to see where I work and what I do,” explained Stewart. “This creates understanding and support from my family, which is extremely important for me. Without their support and understanding, leaving for my Guard job would be much more stressful.”

Nikki Wager, 114th Fighter Wing Airman and Family Program manager, focuses on getting troops as well as their families prepared for the challenges of today’s military. She says Family Day is a way to boost morale among not only military members, but their families as well.

“Families play a vital part in making our base a success. Without them, our military members would not be able to focus on their mission. Our Family Day is another way that we can get our families out to the base so that they can understand what their military member does on a day-to-day basis,” explained Wager.

While Wager spends her days worrying about Airman well-being, most Airmen are only worried about their family’s well-being. Stewart was grateful his son had the time of his life during Family Day at the airshow.

“I do know that we don’t have to put on an airshow for the families to have fun. According to my four-year-old son Parker, his favorite activities were riding on the school bus onto the base, jumping in the bouncy castle and eating a snow cone. He could have cared less about the incredible flight demonstrations occurring just overhead,” joked Stewart.

The incredible flight demonstrations may have been over the head of a four-year-old, but that’s exactly what fans were able to see. Onlookers watched more than 12 demonstrations of airpower while spending time with the ones they love.

As the F-22 Raptor displayed its state-of-the-art combat fighter design, the P-38 Lightning took to the sky and flew alongside it in a heritage flight to remind us of our nation’s strength in 1942, as well as today. Patriotic music played in the background as the announcers reminded us of why we were free to enjoy the day.

When the airplane noise got quieter in the distance, the announcers and patriotic music were able to be heard again. This demonstration embodied the power of the United States military and was what people had come to see. Despite the melting heat, people got goose bumps watching the power in the sky.



Suriname, SD women making strides

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

Women from the South Dakota Army and Air National Guard recently traveled to the South American country of Suriname, as part of National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program, to take part in a 'Women in the Military' workshop with women from the Suriname armed forces.

Ms. Danielle Vierra, deputy director of Suriname's Ministry of Defense, kicked off the workshop by welcoming approximately 70 women serving in Suriname's armed forces and four from the South Dakota Army and Air National Guard, saying it was "a day that we have been waiting for, a day that women can come forward and talk about the issues that concern them."

Vierra, who was the first woman to serve as advisor to the commander of Suriname's armed forces, told the women, "There is a season to sow, there is a season to water, and there is a season to harvest. It took time to plant some seedlings in the ground; it took time to water them, but we cannot harvest yet. But we are here today, and we see the blossoms on the tree. We need to work now so that we can harvest.

"Let's take the opportunity for the next two days to discuss with our friends from South Dakota the issues that we have in common and what we have not," Vierra said. "They have started earlier in their process, so we can learn from them, and when it's time, we can harvest good fruits: women in the military in Suriname."

South Dakota Air National Guard Lt. Col. Mary Rysavy, inspector general, began the first day with presentations from the South Dakota delegation with a brief history of women in the U.S. military, the barriers and restrictions that they have overcome and some that they still face.

"I think it really brought to light that a lot of the issues that women face in the military are universal," Rysavy said. "We are all just at different points in how close we are to getting to the optimal balance."

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Sandi Trohkimoinen, legal administrator in the South Dakota Army National Guard, next shared recent progress within the U.S. military for women.

"Within the last two years, the Pentagon has announced that it is opening 14,000 positions to women that were previously exclusive to males," Trohkimoinen said. "In May, the Army opened six combat support military occupational specialties to women and in July, the Army announced the first female was recruited to serve in a combat support role."

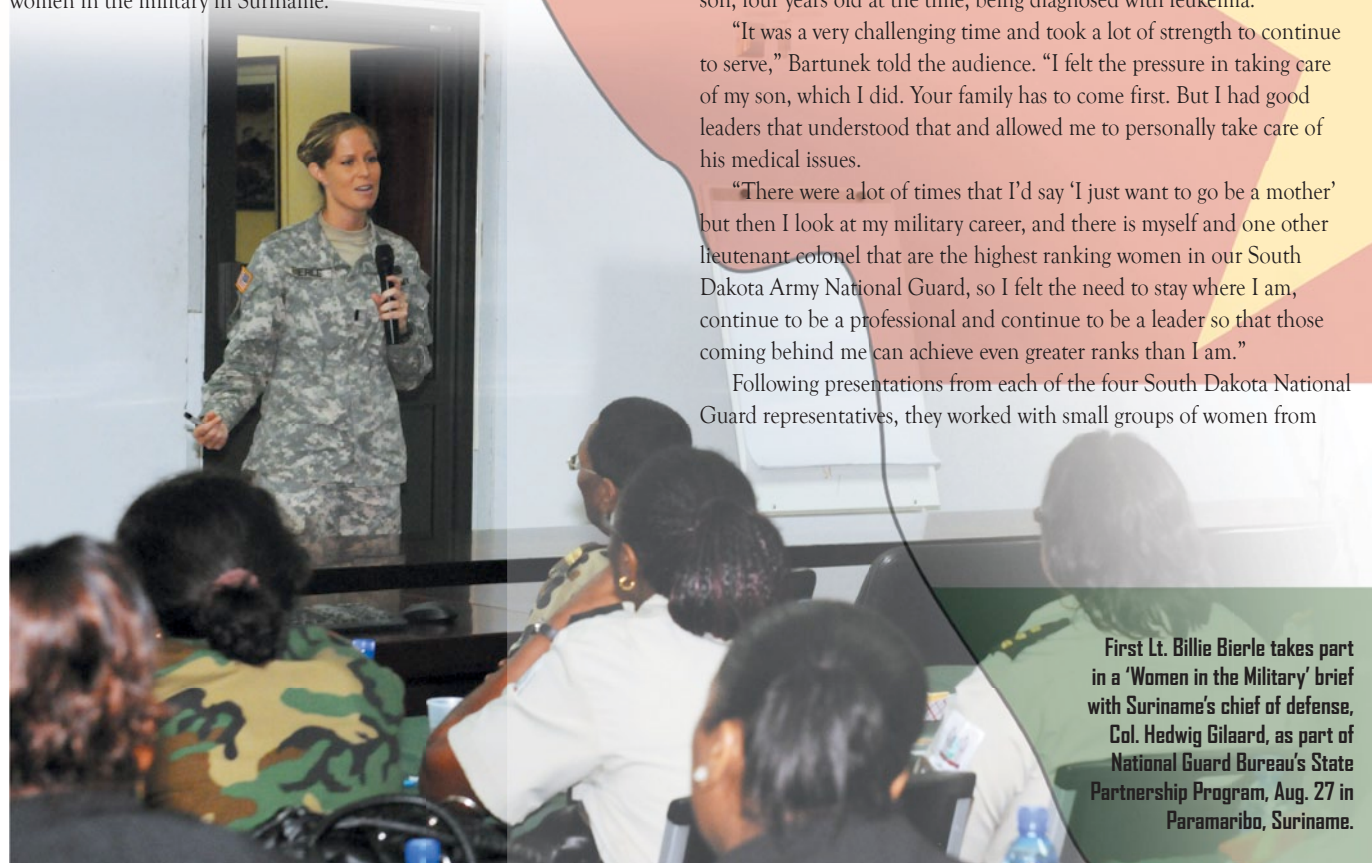
South Dakota Army National Guard 1st Lt. Billie Bierle, specialty branch officer for the 109th Regional Support Group, shared personal experiences as a woman serving in the National Guard. She spoke of being a woman deployed with an engineer company, being the wife of a deployed Soldier and being a mother in the military.

Lt. Col. Deb Bartunek, deputy director for the SDNG deputy chief of staff for personnel, also shared her experiences, including being married to a Soldier and her mobilization experience, which included her oldest son, four years old at the time, being diagnosed with leukemia.

"It was a very challenging time and took a lot of strength to continue to serve," Bartunek told the audience. "I felt the pressure in taking care of my son, which I did. Your family has to come first. But I had good leaders that understood that and allowed me to personally take care of his medical issues.

"There were a lot of times that I'd say 'I just want to go be a mother' but then I look at my military career, and there is myself and one other lieutenant colonel that are the highest ranking women in our South Dakota Army National Guard, so I felt the need to stay where I am, continue to be a professional and continue to be a leader so that those coming behind me can achieve even greater ranks than I am."

Following presentations from each of the four South Dakota National Guard representatives, they worked with small groups of women from



First Lt. Billie Bierle takes part in a 'Women in the Military' brief with Suriname's chief of defense, Col. Hedwig Gilaard, as part of National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program, Aug. 27 in Paramaribo, Suriname.

Suriname, allowing them time to ask questions and discuss their concerns about women's equality in the Suriname armed forces.

"We had a chance to talk about some of our struggles and some of our strengths regarding women in the military in the United States," said Bierle. "Perhaps more importantly, though, we were able to simply listen to their concerns and let them know that they're not alone."

A wide variety of topics were discussed, but the primary focus was on equal opportunity when it comes to positions and education opportunities.

"Women in Suriname's military are restricted from holding any job where certain strength is needed, such as infantry, maintenance, heavy equipment operators and truck drivers," said 1st Lt. Gwendoline Babel, human resource officer for Suriname's deputy director. "Women are also not deployed."

The fact that Suriname's women are not allowed to work in the infantry field was discussed at length.

"The infantry is the place where you can make a career," said Babel. "In the administration and logistics professions, positions and rank are limited, but in the infantry you can become a colonel, the commander of the armed forces. We find our careers cut short because we cannot become a lieutenant colonel or a colonel. That is why we are so passionate about having opportunities in the infantry."

Sexual assault and harassment were also common topics brought up throughout the two days of discussion.

"They want to write and start to implement a sexual harassment and assault policy," said Bartunek. "I told them we can give them the foundation that we have used, but they would need to make it unique to their culture."

"We've been through the growing pains; we still go through some of them, so to be able to provide support and give them some of the tools they need to move forward and make their organization a better one is exciting."

On the second day of the workshop, a woman from each small group briefed Suriname's minister of defense, Lamure Latour, and chief of defense, Col. Hedwig Gilaard, in front of their peers about their concerns.

Lt. Col. John Weber, SDNG State Partnership Program director, said the two days will serve as a springboard to formulate policy.

"Suriname's Ministry of Defense asked specifically for this workshop," Weber said. "Their leadership was also very open to adding a follow-up event. They would like to use these exchanges to develop and formulate policies on women's issues going forward."

"It was a great opportunity to get together and talk freely about these things," said Babel. "We don't expect big changes right away, but small ones. We need to take one step at a time."

"We hope that we gave them a foundation to start with, encouragement to keep pushing forward and encouragement to be patient," Bierle said. "They may not reap the benefits but the soldiers coming in after them will, and they will pave the way for future generations because that's what our women did for us."

Participants concluded the two days by speaking of the valuable partnership between Suriname and South Dakota.

"I want to thank the U.S. government and South Dakota's leadership for having a State Partnership Program," said Babel. "If it wasn't for this program, we wouldn't be having this conference or these discussions."



Lt. Col. Deb Bartunek, deputy director for the SDNG deputy chief of staff for personnel, takes part in a 'Women in the Military' brief with Suriname's Chief of Defense, Col. Hedwig Gilaard as part of National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program, Aug. 27 in Paramaribo, Suriname.

"There were a lot of times that I'd say 'I just want to go be a mother' but then I look at my military career and there is myself and one other lieutenant colonel that are the highest ranking women in our South Dakota Army National Guard, so I felt the need to stay where I am, continue to be a professional and continue to be a leader so that those coming behind me can achieve even greater ranks than I am."

- Lt. Col. Deb Bartunek

National Guard offers affordable lodging and more

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

Whether you are serving in the Guard or Reserve, on active duty, or enjoying retired life, the South Dakota National Guard's Army Lodging Program is a service you can take advantage of. If you're planning a trip to the Black Hills or Sioux Falls area, take a look at the accommodations and savings the Army Lodging Program can provide you with.

Camp Rapid

Army Lodging at Camp Rapid is centrally located in the Black Hills with 32 semi-private and two private rooms. The private rooms offer two rooms, a bedroom and a setting room with a fold out sofa-sleeper. Each room has cable television and wi-fi.

Camp Rapid also offers Distinguished Visitors Quarters, available to all E9's, CW5's, O6 and above and to both state and out-of-state dignitaries. DVQ rooms have a kitchen, which includes a microwave, fridge and sink, dining table and a seating area to accompany a spacious bed/bath.

Hundreds of Black Hills area tourist attractions, including Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse, are located within a short drive from the Army Lodging at Camp Rapid.

Fort Meade

Army Lodging at Fort Meade, located east of Sturgis and just six miles off Interstate 90, offers 35 semi-private rooms and 20 private rooms with full-size bath, cable television, refrigerators and high-speed Internet.

Army Lodging at Fort Meade is perfect for visitors to the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, Devils Tower or historic Lead/Deadwood, or visiting the Black Hills for shopping, gambling, skiing or snowmobiling. For those traveling on business, the Fort Meade Veterans Hospital is within walking distance and a short commute to Camp Rapid and Ellsworth Air Force Base.

Sioux Falls

Army Lodging in Sioux Falls offers 20 semi-private and 20 private rooms with cable television, high-speed Internet and refrigerators.

Army Lodging in Sioux Falls is convenient to many area attractions including the Sioux Falls Convention Center, the Sioux Falls Arena and the Great Plains Zoo and less than a four-mile drive to Sioux Falls Regional Airport.

Cost:

Semi-Private	\$32/night
Private	\$34/night
DVQ	\$38/night

For Reservations:

Camp Rapid & Fort Meade..... (605) 737-6626
Sioux Falls..... (605) 357-2845
Email: john.e.adkins@us.army.mil



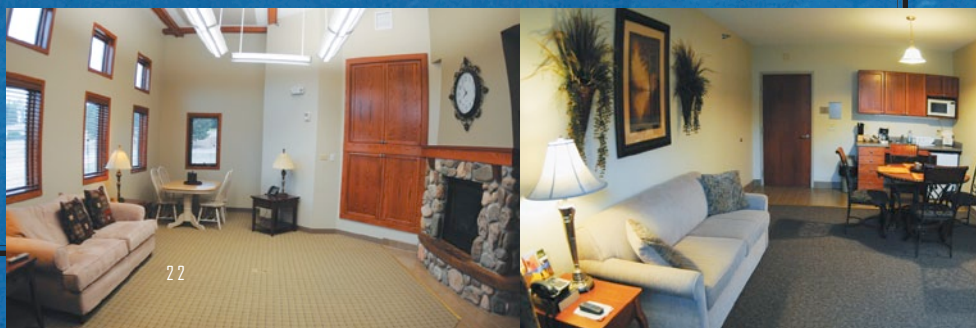
Semi-Private



Private



Distinguished Visitor Quarters



Facility Rental Program

Accommodations are not limited to lodging. Through the South Dakota National Guard's Army Rental Program, facilities may be rented for individual and organizational use. Facilities include billers, classrooms, dining facilities and kitchens, firing ranges, armory space and rental units.



89 bays

BILLETING: Camp Rapid has 89 bays, 40 semi-private rooms and six private rooms, totaling 984 beds.

Fort Meade has eight bays totaling 160 beds.

Sioux Falls has 10 bays totaling 216 beds.

CLASSROOMS: Numerous classrooms with various levels of information technology support are available ranging in size from small groups of 18 or fewer to larger auditorium-style spaces accommodating up to 120 individuals.



18-seat classroom



49 semi-private room

DINING FACILITIES AND KITCHENS: Camp Rapid maintains two dining facilities complete with modern commercial-style kitchens which can accommodate up to 163 diners at one time.

FIRING RANGES: Camp Rapid, De Smet, Flandreau, Mitchell and Vermillion are home to South Dakota National Guard indoor pistol ranges. Targets can be run out in one-foot increments up to 25 meters via a mechanical rail system controlled at each station individually or by the range operator simultaneously.

West Camp Rapid, Mitchell, Pierre and Watertown have outdoor, 25 to 50-meter firing ranges with 22-24 firing positions at each location.



Indoor pistol range

ADDITIONAL HOUSING

WEST CAMP RAPID: There are two houses to rent. A two bedroom, one-and-a-half bath or a four-bedroom, two-bath complete with a full kitchen, dining area, living room and covered porch is available for private get-a-ways and special events. Table ware, pots/pans and dishwasher and clothes washer are provided.

CAMP RAPID: Building 250 is a five-bedroom ranch-style home with walk-out basement and two half-baths. It is complete with a kitchen, dining area and living room. Tableware, pots/pans and washer and dryer are provided.

For additional information on pricing or to make reservations:
 Billering: (605) 737-6957



Dining facility



120-seat auditorium

Classrooms
 Dining facilities
 Ranges
 Armory space
 Rentals: (605) 737-6957
 Email: heath.huehl@us.army.mil

Additional housing



SNAPSHOTS



Photo by Maj. Anthony Deiss



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Nancy Ausland



Courtesy photo



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Nancy Ausland

TOP LEFT: SDARNG 109th Regional Support Group Soldier Maj. Kevin Huxford scrapes paint as Sgt. Lyn Waldie paints trim for a home project during the United Way's Day of Caring in Rapid City, S.D., Sept. 6.

BOTTOM LEFT: SOUTHWEST ASIA – Secretary of the Air Force Michael B. Donley visits with members of the South Dakota Air National Guard's 114th Security Forces Squadron during a recent visit to Southwest Asia Aug. 24.

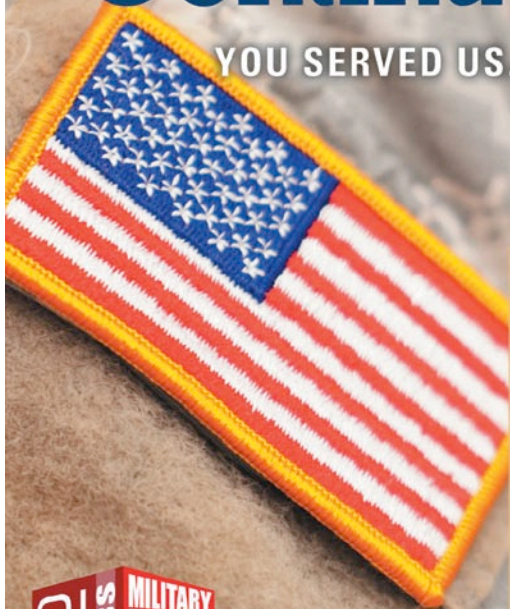
TOP RIGHT: Members of the SDARNG's Detachment 1, 740th Transportation Company, of Aberdeen, participate in the 26.2-mile march during the 9th annual Veterans Honor March, Sept. 22, in the Black Hills of South Dakota. The team is wearing shirts to honor their former platoon sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class Paul Gruener, who passed away in a farming accident several months ago.

MIDDLE RIGHT: Crewmembers with Worldwide Aircraft Recovery, Ltd. load an F-16A static display aircraft in preparation for its transport from Joe Foss Field, S.D., to Tyndall AFB, Fla., Sept. 13. The aircraft, which has been on display at the SDANG base since 2001, it is being transferred to the 1st Air Force Headquarters for display in front of the Killey Center for Homeland Operations.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Gen. Mike Hostage, commander of Air Combat Command, and Brig. Gen. Wayne Shanks, SDANG assistant adjutant general, listen as Tech. Sgt. Nathan Blom, 114th Maintenance Group pneudraulics systems mechanic, explains functions of the Eaton Leonard tube bending machine.

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**Military Times Edge magazine.



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