

DAKOTA PACK

MAGAZINE OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD • SPRING 2015

DOD SALUTES SD GUARD FAMILY READINESS PROGRAM



Department of Defense
2014 Reserve Family Readiness Award
presented to
1742nd Transportation Company
Army National Guard



» DEPLOYMENTS

- Army aviation unit prepares for Afghanistan deployment
- Army engineers, members of 196th MEB to deploy to Kuwait

» TRAINING

- SD Guard, Suriname military train in riot, crowd control
- Soldiers take part in unique strength training

» ACHIEVEMENTS

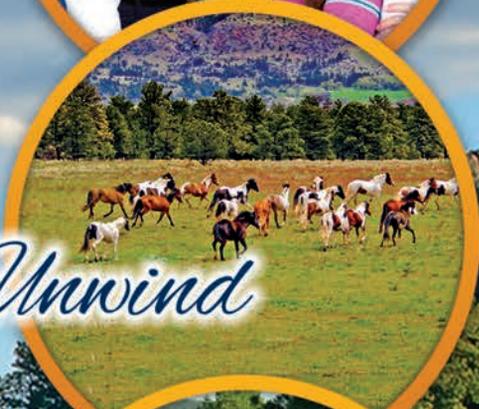
- SD Soldier awarded Medal for Valor
- SDARNG appoints new state command sergeant major



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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: ng.sd.sdarng.list.pao@mail.mil, 605.737.6721. 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 - The South Dakota Army National Guard's 1742nd Transportation Company received the Department of Defense 2014 Reserve Family Readiness Award Feb. 27 at the Pentagon. (Photo by illustration by Maj. Anthony Deiss)





MESSAGE FROM THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

As I type these words on my laptop computer in a Washington, D.C., hotel on the cusp of four days of TAG meetings I will attend to deal with the important issues that the National Guard faces now and in the years ahead. On the flight here, I couldn't help but think that this will be yet another week that Anne will be stuck

with all of the household duties, and Taylor will be without her dad.

Family members of National Guard Soldiers and Airmen have been carrying an extra load for this nation since the first muster, which occurred in the year 1636. Since 9/11, over 7,000 South Dakota National Guard families have watched their loved ones deploy to combat zones far, far away – in many cases for more than a year. Having to endure this is a true test of love and devotion, and a demonstration of patriotism experienced by a very small fraction of America's families. I will never forget the year that Anne and I attended the family support group meetings in Madison while our sons, Tim and Trevor, were deployed with the 211th Engineer Company. The family volunteers were awesome! They kept us informed of so many important details all year long. They organized wonderful activities for the children who would grow a year older while their loved one was away.

I want to personally thank every family member who has ever volunteered to help lead a unit's family program. Your efforts truly provide great value to many grateful National Guard families. Later this week, I will watch with pride as the 1742nd Transportation Company's Family Readiness Group receives the award for being the top Army National Guard FRG in the nation during a ceremony at the Pentagon. I want to personally congratulate Christine Krogman for everything she did for the families during the 1742nd's deployment overseas.

Remarkably, this marks the third consecutive year that a South Dakota Family Readiness Group has been selected for this prestigious award. (The 235th Military Police Company and 842nd Engineer Company were the previous winners.) All three winning nomination packets were prepared by Lynn Wright, who has been a truly outstanding advocate for our families for decades. Her knowledge of family programs and passion for helping those in need are unmatched.

I want to congratulate State Command Sgt. Maj. Susan Shoe on her retirement from the SDNG. She did a terrific job as the SCSM and will be sorely missed. Congratulations to CSM Jim Hoekman for being selected as the next state command sergeant major. He has an impressive resume and I am confident he will lead the enlisted corps of the SDARNG with distinction.

It was an honor to be on stage as Larry Zimmerman was presented the

Williamson Militiaman Award during the 31st Annual Legislative Dining Out in Pierre. Larry had an outstanding Guard career spanning many years, culminating as state command sergeant major. Since assuming the position of secretary of Veterans Affairs he's continued to work hard for our National Guard veterans. He is truly deserving of that coveted award.

Congratulations are also in order for the Hilmoe family for being selected as winners of the Adjutant General's Family Award. The remarkable efforts you have logged in supporting the 114th Fighter Wing make you most deserving of this honor. I also want to congratulate the Minnehaha County Sheriff's Department and my friend, Sheriff Mike Milstead, for being awarded the Pro Patria Award from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. Without the great support we receive from our families and employers we cannot perform our mission.

Earlier this week, I was made aware of a situation involving one of our Soldiers who abruptly stopped coming to drill. Unit members had difficulty making contact with him because he didn't want to drill anymore but didn't want to talk them about it. This Soldier had previously deployed and had always performed well, but then for some reason things changed. With drill absences piling up and the Soldier avoiding contact, the unit was left with no choice but to begin processing the Soldier's discharge. What the unit did not know, was that the Soldier was struggling with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and that he had been receiving treatment from the VA. This piece of information was a game changer for unit personnel, because it allowed them to finally understand what was really going on so they could properly fulfill their responsibilities to the Soldier. This Soldier had incurred wounds during his deployment that were invisible to his unit because they were psychological wounds, not physical ones. We have a solemn duty to work extra hard to determine the root causes of changes in behavior that are uncharacteristic of our members' normal persona. It may feel very unnatural, even improper, to talk to friends and family members about the personal lives of our Soldiers and Airmen. However, oftentimes they are the only ones who know what is really going on. Though I have said many times that asking for help to deal with feelings of hopelessness is a sign of strength, not weakness, doing so is easier said than done.

As I wrote in my last column, it is my policy that first-line supervisors in every one of our units spend some one-on-one time during every drill to visit privately and make sure their troops are okay. Our chaplains and leadership at all levels have been trained to recognize the signs of depression and where to go to for help. I rely on every Soldier and Airman in this great organization to pay close attention to their buddies and to have the courage to ask the hard questions if you suspect someone is experiencing behavioral health problems.

As always, I want to thank all of the Soldiers, Airmen, family members and employers of the SDNG for everything you do to make our organization so great. This state and nation are forever in your debt.

Sincerely,

Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch
The Adjutant General



MESSAGE FROM

THE STATE COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

Effective February 2015, I began serving as the South Dakota Army National Guard's new state command sergeant major. This organization has a history of great leadership and I will continue that history as your ninth state command sergeant major. I am humbled to have the opportunity to take care of the SDARNG's Soldiers,

and pledge to be a 360 degree leader. I will lead south to the Soldiers under my care, I will lead north by influencing those with authority over me, I will lead east and west impacting my peers, but most importantly I will stay humble yet vigilant while ensuring my own moral compass needle is centered.

We talk about getting back to the basics, and I believe if we all lived by the Soldiers Creed we would be in a very good place. It is a template for what to do, which incorporate the Army Values and Warrior Ethos. These principles define who Soldiers are and who they aspire to become as individuals and as part of a team - the foundation of our organization.

I have been in the SDARNG since December 1985. Throughout my career, I've served in the 200th Engineer Company (Platte), the 1742nd Transportation Company, to include a deployment with them March 2003-June 2004, as an OCS instructor and TAC NCO at the 196th RTI, the first sergeant of the 727th and 740th Transportation Companies, the 139th BSB command sergeant major, to include another deployment in Iraq and Kuwait from June 2011-April 2012, and was the 109th RSG command sergeant major from April 2012-February 2015. I am proud to be a traditional Soldier who has ensured my moral compass was at center throughout my career in order to achieve key leadership roles in the SDARNG.

Along with my military career, I've worked up to the rank of captain at the Minnehaha Sheriff's Office in Sioux Falls. I have worked there for 24 years and have served as a patrol deputy, DARE instructor, SWAT team operator, K9 handler, field training officer and coordinator, patrol sergeant, patrol lieutenant, and am currently attending the FBI National Academy Section #259. I hold a bachelor's degree in Sociology and Criminal Justice through

SDSU. I am very proud to be a founding member of the state's southeast region Incident Management Team.

As a traditional Soldier, I understand how demanding our National Guard positions can be and the difficulties we face prioritizing a civilian job and family commitments as well. I want to thank you for your service and commitment to the Guard and your Guard family.

Getting back to basic Soldier responsibilities will help us maintain our strength and unit camaraderie. Not only by living by the Warrior Ethos and Army Values, but by using a standards-based approach to remove barriers and give every Soldier the opportunity to serve in any position where they are capable of performing to the standard. Our budget has been cut and most likely will continue to go down. Leaders need to think outside the box in order to ensure combat readiness is a priority. Are you in a unit that would benefit from drilling in August instead of the winter months? Are commanders allowing leaders to conduct mandatory briefings as part of their Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills? Keep safety, standards and discipline in mind, but ensure you make training fun as well as relevant. Soldiers joined to be part of a group and to work the job they are trained for; so let them.

Leaders, we have training aids available to help make your training more fun, which is what the Soldiers want and need. Some of you may not realize that Fort Riley has a training aids catalog you are able to use and order items that help support realistic training, as well as incorporate unit esprit de corps. Have your trainers work with the J3 and find out what's available to help you bring that excitement back to drill weekends. Recently, Sgt. 1st Class Cal Christie signed for snowshoes and skis in order to conduct winter survival training techniques, while accomplishing other mandatory training. That's thinking outside the box, and the Soldiers appreciate the ability to be challenged as well as have fun. Use the training aids to help you build that camaraderie in your units again.

Maintain open and honest communication, be supportive and loyal to each other, know your role, and trust each other with mutual respect. Soldiers need to trust their leaders, so leaders need to ensure partnerships and relationships are built and we reinforce and enhance natural talent, abilities, and aspirations. Be firm, fair and consistent and we will continue to be leaders of the best!

I look forward to visiting units around the state with Brig. Gen. Griese in order to better serve the great Soldiers of this organization.

One Team – One Fight!

SCSM Jim Hoekman

SD AIR NATIONAL GUARD CONGRATULATES AIRMEN OF THE YEAR



Senior Master Sgt. Jeremy J. Lehman



Master Sgt. Shawn L. Greer



Master Sgt. Paul E. Lupkes



Senior Airman Jorrie J.D. Hart

SIOUX FALLS – The South Dakota Air National Guard is pleased to announce its Outstanding First Sergeant, Senior Noncommissioned Officer, Noncommissioned Officer and Airman of the Year for 2014.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING RECIPIENTS:

Outstanding Senior NCO of the Year: Senior Master Sgt. Jeremy J. Lehman, of Luverne, Minnesota, an intelligence superintendent in the 114th Operations Support Squadron.

First Sergeant of the Year: Master Sgt. Shawn L. Greer, of Sioux Falls, first sergeant in the 114th Medical Group.

Outstanding NCO of the Year: Master Sgt. Paul E. Lupkes, of Luverne, Minnesota, noncommissioned officer in charge of plans and programs in the 114th Security Forces Squadron.

Outstanding Airman of the Year: Senior Airman Jorrie J.D. Hart, of Canton, installation controller in the 114th Security Forces Squadron.

The selection board selected Airmen based on their superior leadership, job performance, community involvement and personal achievements.

The 2014 Outstanding Airmen of the Year will represent the 114th Fighter Wing as they compete against other Air National Guard members nationwide to determine the overall Air National Guard Outstanding Airman of the Year.

AVIATION UNIT ALERTED FOR AFGHANISTAN DEPLOYMENT

RAPID CITY – The South Dakota Army National Guard's Detachment 48, Operational Support Airlift Command, received an alert order for possible mobilization to Afghanistan in support of Operations Enduring Freedom.

The Rapid City-based Detachment 48 and its nine assigned members are scheduled for deployment in May.

Detachment 48 is fixed-wing aviation unit comprised of pilots and operations specialists which operate the C-12 King Air. The unit provides airlift support for the National Guard, military departments and federal agencies as scheduled by the OSA Command. The unit's primary mission in theater will be providing aerial surveillance.

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 Det. 48, which deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2008 and 2011-2012.



ARMY ENGINEERS COMPANY TO DEPLOY TO KUWAIT

RAPID CITY – The South Dakota Army National Guard’s 155th Engineer Company received an alert order for possible mobilization to Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The 155th and its 162 assigned members are scheduled for deployment in the August 2015 timeframe. The unit’s headquarters is located in Rapid City with its Detachment 1 in Wagner.

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

The 155th has a wide variety of occupational specialties including carpentry, plumbing, electrical and masonry services.

The unit will report to Fort Bliss, Texas, to complete several weeks of theater-specific training prior to deployment overseas. This will be the second mobilization for the 155th, which deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Noble Eagle in 2002-2003.



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196TH REGIMENT RECEIVES NEW COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

FORT MEADE – Command Sgt. Maj. Todd Grabow, of Hill City, is the new command sergeant major of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) at Fort Meade.

Grabow received responsibility from Command Sgt. Maj. Patrick Couser, of Brookings, at Fort Meade during a change of responsibility ceremony, Dec. 6.

As the command sergeant major of the 196th, Grabow will be responsible for maintaining the unit's standard of excellence by planning and executing the training of the unit's Soldiers, as well as supporting the unit's enlisted personnel.

"I'm lucky, thankful and ready," Grabow said regarding his new position, while addressing a crowd of SDNG senior-ranking officials.

Grabow, a native of Twin Brooks, said his experiences over the last 23 years helped prepare him for his role.

He served as a team leader during a 2003 deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He also served as the first sergeant of the 82nd Civil Support Team in 2009 and worked at the SDNG's Joint Force Headquarters in Rapid City.

"I'd just like to thank Command Sgt. Maj. Couser and those that have built this regiment to what it is today," Grabow said. "I'm standing on their shoulders right now, so I appreciate all the hard work that has been done here."

196TH MEB TO DEPLOY TO KUWAIT

SIOUX FALLS – The South Dakota Army National Guard's 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade has received an alert order for possible mobilization to Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Thirty-nine Soldiers from the Sioux Falls-based unit are scheduled for deployment in the February 2016 timeframe. While in Kuwait, the Soldiers will conduct force protection and security operations.



SD GUARD UNIT NAMED SEMIFINALIST FOR NATIONAL SUPPLY AWARD

RAPID CITY – The U.S. Army announced the South Dakota Army National Guard's Company B, 139th Brigade Support Battalion, as a semifinalist to compete for the Chief of Staff, Army Supply Excellence Award in March.

The award recognizes Army units who demonstrate excellence in supply operations, property accountability and resource management.

The Mitchell-based unit, whose primary purpose is to perform field maintenance for modular brigade combat teams and supporting brigades, will compete Army-wide in the level I, small unit category.

"Accountability is the key to success for any unit, and we are always performing some type of inventory or inspection to make sure that we not only have the correct equipment but that everything is in good working condition," said Staff Sgt. Christopher Johnston, supply NCO.

The next step for the national competition is an onsite inspection scheduled for March 17, where evaluator's from the Army will visit the unit and compare their results to one other National Guard unit and two active duty units, to see firsthand who is most deserving of the supply award.

"To make it this far into the award process is a true reflection to the professionalism and dedication that our Soldiers have in this unit," said Johnston. "I am excited and honored to be one of the top four units in the Army."

Capt. Marvin Miller, Company B commander, said striving to meet the criteria of the SEA helps the unit's readiness level.

"I challenge the Soldiers of my unit to go beyond the standard," said Miller. "When we compete for national awards it serves as the standard and that pushes us to be ready to be called upon by the governor for a state or federal mission at a minute's notice."

The winner of the SEA will be announced at the Chief of Staff, Army Combined Logistics Excellence Award ceremony at the Pentagon, June 10.





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AIRMEN GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

SIoux FALLS – The 114th Fighter Wing Rising Six, formerly called the Junior Enlisted Council, holds a meeting once a month that focuses on supplying leadership opportunities, helping Airmen with professional development and giving back to the local community.

“The mission of the Rising Six is to maintain high morale among our members and to promote stronger relationships between leadership and the families of the enlisted Airmen,” said Staff Sgt. Reggan Labore, 114th FW Rising Six president. “We want to enhance the career and leadership potential of junior enlisted members and promote an avenue of communication to the

wing commander and staff through the council representatives.”

The Rising Six is open to all enlisted members currently assigned to the unit who are technical sergeant and below.

“All participation is completely voluntary and each month about 30-40 Airmen attend the meetings,” said Labore.

The Rising Six aims to prepare today’s Airmen to be tomorrow’s chiefs by reinforcing Air Force core values, improving unit cohesiveness, serving the community and providing leadership opportunities.

“Volunteering and building a presence within the community is huge for us,” said Staff Sgt. Jonathan Leffring, a member of the Rising Six. “It’s important to let the community know that we are here for them and willing to help.”



Members of the Rising Six recently volunteered their time to help serve meals at The Banquet in Sioux Falls. The Banquet specializes in serving food and fellowship to the less fortunate citizens of the city of Sioux Falls and surrounding area.

SD GUARD DELIVERS WINTER CLOTHING TO PEOPLE IN NEED

RAPID CITY – Volunteer members of the South Dakota National Guard delivered about 1,000 winter clothing items statewide in January to help bring warmth to people in need.

The donated clothing, which included coats, mittens, hats, scarves and blankets, were dispersed by Guard members to a variety of social service organizations in the communities in which they serve.

Soldiers and Airmen, as well as members of local communities, dropped off new and gently used items throughout December at National Guard armories and Air Force bases located in 22

South Dakota communities.

This was the first time a winter clothing drive was coordinated by members of the SDNG.

“The response we got back was phenomenal,” said Army Lt. Col. Lynn Wilson, SDNG chaplain. “People’s hearts are generous and they expressed the joy they felt when gathering clothes and distributing to places within their own community. I think this drive was very successful.”

The all-volunteer effort to collect winter clothing items, while not an official function of the National Guard, is a welcome adjunct activity showcasing volunteers’ commitment to serve some of South Dakota’s most needy people.

Chaplain assistant Staff Sgt. Jenna Watkins, who participated in delivering the donations to six organizations in Rapid City, felt the immediate gratification of giving to those in need.

“The positive impact this drive has was



solidified for me as I saw the people who are going to benefit from the donations,” said Watkins. “It feels good to know that we are helping our local community.”

GUARD HOSTS EDUCATIONAL, FUN-FILLED EVENT FOR STUDENTS

STURGIS – Soldiers of the South Dakota Army National Guard partnered with Sturgis Brown High School’s Youth Leadership Team to gain insight into the role of the National Guard in their community during an “I Hate Winter” event in the school’s gym, Jan. 9.

The event gave students an opportunity to speak face to face with members of the National Guard, all while having fun.

“The purpose of this event was to give kids awareness of where we are, who we are and what we have to offer,” said Sgt. 1st Class Eric Kinslow, 881st Troop Command readiness NCO. “We want to show students that Soldiers are human, just like they are.”

The I Hate Winter title was born out of

frustration with the recent bitter cold, said Kinslow.

Students and Soldiers were able to get their mind off of the cold to socialize over a catered lunch and participate in activities such as go-cart races, pugil battles, basketball and bean bag tosses.

Sgt. Shane Steinhour, a recruiter in the Black Hills, reiterated the importance of the event.

“It’s a way for students to learn about what the National Guard does and all of the benefits that come with it,” said Steinhour.

Kinslow said that he hopes I Hate Winter can become an annual event.

“We want to give them options for career paths and let them know exactly what it means to take on the responsibility of being a citizen-Soldier,”



said Kinslow. “This is certainly the best part-time job in South Dakota.”



Members of the SDNG and Suriname National Army practice techniques and procedures on how to react to a riot during an information exchange. (Photo by Maj. Jerime Porter)

SD GUARD, SURINAME MILITARY TRAIN IN RIOT, CROWD CONTROL

By SDNG Public Affairs Office

PARAMARIBO, Suriname – Several members of the South Dakota National Guard’s 235th Military Police Company and 114th Security Forces Squadron traveled to the Republic of Suriname to exchange information on techniques and procedures for crowd and riot control with soldiers from the Suriname National Army, Dec. 10-11.

The purpose of the exchange was to enhance the military police force’s ability to preserve the peace, mitigate disruptions and maintain civil order during a domestic crisis under the direction of civil authority. Focus areas included crowd/riot control methodology and use of non-lethal weapons.

The SDNG Soldiers and Airmen continued to strengthen ties within the region by discussing and demonstrating current U.S. tactics, techniques and procedures with the Suriname soldiers while simultaneously improving their own skills, said Lt. Col. Orson Ward, SDNG’s deputy Directorate of Plans (J5).

“The partnership we have with Suriname provides an excellent opportunity for our Soldiers and Airmen to interact with a foreign military, foster long-lasting relationships and develop their own military skill sets by sharing with others,” said Ward.

The military-to-military exchange of information was conducted as part of the South Dakota-Suriname State Partnership Program. The program supports

U.S. national interests and security cooperation goals by engaging partner nations through military, social, political and economic conduits at the local, state and national level.

The visit to the South American country was an opportunity to reinforce the existing partnership between the SDNG and Suriname military.

“This exchange reinforces our partnership on a very personal and professional level – all participants are looking forward to the next opportunity to work together,” said Ward.

In coordination with U.S. Southern Command, Suriname and South Dakota established a successful security cooperation relationship in 2006 under the National Guard Bureau’s State Partnership Program. Since then, numerous exchanges have taken place between South Dakota and Suriname to share experiences and best practices in a variety of military training.

The program also provides unique capacity-building capabilities to combatant commanders through partnerships between U.S. states and foreign countries.

“Having positive professional and personal relationships within SOUTHCOM’s area of responsibility promotes regional stability and cooperation, which is in the best interest of the United States,” said Ward.

SD ARMY GUARD APPOINTS NEW STATE COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

By SDNG Public Affairs Office

RAPID CITY – The South Dakota Army National Guard appointed a Brandon man to the highest ranking enlisted position in the state during a change of responsibility ceremony Feb. 7, in Pierre.

State Command Sgt. Maj. James Hoekman replaces State Command Sgt. Maj. Susan Shoe as the new state command sergeant major and will now serve as the assistant adjutant general's personal advisor on all enlisted matters for the Army Guard.

“Command Sgt. Maj. Hoekman has a wealth of knowledge and experience that he brings to the position,” said Brig. Gen. Kevin Griese, assistant adjutant general of the SDARNG. “He has served in three major commands within our state. He holds himself to the highest of standards and is very passionate about serving in uniform. I look forward to working with him as he joins the command team for the South Dakota Army National Guard.”

Hoekman becomes the ninth state command sergeant major since the position was first established in the state in 1975.

“The South Dakota Army National Guard has a history of great leadership and I will continue that history in this position,” said Hoekman. “I am humbled to have the opportunity to take care of the Soldiers in the South Dakota Army National Guard.

“I will be a 360 degree leader,” continued Hoekman. “I will lead south to the Soldiers under my care, I will lead north by influencing those with authority over me, I will lead east and west impacting my peers, but most importantly I will stay humble, yet vigilant, while ensuring my own moral compass needle is centered.”

Shoe, a resident of Rapid City, served in the position since February 2013 and retires with more than 25 years of military service – 16 of which was in the National Guard.

“Command Sgt. Maj. Shoe is one of the best noncommissioned officers I have ever worked with,” said Griese, of Shoe’s service. “She was without a doubt the right person, in the right place, at the right time. She did a tremendous job as the state command sergeant major for the South Dakota Army National Guard and will be truly missed.”

“Command Sgt. Maj. Shoe is truly a caring and a professional Soldier and has kept the high standards that have been set for the organization,” added Hoekman. “I appreciate all of her hard work and will continue to move this organization forward.”

“Serving as the state command sergeant major for the last two years afforded me an opportunity only seven others have been honored to accomplish before me,” said Shoe, of her time in the position. “I set a goal to visit Soldiers every opportunity I could, in order to feel the pulse of this organization and make better decisions for everyone. I am grateful to have accomplished that goal.”

Hoekman, who has over 29 years of service in the National Guard, will be responsible for assisting and advising Brig. Gen. Griese, as well as advising the state’s senior enlisted leader, State Command Chief Master Sgt. James Welch, on all Soldier issues that affect the enlisted and NCO Corps within the nearly 3,200 members of the Army Guard.

“We talk about getting back to the basics, and I believe if we all lived by the Soldiers Creed we would be in a very good place,” said Hoekman. “It is



State Command Sgt. Maj. James Hoekman, left, receives a ceremonial saber from Brig. Gen. Kevin Griese, SDARNG assistant adjutant general, during a change of responsibility ceremony. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Heather Trobee)

a template for what to do; it has the Army Values and the Warrior Ethos. These principles define who Soldiers are and who they aspire to become as individuals and as part of a team, the foundation of our organization.”

Hoekman will also observe unit training in all 22 SDARNG communities, attend mobilization and de-mobilization events, ensure Soldier morale and wellbeing and make certain Soldiers and their families know that all key leaders have their best interests at heart.

Hoekman enlisted into the SDARNG in December 1985 with the 200th Engineer Company as a combat engineer/bridge specialist and attended basic and advanced individual training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. He obtained secondary occupational specialties as a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear specialist with the 200th and went on to serve as motor transport operator with the 1742nd Transportation Company in 1994.

He has served in nearly every key noncommissioned officer position from squad leader to command sergeant major.

In January 2006, he was selected as the first sergeant for the 727th Transportation Company until the unit’s deactivation in September 2007. He then went on to serve as the first sergeant for the 740th Transportation Company. In April 2009, he was selected as the command sergeant major for the 139th Brigade Support Battalion followed by the 109th Regional Support Group in April 2012.

Hoekman’s deployments include service with the 1742nd Transportation Company during Operation Iraqi Freedom from March 2003 to June 2004 and the 139th Brigade Support Battalion during Operation New Dawn in Iraq and Kuwait from June 2011 to April 2012.

Hoekman is a graduate of the United States Sergeants Major Academy, holds a bachelor’s degree from South Dakota State University in sociology and criminal justice and is a graduate of the South Dakota Law Enforcement Academy.

In his civilian life, Hoekman serves as a captain at the Minnehaha County Sheriff’s Office in Sioux Falls and has served in law enforcement for 24 years.

Hoekman and his wife, Marcy, have one son, Zachery.

SOLDIERS TAKE PART IN UNIQUE STRENGTH TRAINING

By Sgt. Rob Buechler
Battery B, 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion

YANKTON – Soldiers from the South Dakota Army National Guard’s Battery B, 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion, participated in a unique strength training experience, Jan. 11, at the middle school gymnasium in Yankton.

A National Strength and Conditioning Association specialist lead the Soldiers through a physical training session to offer alternative exercises to help maintain fitness standards.

“It’s tough for Soldiers to stay in shape, to stay healthy and within height/weight requirements when they’re Soldiers two days a month and work very hard at their jobs and with their families the rest of the month,” said 1st Sgt. Brooks Schild, Battery B senior noncommissioned officer. “They’re terribly busy and need a different approach to keep themselves fit and healthy.”

So Schild invited Mark “Rozy” Roozen, his former defensive line coach at Dakota Wesleyan University, to put on the training.

Schild said Roozen was a good coach and once he heard he had moved back to the Yankton area he seized the opportunity to have him train his Soldiers.

Roozen told the unit the main purpose of his program was to show them exercises that wouldn’t cause or aggravate injuries, didn’t require use of any equipment and required a relatively short amount of time to complete. He also emphasized exercises that were relevant and advantageous to the type of work National Guard Soldiers do.

“I try to set up fitness training programs where we get away from running five miles a day and doing 1,000 pushups,” Roozen said. “That’s really not applicable to the job task. You still need the base aerobic fitness, but there are some other components that help you become a better Soldier, physically.”

Besides coaching at Dakota Wesleyan, Roozen has worked with the NFL’s Cleveland Browns and Jacksonville Jaguars, various amateur and Olympic athletes in the U.S. and China and members of the U.S. Navy Seals and Delta Force to develop fitness and strengthening programs.

He said his fitness programs feature exercises that focus on muscle flexibility, stretching, corrective exercises and core strengthening. The programs employ the different exercises in an interval training format.

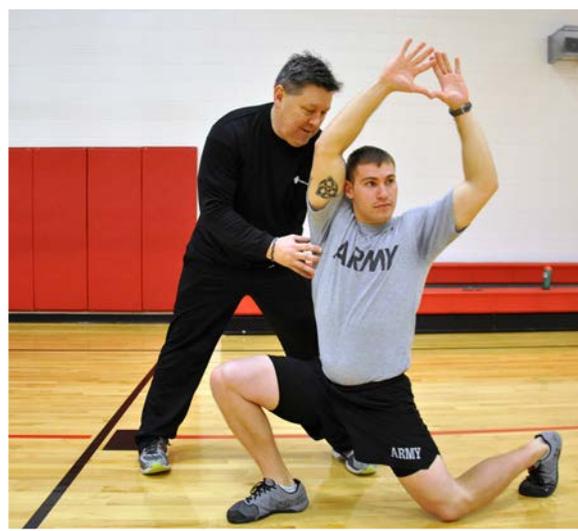
So Soldiers were given a set number of progressive drills, from low impact exercises to exercises with a higher level of intensity, to do within a certain time then allowed a short rest period before moving onto another set of exercises.

They did not need to use any type of equipment to perform the exercises, which Roozen said was a major advantage to keeping the routines short, simple and easy.

“No equipment is necessary when starting out with this (type of training),” said Roozen. “Later, we can incorporate some different equipment such as medicine balls or resistance bands to increase strength. We want to give the Soldiers options in their workout program and take away barriers that might hinder them from training.”

Spc. Dexter Mehlhaf, a fire direction control specialist, said he enjoyed the training and liked that proper interval training can burn the same fat as longer workouts, such as running five or more miles, with a reduced chance for injury.

“It was good for Soldiers who haven’t been exposed to strength and



Mark Roozen, strength and conditioning specialist with the National Strength and Conditioning Association, coaches Spc. Dexter Mehlhaf during a muscle flexibility exercise. (Photo by Sgt. Rob Buechler)

conditioning training to see that you don’t have to be at the gym for two hours to get a good workout,” Mehlhaf said.

In addition to physical training, Roozen offered dietary advice and guidance using a “good, better, best” reference to help Soldiers make decisions on what and how much they chose to eat.

He encouraged them to choose healthier food options, such as lean meats, fruits and vegetables. He then took the advice one step further by emphasizing how the Soldier could make that choice “better” and then finally the “best” choice.

Capt. Darin Eichacker, Battery B commander, said

that having a subject matter expert like Roozen seemed to motivate the Soldiers and give them a different perspective on physical fitness.

“It will give them more tools to use outside of drill,” said Eichacker. “I think it will definitely reflect in their physical training scores later this spring and fall.”

Roozen also spoke of the perspective Soldiers can have about physical training, pointing out from his experience, there seemed to be a negative



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connotation to physical training among members of the military.

“If someone messed up, what did he have to do? Push-ups! If someone was late for formation, what did the whole platoon have to do? Sit ups! If people were lagging in their runs, what did they have to do? More running! Interval training gets away from those routines and negative connotations while still providing the same benefits with less chance for injury,” Roozen explained.

He ended his training session by providing the Soldiers with a website he helped develop called 911 Tactical Performance (info@911TacticalPerformance.com), which provides exercise programs mostly set up for law enforcement, fire fighters and emergency medics, but could also be used by National Guard Soldiers.

“If you want to run, then run. If you want to lift weights, then lift. This website will provide alternative exercises to add to your routine for increased core strength, or to keep up your conditioning if you become injured,” Roozen told the group. “We have over 1,000 workout programs right now in the system and can develop specific programs if a team or group has a desire for us to do that.

“We feel honored to be able to come in and share some ideas and information that we hope can help each Soldier progress to higher levels in their fitness and performance path.”



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SD NATIONAL GUARD HOSTS 31ST



Master Sgt. Sara Hilmoe, center right, of the 114th Fighter Wing, with her husband and daughter, Michael and Katelyn Schmidt, and her mother, Melva Hilmoe, were presented the 2014 Adjutant General's Family Award by Gov. Dennis Daugaard and Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch.



The Minnehaha County Sheriff's Office received the 2014 SD Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve Pro Patria Award presented by Gov. Dennis Daugaard to Sherriff Mike Millstead, center, and Spc. Nathan Obeslo, employee, far right. Also pictured from left is Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, and Ron Mielke, ESGR-SD chair.

By SDNG Public Affairs Office
Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Herrmann

The South Dakota National Guard hosted the 2015 Legislative Dining-Out at the Ramkota Hotel and Convention Center in Pierre, Feb. 5. The annual tradition has brought Guardsmen and the state Legislature together for a formal evening for the last 31 years.

The atmosphere, while formal, includes deep-rooted traditions which lighten the mood and provide both members and guests not only plenty of laughs, but a chance to learn some of the organization's history, traditions and an opportunity to recognize individual and unit achievements.

"The Guard is an organization that is rich in history and tradition," said Maj. Corey Norris, SDNG congressional action contact officer. "This event provides the Guard an opportunity to honor the legislators by hosting them at a traditional military event where we highlight our significant accomplishments to the community, state and nation."

A video highlighting the many accomplishments made by the men and women of the SDNG in 2014 was shown to state legislators in addition to comments from Gov. Dennis Daugaard and Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, the SDNG adjutant general. The National Guard also recognized a family, an employer and a public servant with awards recognizing their contributions to the SDNG mission.

PRO PATRIA AWARD – MINNEHAHA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The awards portion of the dining-out began by presenting the Minnehaha County Sheriff's Office with the 2014 South Dakota Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve Pro Patria Award.

The Pro Patria Award is presented annually to one employer in the state who provides the most exceptional support of our national defense through leadership practices and personnel policies that support their employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve.

"The sheriff's office has a strong commitment to their employee's military service," said Maj. Lona Christensen, executive director for the SD ESGR committee. "This is evident from their hiring polices all the way through their promotion policies."

Some of those policies include partnering with the Hero2Hired program to recruit military members and veterans to be part of their team, allowing applicants with military service to use service time towards the minimum years of experience requirements, and creating a VA approved on-the-job training program so employees can utilize their GI Bill benefits.

"The men and women of the Minnehaha County Sheriff's Office have

done a great job in supporting our Soldiers in the Guard and Reserve," said Sherriff Mike Millstead, after accepting the award on behalf of the Minnehaha County Sheriff's Office. "We will continue to do that."

Spc. Nathan Obeslo, a member of the 1742nd Transportation Company, the most recent South Dakota National Guard unit to return from deployment, and a corporal in the jail division within the Minnehaha County Sherriff's Office, nominated his employer for the award.

Accommodations are made for employees on military leave to have tests proctored by their military commands and interviews conducted via Skype, allowing them to compete for promotions while on military leave.

The sheriff's office implemented a policy which helps service members in the reintegration process allowing them to return to the exact assignment and position they left.

The sheriff personally keeps in contact with deployed service members. He works hard to ensure that employees don't miss out on opportunities because of military obligations and works to have the employee rescheduled for specialized training.

"Employers are inextricably linked to the nation's defense by sharing their most precious assets, their employees," said Christensen to the audience, just before presenting the award. "Minnehaha County Sheriff's Office is deserving of this recognition for their outstanding contributions to our military services. Minnehaha County Sheriff's Office leadership exemplifies the patriotic spirit that is alive and well here in our great State of South Dakota."

THE WILLIAMSON MILITIAMAN AWARD – SECRETARY OF VETERAN AFFAIRS LARRY ZIMMERMAN

The SDNG next awarded the 2015 Williamson Militiaman Award to retired South Dakota Army National Guard State Command Sergeant Major, and current S.D. Secretary of Veteran Affairs, Larry Zimmerman.

The Williamson Militiaman Award, established in 1987 by Maj. Gen. Ronald F. Williamson, recognizes an individual who exemplifies the spirit of the citizen-Soldier as shown by their community leadership, their support of the National Guard and the defense of the country.

Zimmerman served both state and nation for over 26 years in uniform, beginning with his 1973 enlistment into the U.S. Army. He served for three years at Headquarters, 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division at Fort Carson, Colorado. Following a break in service, he joined the SDNG in 1989 and served in various roles and leadership positions over the next 23 years.

ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE DINING-OUT



S.D. Secretary of Veteran Affairs Larry Zimmerman, center right, was presented with the 2015 Williamson Militiaman Award by Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, Gov. Dennis Daugaard and retired Maj. Gen. Ronald Williamson.

He deployed to Afghanistan in November of 2007 with an Embedded Training Team and was eventually assigned as the operations officer for Afghan Regional Security Integration Command-North.

In May of 2009, he was named the seventh state command sergeant major for the SDARNG providing advice and guidance to the two different adjutant's general on matters pertaining to enlisted Soldiers and their families.

"Upon assuming his role as secretary of Veteran's Affairs, he hit the ground running," said Reisch, while introducing Zimmerman. "In his vision to be the voice for South Dakota's veterans, he unveiled "Operation RAV" – an aggressive campaign to 'reach all veterans' in South Dakota. This campaign was the first of its kind either locally or nationally.

"I can personally testify to this man's commitment to enhancing the lives of veterans," continued Reisch. "Both as my state command sergeant major and as a fellow cabinet secretary, he has always made taking time for Soldiers and veterans part of his daily routine. It is truly his passion."

Past recipients of the award include: Former Adjutants General Phil Killey and Harold Sykora; former U.S. Senators Tom Daschle and Tim Johnson; former Governors William Janklow and Michael Rounds; and current Governor Dennis Daugaard.

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S FAMILY AWARD – THE HILMOE AND SCHMIDT FAMILY

To conclude the awards portion of the evening, Reisch awarded the 2014 Adjutant General's Family Award to the Hilmoe and Schmidt Family of Tea and Baltic.

"As the adjutant general, I recognize the vital importance of our families to the success of our National Guard mission," said Reisch. "This award recognizes family members who have supported their service members in a truly exemplary manner while managing family, careers, or even hardship, all the while not seeking recognition for their sacrifices."

This year's recipients were Master Sgt. Sara Hilmoe, the administrative assistant for the South Dakota Air National Guard's 114th Fighter Wing commander and Family Group Volunteer, her husband and daughter, Michael and Katelyn Schmidt, and her mother, Melva Hilmoe.

"It's pretty amazing to be selected and recognized at this level for helping others," said Sara Hilmoe, following the event. "I hope that we can live up to significance of this award."

Over the years, Sara has volunteered much of her time serving the

families and members of the 114th Fighter Wing, which include volunteering at the National Guard youth camp and spending many hours recruiting for the all-volunteer organization that runs the annual camp.

"Whenever our fighter wing has a special event, you can bet you will see Sara involved in a capacity way beyond what is required of her full-time job," said Reisch.

Sara even recruited her mother, Melva, to help with these activities and join the Family Volunteer Group.

"It wasn't long before Melva also became a frequent participant in any volunteer event on base and even stepped up on short notice to serve as secretary of the Family Volunteer Group when the position was open," said Reisch. "Melva was soon recognized as a top volunteer and was awarded Volunteer of the Year in 2013 for the Air Guard."

Mike and Katelyn have been avid supporters of the Volunteer Program and Sara's involvement in it.

"The countless hours they have given up so Sara can help with deployments, events, meetings, and planning, are too numerous to mention," said Reisch.

Following the awards ceremony and bringing the evening to a close, Gov. Daugaard addressed the service members in attendance, specifically thanking them for their continuous support on missions both at home and abroad.

"The Soldiers and Airmen of the South Dakota National Guard are truly the most dedicated, capable and reliable men and women that one could ever hope to meet," said Daugaard. "Whether it's a time of war or a time of a disaster here at home, you have proven time and time again that South Dakota can count on you. Thank you for your sacrifices, your patriotism and your hard work."



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SD SOLDIER AWARDED MEDAL FOR VALOR

By SDNG Public Affairs Office

A South Dakota National Guard Soldier was awarded the SDNG Medal for Valor, Dec. 6, for heroism displayed while assisting a victim in a fatal car crash.

Sgt. Nathan Darrach, of Sturgis, was presented the award for taking action to ensure the safety of others involved in a three-vehicle accident along Interstate 90, near Summerset, Feb. 8, 2014.

Darrach witnessed the collision and immediately stopped to assist those involved.

"I just reacted. I was raised to help someone when they're in need," said Darrach. "I knew I needed to do whatever I could to help anyone that was injured."

Darrach rushed to check on one of the victims, Darrol Birk, 59, of Rapid City, who suffered a severe injury and whose vehicle started on fire.

"Sgt. Darrach came to my truck, assisted me and checked out my injuries. My right foot was badly injured and I couldn't get out of my truck, which caught fire," said Birk. "An unknown man also came to assist after checking on a woman in another vehicle whom he reported didn't survive the crash."

According to Birk, Darrach and the unidentified person, forced open the badly damaged door on the vehicle and assisted him to safety. Darrach continued to evaluate Birk for injuries until medical professionals arrived, he said.

"I want to thank Sgt. Darrach for being there and for caring for his fellow man enough to risk his own safety to assist me in my time of need," said Birk, a retired U.S. Army first sergeant and 21-year veteran. "This was a great act of kindness and needed aid on the part of both men at the site of a very violent crash. He is the kind of Soldier I would want with me in combat, knowing he would risk his safety to help his fellow Soldier and man."

"It feels good to help anyone, no matter what the situation is," said Darrach. "All of our training in the National Guard has made it easier to put myself in harm's way to help others."

"It feels great to have had the chance to help Mr. Birk and knowing that his recovery is going well," continued Darrach. "I wish there was something that could have been done for the other driver."

Darrach, a member of Joint Force Headquarters in Rapid City, was presented the award in front Birk and his fellow Soldiers during a unit drill assembly. The award was presented by Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, the adjutant general of the SDNG.

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

"There is no doubt in my mind that everyone else wearing this uniform would have done the same thing," said Darrach. "I just happened to be in the right place at the right time."



Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general of the South Dakota National Guard, presents the SDNG Medal for Valor to Sgt. Nathan Darrach for heroism displayed while assisting a victim in a fatal three-vehicle crash. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Heather Trobee)



Sgt. Nathan Darrach stands with Darrol Birk and Birk's girlfriend, Brenda Nelson, after being presented the SDNG Medal for Valor. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Heather Trobee)

1742ND FAMILY READINESS GROUP NAMED TOP IN THE NATION

By SDNG Public Affairs Office

Nick Simeone - DoD News, Defense Media Activity contributed to this story

The war on terrorism that began with the 9/11 attacks has meant that unprecedented numbers of reserve troops have been called to active duty. The Department of Defense, as it has done for the past 15 years, honored the top unit in each reserve component for its outstanding programs that support unit missions and family readiness, Feb. 27 at the Pentagon.

For the third consecutive year, a South Dakota Army National Guard unit was at the Pentagon's Reserve Family Readiness Awards ceremony to

receive the award in the Army National Guard category as the Sioux Falls and Flandreau, S.D.-based 1742nd Transportation Company was named the 2014 award recipient.

Richard O. Wightman Jr., principal deputy assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs, expressed the department's gratitude for family readiness support programs around the country that allow Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen and Guardsmen to serve around the world without having to worry about the challenges of life on the home front.

"To these unsung heroes, we owe much," Wightman said. "They have given their time, freely, without any guarantees of accolades or reimbursements, yet they sacrifice their evenings, weekends, and time with family in the selfless service of others."

Capt. Tyler Gerlach, commander of the 1742nd, Christine Krogman, Family Readiness Group leader, and Kristin Neuhardt, Family Readiness support assistant were on hand to receive the award, while Gen. Frank J. Grass, chief of National Guard Bureau and Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, SDNG adjutant general, were in attendance.

"It is truly an honor to receive a federal award at this level," said Gerlach. "It's a tribute to the strong values and sense of family that we have the pleasure to work with in the South Dakota Army National Guard. I think the award is a reassurance for a job well done and a sure sign that not only are our units operationally ready for any mission, but that our families carry on some of the same traits that make us not only successful at home but even more so as we are deployed."

Units recognized for outstanding efforts:

- The Army National Guard's 1742nd Transportation Company, Sioux Falls, South Dakota
- The Army Reserve's 75th Legal Operations Detachment, Mountain View, California
- The Marine Corps Reserve's 4th Combat Engineer Battalion, 4th Marine Division, Baltimore
- The Navy Reserve's Navy Operation Support Center Charleston, North Charleston, South Carolina
- The Air National Guard's 157th Air Refueling Wing, Pease, Air National Guard Base, New Hampshire
- The Air Force Reserve's 934th Airlift Wing, Minneapolis
- The Coast Guard Reserve's Port Security Unit 312, San Francisco.

Retired Navy Vice Adm. Norbert R. Ryan Jr., president and CEO of the Military Officers Association of America, credited family readiness programs with making a huge difference in the lives of those deployed far from home.

"Service members are able to focus on their duties armed with the knowledge that a support structure back home will help care for their families," he said.

The MOAA donates \$1,000 to each of the seven honoree units' family programs.

Past winners include the SDNG's 235th Military Police Company 2013 recipient and the 842nd Engineer Company 2012 recipient.



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MILITARY COUPLE UNIQUELY POISED TO LEAD

By Sgt. Mark VanGerpen
129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Commanding one of the two battalions in the South Dakota Army National Guard's 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) takes a lieutenant colonel with years of expertise.

For the first time in SDARNG history, a married couple is simultaneously commanding both of them.

In November, Lt. Col. Ted Bartunek assumed command of the Sioux Falls-based 2nd Battalion, 196th RTI, a modular training battalion that provides a variety of military qualification and evaluation training.

Lt. Col. Deb Bartunek has commanded Fort Meade's 1st Battalion, 196th RTI (Officer Candidate School), which conducts rigorous training to turn Soldiers into officers, since September 2013.

Together, after 17 years of marriage and two children, the Rapid City couple stands uniquely poised to lead.

"It is definitely unique," Ted said. "We're very similar in our thought process and planning, so it's very compatible being in the same regiment...I think it has good things written all over it."

The Bartunek's met as young Soldiers with Task Force Rushmore, a multi-component force deployed to Panama in 1993. Its mission was to build and renovate schools, clinics, roads and wells.

Though they are both officers, their specialties were different enough that they never had to compete with each other for promotion. Deb is a logistics and personnel officer, while Ted is in the Signal Corps.

In fact, their specialties were so different they never expected their paths to cross.

"I never thought they would," Ted said. "I thought they were two different paths, and somehow those two paths came together."

As full-time officers, their duties have taken them all over the state throughout the course of their marriage.

They agreed that no matter where they were assigned, at least one of them would always maintain a full-time position in the Black Hills to sustain the family home with their two sons, Trevor and Austin.

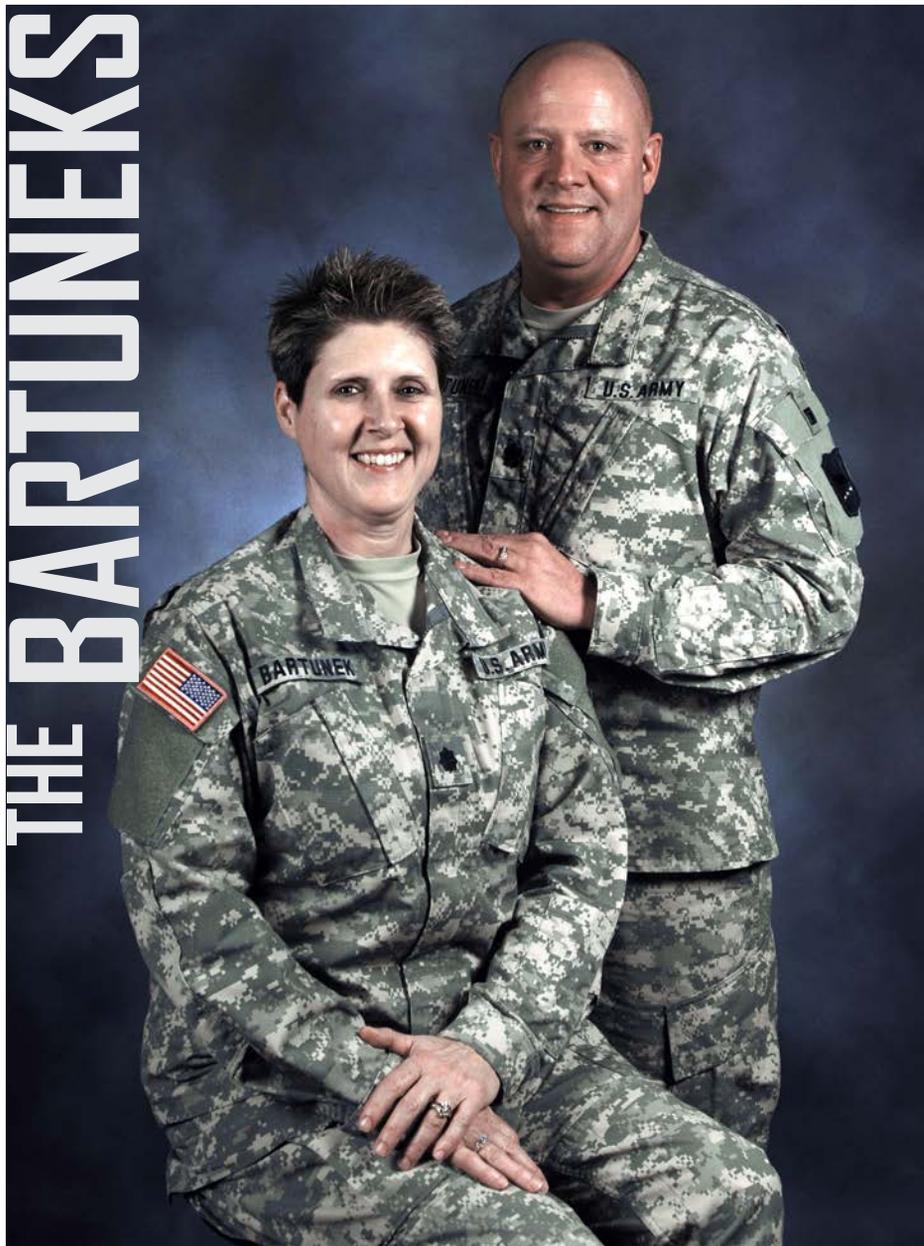
Beyond the challenges of military assignments the Bartunek's were struck

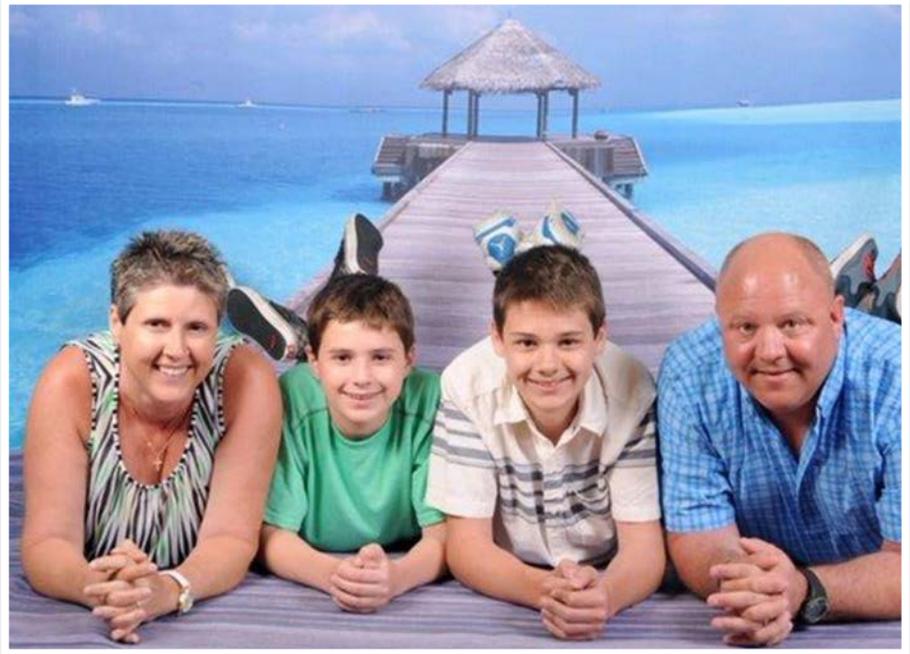
with a personal matter concerning their oldest son.

During the early 2000s Trevor who was four-year-olds at the time was diagnosed with leukemia, during the ramp-up of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"It was a very challenging time and it took a lot of strength to continue to serve," said Deb. "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."

THE BARTUNEKS





“We’re a team at home, and the opportunity to work together is tremendous.”

- Lt. Col. Deb Bartunek

At this time Deb was considering the idea of becoming a stay-at-home-mom but forged through with Ted’s continued support.

“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, other than medical professionals, who are the highest ranking women in the South Dakota Army National Guard,” said Deb. “So I felt the need to stay where I am, continue to be a professional and continue to be a leader, role model and mentor for those following in my footsteps.”

“I understand Deb wanting to stay at home but she was also willing to continue on with her career,” said Ted. “So with our kids as our number one priority we weighed out all of our options and decided that with teamwork we could maintain all of our duties at home and work.”

Being a dual-military couple and parents of two young boys Ted and Deb were cognizant of how media war headlines impacted their family.

“We had to be careful about the things that we would bring home with us and the things that we would talk about,” Ted said. “You’d watch CNN and FoxNews, and they’d be showing Soldiers in battle. At that time, in our kids’ eyes, the people they were showing on TV wore the same uniform their mom and dad wore.”

It became a rule for the Bartunekes to keep their home and work lives separate as much as possible, even after Trevor beat leukemia at age seven. To this day, they leave their jobs at the office, and they make sure to censor the military talk when it goes on too long.



“We try to keep each other in check,” Deb said. “Obviously, you’re going to talk about work because this is what we do 10 hours a day, but we try to keep it to a minimum.”

That’s not to say the Bartunekes don’t enjoy their work. They speak proudly about their opportunity as husband and wife commanding the 196th’s battalions at the same time.

“It’s just a tremendous opportunity doing what we do,” Ted said. “It’s a good feeling going out and training Soldiers, and then you can come home and feel good about what you do.”

“We’re a team at home, and the opportunity to work together is tremendous,” Deb said. “We both have a tremendous staff, and the ability to grow that teamwork is a great opportunity.”

LOVE OF FLIGHT CREATES OPPORTUNITIES TO PILOT OUTSIDE OF GUARD



By Tech. Sgt. Christopher Stewart
114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Maj. Kollin Ellis, 175th Fighter Squadron pilot, prepares to step to his aircraft for a flight in an F-16 aircraft. Ellis is training to fly with the Vanguards stunt aerobatic team. (Photo by Christopher Stewart)

A passion for aviation has led some members of the South Dakota Air National Guard to seek opportunities to fly and work with aircraft beyond their normal duties with the unit. Members of the unit have filled their desire to fly with everything from hot air balloons to jumbo jets and also serve not only with the 114th Fighter Wing, but also the civil air patrol and civilian stunt teams.

Capt. Aaron Werner, a graduate of SDSU's Aviation Education program, was selected to be a fighter pilot with the 114th Fighter Wing in June of 2008. Flying F-16 fighters was not enough for Werner. In the spring of 2012, he started flying Vans RV-3 aircraft with the Vanguards, a stunt team located in Tea.

"I enjoy flying with the Vanguards," Werner said. "It's more of a team effort with the formation acrobatics, instead of the general aviation I see with the Air Guard."

Werner's love of flight has also led him to start his own business, where he acts as a pilot for hire for local businessmen who need transportation around the Midwest.

"I have been fascinated with flight for as long as I can remember," said Werner. "As I grew up I progressed from drawing planes, to models, and on to radio controlled airplanes. Soon I was hanging out at airports talking with career pilots."

When asked what advice he would give to others who have the same love for aviation Werner said, "Go to your local airport, ask for an incentive flight or



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Capt. Aaron Werner, 175th Fighter Squadron pilot, expands his love of flight by being a part of the Vanguards stunt aerobatics team.
 (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Christopher Stewart)

discovery flight, which most airports offer, go up and fly a little bit and learn a little about the aircraft. That's usually all it takes to get a potential pilot hooked."

Werner is not the only Vanguard pilot who also flies with the 114th Fighter Wing. Maj. Kollin Ellis started with the unit as an enlisted member in the avionics shop. In 2004 Ellis was selected for a pilot position and earned his commission.

"I learned my first year in college that I really liked to fly," Ellis said. "A friend took me up in Brookings and I loved it. As soon as I returned from basic training I switched my major to aviation education."

Ellis recently joined the Vanguards and is currently training with the group. Before he can fly with the group in airshows he must participate in 30 formation flights and then go in front of an evaluator to earn his certification.

Pilots of the unit are not the only members who seek opportunities to pursue their love of flight; many enlisted members pilot various types of aircraft including hot air balloons and civil air patrol aircraft.

Master Sgt. Ryan Peskey, 114th Maintenance Squadron crew chief, chose a unique route to pursue his love of flight. Hot air ballooning is becoming more popular with flight enthusiasts and Peskey saw it as a perfect way to take flight.

"I was introduced to ballooning by another member of the Air Guard, Tech. Sgt. Mathieson Smith, when I went to Iowa to help him crew a balloon he bought," said Peskey. "I ended up getting my pilot's license that day and I've been hooked ever since."



Master Sgt. Ryan Peskey, 114th Maintenance Squadron crew chief, pilots his "Yellow Bird" hot air balloon during the 2014 Great Plains Balloon Race. (Courtesy photo)



JOIN US AT YOUTH CAMP THIS SUMMER!

South Dakota Military Youth Camps are for military youth who are a child, grandchild, sibling, or legal dependant of a S.D. military member and/or retired member. Camps are sponsored by the South Dakota National Guard Child & Youth Program and SDSU Extension.

DINO MANIA! AT STORM MOUNTAIN

JULY 6-10

CAMPERS AGES 9-11

JUNIOR COUNSELORS AGES 15-17



Yes - dinosaurs can help build resiliency skills! At Dino Mania, campers will create their team dinosaur out of papier-mâché, discover paleontology at the bone museum at the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology and participate in activities that practice listening, decision making and adapting to what life throws at them. Camp favorites like the talent show, the trip to Mt. Rushmore and service learning with veterans will continue. The camp low ropes course and gold mine (yes, a real gold mine from the 1880's) are also on the agenda. We have developed a great combination of activities to build confidence, communication skills, pride in the military, decision making, science exploration and fun for our military youth.

EXPLORE! AT CEDAR CANYON CAMP

AUGUST 10-14

CAMPERS AGES 12-14



This summer Explore! will investigate four words: Survive, Design, React and Ping. Each group will explore military connections to those topics with service members from different units, then take a different angle and explore civilian connections as well. From outdoor survival to food preservation, engineering bridges to quilts of valor, hazardous waste disposal to ice cream production, and submarines to digital music... we have it covered, all the while increasing competency in learning, military values, communicating, making choices and building relationships with our military teens. The high ropes course is waiting to challenge us as well!

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT CAMP OR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES, PLEASE CONTACT TARYN BROOMFIELD AT 605-737-6919 OR TARYN.M.BROOMFIELD.CTR@MAIL.MIL

APPLICATION

2015 South Dakota Military Youth Camps

Dino Mania! at Storm Mountain

July 6th – 10th

(Campers ages 9-11 / Junior Counselors ages 15-17)

Explore! at Cedar Canyon Camp

August 10th – 14th

(Campers ages 12-14)

For Camp use only

Date Received _____
Cash /Check # _____
Application Complete _____



- *** Dino Mania Camper applications (page 1) to be submitted by June 12, 2015
*** Dino Mania Junior Counselor applications (page 1 and 2) to be submitted by June 1, 2015
*** Explore Camper Applications (page 1) to be submitted by July 17, 2015

- Camp Attending: ___ Dino Mania! ___ Camper ___ Junior Camper Applicant
___ Explore! Area of interest (list 1st and 2nd choice): ___ Design (Engineering) ___ Ping
(Navigation/Sound) ___ React (Chemical) ___ Survive
- Transportation needed for eastern SD along I-90: ___ Yes ___ No

YOUTH NAME: _____ Nickname _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Home Phone: () _____ Male ___ Female ___ Age (as of July 1st)

Date of Birth: _____ T-shirt size (adult): S M L XL First time camper: Yes No

PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN NAME: _____

Phone #: Daytime: () _____ Evening: () _____

Cell #: () _____ E-mail: _____

MILITARY MEMBER INFORMATION:

Name: _____ Rank: _____ Branch of Service: _____

Unit: _____ Relationship to Camper: _____ Currently Deployed: _____

- Campers must be a child/grandchild, sibling, or legal dependant of a South Dakota military member or retired member

Application packet: Dino Mania! due June 12th and Explore! due July 17th:

1. **Application:** Please make sure application is filled out completely and signed where indicated.
2. **Registration Fee:** \$50.00 Camper registration fee payable to **SD Military Camps**
No registration fee for Junior Counselors at Dino Mania!
Recommend bringing no more than \$20 for Youth Camp spending money
3. **Mail to:** SD Military Youth Camp, Attn: Taryn Broomfield
2823 West Main Street, Rapid City, SD 57702

I certify that I am the legal parent/guardian of the child listed on this application.

- *I grant permission to the South Dakota Military Youth Camp to approve emergency medical treatment for my child.
*I give permission for the release of my child's name and address to be provided to fellow campers and staff for the purpose of future communications. It will not be sold or distributed for any other use. I grant the South Dakota National Guard and SDSU Extension the non-exclusive and irrevocable rights and license to make, edit and use pictures/videos of my child in print, electronic and projection for educational and promotional purposes. I release the above from any and all claims of payment for performance rights, residuals or damages for libel, slander, invasion of privacy, or any claim based on the use of said material.
*I hereby waive any claim against the South Dakota National Guard, the Department of Military Affairs, the South Dakota National Guard Service Member & Family Support Office and/or Youth Program and contract employees, SDSU Extension, the State of South Dakota, or the United States of America, for any causes which may arise in connection with the participation of the below named child in the South Dakota Military Youth Camp.

(Child's name)

(Parent / Guardian) **Signature**

Date

ADJUTANT GENERAL DELIVERS MESSAGE AT DIVERSITY CONFERENCE

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

Community members and diversity champions came together for the 2014 Sioux Falls Diversity Conference, Nov. 19. The theme of the conference was “Empowering Diversity Today for a Better Tomorrow”, a message that keynote speaker, Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, the adjutant general of the SDNG, has embraced for years.

As the conference kicked off with the presentation of colors by members of the Gordon Weston Indian Veterans Lodge, Flandreau, it became apparent that this was going to be a colorful and inspirational day.

Members of the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe presented the U.S. flag accompanied by traditional music from their culture, assisted by men and women of the South Dakota National Guard.

Sioux Falls Diversity Council President Juan Bonilla, opened the conference with his comments and message of encouragement.

“Diversity is not about the minorities, it’s about the majority,” said Bonilla.

Bonilla said Sioux Falls has approximately 137 different languages that are spoken and the council’s mission needs to be “that we don’t need to talk anymore about diversity in our communities, because there is total equality amongst us all.”

He encouraged participants to use the acronym “ACT”. The “A” stands for apply, the “C” for change and the “T” for team.

“If we can all apply change as a team, diversity will be successful,” Bonilla said.

Following Bonilla’s message, Reisch shared his impressions of the journey the SDNG has taken in recent years.

Appointed by Army Gen. Frank Grass, chief of the National Guard Bureau, Reisch is chair of the National Guard Bureau Joint Diversity Executive Committee and is proud of the steps that South Dakota has taken with diversity.

“We need to take a look at our organization from the outside, as others would see us,” said Reisch.

While the statistics for the National Guard have been impressive in recent years, they still have a ways to go.

Reisch said the National Guard needs to look at diversity not only as demographics, but as people’s backgrounds, education and experiences to



Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, keynote speaker at the 2014 Sioux Falls Diversity Conference, shares his experiences with community members and participants.

(Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Nancy Ausland)

make the organization stronger.

“For any organization to embrace diversity and inclusion, success comes only when top leadership is committed,” Reisch said.

As part of the NGB Diversity Executive Committee, Reisch has made that commitment and encourages his senior leaders to do the same.

As a member of the Sioux Falls Diversity Council, Senior Master Sgt. Michael Clauson, 114th Fighter Wing human resource advisor, has heard that message to commitment loud and clear.

Clauson has taken steps to ensure that the SDANG is not only a part of this council, but is actively involved in ensuring its success.

“My involvement with the Sioux Falls Diversity Council is supported and encouraged by senior leaders of our organization,” said Clauson. “Being a part of this council and participating in the annual Diversity Conference is an essential link to the South Dakota National Guard mission. I believe in and support the messages they convey.”

The conference, held at the Sioux Falls Convention Center, was attended by over 200 participants and was a full day, which included breakout sessions on various topics to include Bullying in the Work Place, Mental Health Issues in the Work Place, Women Empowerment and Native American culture.



Members of the South Dakota National Guard, along with members of the Gordon Weston Indian Veterans Lodge, present the colors to start the 2014 Sioux Falls Diversity Conference.

(Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Nancy Ausland)



LEADERSHIP LESSONS FROM LINCOLN

I write this during a month that celebrates "President's Day." My favorite president of all time is Abraham Lincoln. There are many lessons about leadership we can learn from his 'life and lips' . . .

1. Greatness is not dependent upon circumstance. Lincoln was indeed born in a small log cabin and went to formal school for just one year. For some, this limitation would define them, but not Lincoln. He loved to read and became well educated. "Leaders are Readers" it is said, and very true of Lincoln.

2. Greatness is seeing beyond the things of earth and seeing the things of eternity. Lincoln learned in his early years not only about math and reading, but about God. His mother, Nancy, would read to him the Bible when he was young. Lincoln later wrote that when tempted to do wrong he could still hear his mother's voice saying "I am the Lord thy God. Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not bear false witness."

3. Greatness is most keenly seen when no one is looking. Lincoln first became famous not for his words but for his life. "Honest Abe" he was called, in part because once when he was a shopkeeper he walked for miles just to

return an overpayment of a few cents! No one knew the oversight but God, but it mattered to Lincoln to do, as it says in the West Point Chapel, "the harder right rather than the easier wrong."

4. Greatness is a combination of humility and persistence. His humility was the core that allowed him to have a great sense of humor. Of his looks, Lincoln said, "It's a fact, Abe! You are the ugliest man in the world. If ever I see a man uglier than you, I'm going to shoot him on the spot!" But Lincoln's life also demonstrates a great lesson in persistence; he failed in business, was defeated for the Legislature (later winning), defeated for Congress, defeated for vice president and two years later, defeated for Senate. But he never gave up, and in 1860 was elected president.

While president, on one of his birthday's (February 12) an editorial cartoon appeared showing a small log cabin at the base of a mountain and the White House at the top, with a ladder connecting both buildings. At the bottom were written the words "The ladder is still there!" You too can climb to the greatness of Lincoln by not letting your origin prevent your destiny, by seeing beyond the things of earth to seeing the things of eternity, by valuing honesty when no one is looking and by humility and persistence!

Respectfully,

Lt. Col. Lynn Wilson
Full-time Support Chaplain



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An F-16 Fighting Falcon from the 114th Fighter Wing taxis down the runway at Nellis AFB during Red Flag, Jan. 27. Red Flag is an advanced aerial combat training exercise the unit participates in along with other allied nations' Air Forces. (Photo by Senior Airman Thomas Spangler III)



Members of the 114th Fighter Wing Maintenance Group perform last chance maintenance checks on an F-16 Fighting Falcon, Feb. 7. Upon satisfactory completion of the checks, the F-16 taxis to the runway to launch for a morning training sortie. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Luke Olson)

Master Sgt. Kyle Tobin, 114th Maintenance Squadron crew chief, operates a de-icing boom to de-ice the wing of a C-130 Hercules aircraft, Jan. 22. The aircraft, from the 136th Airlift Wing, Texas Air National Guard, was at Joe Foss Field to transport equipment and personnel to a Red Flag exercise at Nellis AFB, Nevada. (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Nancy Ausland)





The S.D. Air National Guard Outstanding Noncommissioned Officer and Airmen of the Quarter awards, for the first quarter of 2015, were presented by Col. Russ Walz, 114th Fighter Wing commander and Col. Edward Vanderwolde, 114th Support Group commander, Feb. 7. Staff Sgt. Evan Fey was named NCO of the Quarter and Senior Airman Joshua Groeneweg earned Airmen of the Quarter. Both are members of the 114th Security Forces Squadron.
(Photo by Tech. Sgt. Christopher Stewart)

The Black Hills Stock Show Foundation honored 10 Soldiers from the S.D. Army National Guard and 10 Airmen from Ellsworth Air Force Base at their annual military appreciation luncheon, Feb. 3, at the Stockman's Club of the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center in Rapid City.
(Photo by Airmen 1st Class Rebecca Inwalle)



Members of the 82nd Civil Support Team and Custer State Park Rangers conducted search and rescue operations at Wind Cave National Park, Feb. 11. The CST and the park rangers trained together to help assist in the event of a missing or injured person in the cave. (Courtesy photo)

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