

DAKOTA PACK

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



SOLDIERS HELP BOY SCOUTS FIND STRENGTH WITHIN

» DEPLOYMENTS

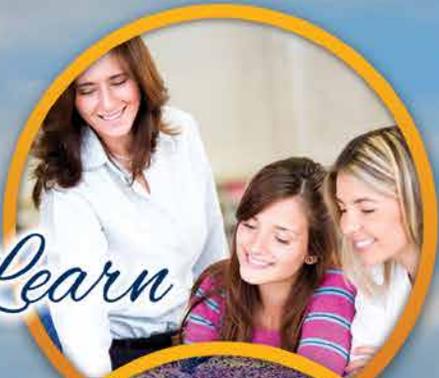
- 250 SD Airmen return from Republic of Korea
- Deployed SD Guard unit assumes mission in Kuwait

» TRAINING

- SDNG, Suriname share disaster management, response best practices
- Engineer skills tested in Battle of the Blades

» ACHIEVEMENTS

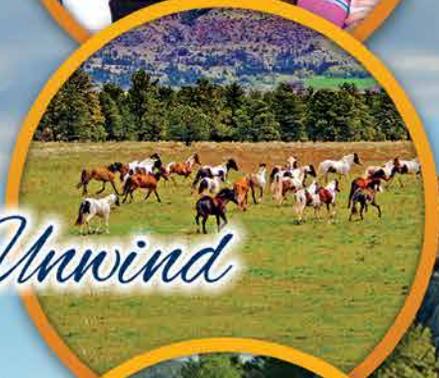
- 114th Fighter Wing awarded for performance, safety
- Four Soldiers commission as warrant officers



Learn



Experience



Unwind



Play



Explore



Succeed

Start now, at **Western Dakota Tech**

- ✓ Over 25 programs
- ✓ 98% placement rate
- ✓ Expert Instructors
- ✓ Learn by doing with hands-on education
- ✓ Online programs available
- ✓ Military Friendly School
- ✓ FREE Dual Enrollment classes available

*Contact us today for
your own campus tour!*



Western Dakota Tech

The future you want, the education you need.

800 Mickelson Dr., Rapid City, SD 57703
800-544-8765 | 605-718-2565

wdt.edu





Maj. Gen. Timothy Reisch
The Adjutant General

Maj. Anthony Deiss
State Public Affairs Officer

Ist Lt. Chad Carlson
Editor

CONTRIBUTORS

- Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Lynn Wilson
- Maj. Jason Thomson
- Senior Master Sgt. Nancy Ausland
- Sgt. Ist Class Theanne Herrmann
- Sgt. Ist Class Don Matthews
- Staff Sgt. Heather Trobee
- Staff Sgt. Christina Sihrer
- Staff Sgt. Nick Wilson
- Sgt. Michael Dodge
- Sgt. Austin Slaughter
- Sgt. Jen Smith
- Sgt. Mark VanGerpen
- Pvt. Joshua Quandt

Simpsons

PRINTING

Contact us for advertising
p. 605.342.0979
f. 605.342.2053
email: heatherm@simpsonsprinting.com
SimpsonsPrinting.com

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

Distribution: Dakota Pack is published for all South Dakota National Guard service members and their families. It is distributed through Simpsons Printing under exclusive written contract with a circulation of 4,500. It is also available at our website: sdguard.ngb.army.mil.

How to reach us: Questions or comments for Dakota Pack should be directed to the SDNG Public Affairs Office: 2823 West Main Street, Rapid City, SD 57702, 605.737.6721, fax: 605.737.6677, ng.sd.sdarng.list.pao@mail.mil.

Submissions: Print and photo submissions of general interest to members of the SDNG, their families, civilian employees, veterans and retirees are invited and encouraged. Please send article and photos with name, phone number, e-mail, complete mailing address and comments to: 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.

DAKOTA PACK

Magazine of the South Dakota Army and Air National Guard



FEATURES

- 10 250 SD Airmen return from Republic of Korea
- 12 Siblings join family lineage of military service
- 14 Farmer, Soldier reflects on freedom, love of farming
- 16 Soldiers help Boy Scouts find strength within
- 18 Four Soldiers commission as warrant officers

DEPARTMENTS

- 2 ALPHA CORNER
- 4 GUARD NEWS BRIEFS
- THE GUARD STORY
- 6 Engineer and aviation Soldiers train to save lives
- 6 Soldiers display military vehicles in Vintaques Classic Car Show
- 6 Readiness center hosts "Meet the Machines"
- 7 114th Fighter Wing awarded for performance, safety
- 7 Engineer skills tested in Battle of the Blades
- 8 SDNG, Suriname share disaster management, response best practices
- DIVERSITY FOCUS
- 19 Diverse backgrounds enhance National Guard experience
- 20 SD Guard honors code talkers with traveling exhibit
- 21 FAMILY FOCUS
- 23 CHAPLAIN'S CORNER
- 24 SNAPSHOTS



VISIT US ON THE WEB: sdguard.ngb.army.mil

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/southdakotationalguard

FLICKR: www.flickr.com/photos/southdakotationalguard

TWITTER: twitter.com/SD_Guard

On the Cover - Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Heier, multiple launch rocket system crew chief from South Dakota Army National Guard's Battery B, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, shows Colton Dillon, a Boy Scout from Troop 72 in Mitchell, S.D., how to fold a flag at the Boy Scout Camporee in Yankton, Oct. 3. (Photo by Spc. Carl Johnson)



MESSAGE FROM THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

I want to start out this edition's column by welcoming back the 250 Airmen of the 114th Fighter Wing who deployed to the Republic of Korea for four months. I had the pleasure of visiting them in late July and by all accounts they were doing a tremendous job in all facets of their mission. Gov. Daugaard and other dignitaries were in attendance on Nov. 7 during the

unit's official welcome home ceremony in conjunction with their Yellow Ribbon Program. Special recognition goes to Lt. Col. Todd Sheridan and Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Rollag for their outstanding leadership throughout the deployment.

On Aug. 16 I had the honor of participating in the Pow Wow in Bull Head, S.D., along with S.D. Veterans Secretary Larry Zimmerman and Command Chief Master Sgt. Jim Welch. I am always amazed by the extraordinary level of respect that our tribal nations show for current or previous members of the military. On a related note, a committee assigned in association with the S.D. National Guard Diversity Council organized four Oceti Sakowin (Oh-CHAY-tee Shaw-KOE-ween) Code Talker recognition events held throughout the state at the Pierre Indian Learning Center, the Lake Area Technical Institute in Watertown, Washington High School in Sioux Falls and at the Crazy Horse Memorial in the Black Hills. I applaud the efforts of this committee and want to offer special thanks to CW4 Bill White and Master Sgt. Jim Badwound who traveled to every reservation in the state to inform the tribal leadership of these events.

It was an honor to host Congresswoman Kristi Noem at Camp Rapid for an operational update on the SDNG on Aug. 25. Congresswoman Noem and her staff have been extremely supportive of the SDNG since the day she took office.

I traveled to Minnesota to provide testimony to a panel of the National Commission on the Future of the Army on Aug. 26. Both the commission chairman, Gen. (Ret.) Carter Ham, and its executive director, Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Ray Carpenter, welcomed the input from a total of six adjutants general who hail from the upper Midwest. I am hopeful that the commission's final report will help temper some of the significant cuts that the Army National Guard has been targeted to take in the months and years ahead.

I attended the National Guard Association of the United States' annual

conference in Nashville in September. The new Army Chief of Staff Mark Milley made a very positive impression on the huge crowd in attendance. He spoke of the importance of the National Guard to this nation's defense and he made it clear that he absolutely considered both the National Guard and Reserve to be part of the Army. After his address, Gen. Milley met with a group of ten adjutants general who make up the AGAUS Executive Council, and I am fortunate to be among that group. Gen. Milley reiterated the positive themes he spoke of earlier and vowed to work closely with us to get our input on how we can resolve the difficult fiscal issues that we face. I am very impressed with this new Army chief and am hopeful that under his leadership things will improve greatly.

Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James also addressed the NGAUS membership in Nashville. She and Gen. Mark Welsh have been strong advocates of the Air National Guard since the first day they took their posts. I hope to convince Secretary James to travel to Sioux Falls in the coming months to see the 114th in action.

The highlight of the NGAUS conference (at least for the South Dakota delegation) was the awards ceremony. South Dakota's Army Guard made a clean sweep of the unit awards at this year's conference. The 153rd Engineer Battalion took home the Milton A. Reckord Trophy for the second consecutive year for being named the top battalion-sized unit in the nation. Company C, 1/189th Aviation Regiment received the Pershing Trophy for having the most outstanding record of marksmanship on individual weapons in the nation. Battery A of the 1/147th Field Artillery Battalion earned the Certificate of Victory for having the highest overall figure of merit in the United States.

Not to be outdone, our Air Guard also picked up two national awards at the conference. The 114th Fighter Wing picked up both the NGAUS Distinguished Flying Unit Plaque and the John J. Pesch Flight Safety Trophy. Our selection for these national awards are a testament to the superior quality of our units.

We currently have six members of Detachment 48, OSA Command, 154 members of the 155th Engineer Company and two individual Airmen deployed overseas. These Soldiers and Airmen will spend this holiday season away from their families which is a genuine sacrifice. I would ask that you keep these men and women in your prayers as they perform their missions in Afghanistan and Kuwait.

As always, I want to close by thanking all of our Soldiers, Airmen, family members and employers 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 SENIOR ENLISTED LEADER

What a year the South Dakota National Guard has had! With

both our Air and Army units bringing home more than 20 awards, we keep proving that we are the "Best of the Best." Outstanding job!

We had a recruiting and retention challenge this year and at the start

it looked as if we might not meet our goal. The challenge was met head-on however, and we reached our goal. This could not have been done without the efforts of every service member. I want to thank each and every one of you for your help in this challenge.

Truly, it has been an honor and very humbling to be your first "senior enlisted leader" for the South Dakota National Guard. I want to thank Maj. Gen. Reisch for his confidence in me.

I have been in the South Dakota Guard for more than 34 years, with a total of 38 years of service, and without a doubt, South Dakota is in the top Air and Army units for the entire National Guard and we have the trophies to show for it. We are the best! And will continue to be the best even with the challenges we face in the coming years.

We cannot take all of the credit for this praise. We could not have

obtained this recognition without the commitment of family, friends and fellow workers, who allow us the time to focus on the training needed to complete our missions. Serving in the National Guard is often considered a part-time job, but we all know it takes full-time commitment to perform at the readiness level we are at today.

As service members, we have volunteered to serve our state and country, but our family members did not have a choice in your commitment. To them, I want to say thank you for your service and dedication, to this state and nation. We as service members could not be one of the best National Guard units in the entire National Guard if it was not for your steadfast dedication and tireless efforts to maintain the day-to-day issues back home. We may not say it enough, but we do think about it in our absence, thank you!

I want to say thank you to my family, Mary, Nicholas, Amy and Jordan, for all that you did in my absence.

The holiday season is right around the corner so from Mary and me we wish you and your family a happy holiday season.

Thanks for all you do and continue to do for this great state and our country. God Bless!

Chief Master Sergeant James Welch

Senior Enlisted Leader / State Command Chief

Thank you for your service. If you use tobacco, maybe we can return the favor?

Nicotine is a serious addiction and 70% of tobacco users want to quit, but can't. We can help with that. Just give us a call.



Tobacco. There's no freedom in it.

PETRIK NAMED NEW 196TH REGIMENT COMMANDER

FORT MEADE – Col. Scott Petrik, of Rapid City, took command of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) from Col. Tim Moran during a change-of-command ceremony Sept. 12, at Fort Meade.

Petrik now oversees the unit that Moran led since September 2013. Moran moves to the J3, director of operations position in Joint Force Headquarters in Rapid City.

As commander, Petrik is responsible for the command and control of the 196th Regiment and its two subordinate battalions, which provide general instruction on a variety of military courses to include Officer Candidate School, Warrant Officer Candidate School and instruction in military occupational specialties such as truck driver, multiple launch rocket system crewmember and operations/fire direction specialist.

The 196th Regiment is one of the premier regional training institutes throughout the National

Guard and maintains a "Learning Institute of Excellence" rating by the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command.

"I feel extremely fortunate to be selected as the 196th Regiment commander and I am excited to work with the professional Soldiers and staff within the regiment," said Petrik. "I am mostly looking forward to the upcoming accreditation next year as well as the opportunity to welcome foreign national instructors to our programs."

"Commanding the 196th Regiment was truly one of the highlights of my military career," said Moran. "I am very excited at being assigned as the director of operations and look forward to serving our state and nation in that capacity."

Petrik enlisted in the National Guard in 1983 and serves as an engineer officer. He received his commission to second lieutenant upon graduation from the S.D. Military Academy in July 1990.

A few of his most recent military assignments



include Manning Division chief, J4 Logistics deputy and purchasing and contracting officer for Joint Force Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 196th Regiment, (RTI) commander and 109th Engineer Group staff officer.

Petrik deployed to Afghanistan with the 109th Engineer Group in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2004-2005.

He currently works full time for the SDARNG as the Construction and Facilities Management officer.

RECRUITING BATTALION CHANGES COMMAND

RAPID CITY – Lt. Col. Steve Siemonsma, of Piedmont, took command of the South Dakota Army National Guard's Recruiting and Retention Battalion during an Oct. 3 change-of-command ceremony at Joint Force Headquarters on Camp Rapid.

Siemonsma assumed responsibility from Lt. Col. Kory Knight, of Hartford, who served in the position since October 2012.

"It is a privilege and honor to take command of the Recruiting and Retention Battalion during a time when strength management is so important," said Siemonsma, a native of Sioux Falls. "I am looking forward to the opportunity to work with such a great group of professionals."

As commander, Siemonsma is now responsible for about 26 recruiters in communities across the state with a mission to recruit and retain quality Soldiers in the SDARNG.

"I look at everyday as an interview and am looking forward to my interview with this

outstanding unit," said Siemonsma.

Knight is now assigned as the administrative officer for the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade in Sioux Falls.

Siemonsma's career in the SDARNG began when he enlisted in the Service Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery in December 1995. By September 1998, he received his commission as a second lieutenant through the SDARNG's Officer Candidate School. As an artillery officer, he was assigned to Battery C, 1/147th FA in Yankton.

Some of his career highlights include liaison and fire direction officer for the Headquarters and Headquarters Service Battery, 1/147th FA, commander of Battery B, 1/147th FA, officer strength manager and operations and training officer for the Recruiting Battalion in Rapid City, and the administrative officer for the 1/147th Field Artillery Battalion in Watertown.

Prior to his assignment as R&R Battalion



commander, he was the deputy for the Construction and Facilities Management Office at Joint Force Headquarters in Rapid City.

Siemonsma also completed a tour of duty in Iraq, deploying with 2nd Battalion, 147th Field Artillery in 2004-2005.

OSTER PROMOTED TO COLONEL

RAPID CITY – The South Dakota Army National Guard promoted Michael Oster, of Rapid City, to the rank of colonel during a ceremony, Aug. 12, on Camp Rapid.

Oster serves full time as the deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel for Joint Force Headquarters at Camp Rapid.

Oster began his military service in 1986 enlisting as a combat wire installer with Battery A, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery in Mitchell. He received his commission through the Officer Candidate School program in 1990.

He earned his Bachelors and Master of Science

degrees from South Dakota State University and recently graduated from the United States Army War College.

Oster has commanded the 665th Maintenance Company, 727th Transportation Company, Recruiting and Retention Battalion and the 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion.

Oster has completed two tours of duty: one to Iraq in 2004-2005 with the Rapid Fielding Initiative, and his second tour to Afghanistan with the 152nd CSSB in 2013.

"I am looking forward to the continued opportunities that the South Dakota Army



National Guard has continually offered me over the past 29 years along with the new challenges that it will bring," said Oster.

155TH ENGINEER CO. ASSUMES MISSION IN KUWAIT

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – The South Dakota Army National Guard’s 155th Engineer Company assumed responsibility for vertical construction projects in Kuwait during a ceremony at Camp Beuhring, Oct. 14.

The 155th took over mission responsibilities from the California Army National Guard’s 315th Engineer Company to improve survivability, remodel and complete new construction of base infrastructure in the U.S. Army Central area of operations in Kuwait.

As a construction company, the 154 members of the Rapid City and Wagner-based unit has a wide variety of occupational specialties, which include

carpentry, plumbing, electrical and masonry.

A deployment ceremony was held in mid-August for the 155th prior to their pre-mobilization training at Fort Bliss, Texas. After about a month in Texas, the unit departed for Camp Beuhring.

Since arriving, the 155th has been learning their new responsibilities and taking over current operations from the 315th. Additionally, they’ve completed projects to include one on the Udairi Range Complex, multiple concrete pads for emergency phones, a gazebo and many small repairs around base.

This is the second mobilization for the 155th, which deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation



Noble Eagle in 2002-2003.

The 155th was the first SDNG unit to deploy after 9/11 in support of the Global War on Terror, where they helped to build up base infrastructure in Kuwait in the lead up to the Iraq war.

730TH AREA SUPPORT MEDICAL COMPANY CHANGES COMMAND

VERMILLION – Capt. Whitney Bruinsma, of Parkston, took command of the South Dakota Army National Guard’s 730th Area Support Medical Company during an Oct. 4 ceremony at the Vermillion armory.

Bruinsma assumed command from Capt. Joshua Paull, Rapid City, who commanded the unit since July 2013.

“You’re one of the top ASMC units in the nation,” Bruinsma said to the Soldiers during the ceremony. “I want to continue our journey leading you.”

As commander, Bruinsma will lead the medical company comprised of 94 Soldiers with a mission to provide basic emergency medical services. The unit is composed of combat medics, medical doctors, physician assistants, nurses, lab technicians, radiologists, dental technicians, mental health technicians, and maintenance and support staff.

Bruinsma enlisted into the 730th ASMC in 2003, while a junior in high school. In 2010, she commissioned as a Medical Service Corps officer and held leadership positions in both the 730th ASMC and 881st Troop Command in Sturgis.

Paull first enlisted in the 730th in 1998, serving as a combat medic for nine years.



BROOKINGS-BASED HEADQUARTERS COMPANY CHANGES COMMAND

BROOKINGS – Capt. Ross Pedersen, of Lincoln, Nebraska, took command of the South Dakota Army National Guard’s Headquarters Company, 139th Brigade Support Battalion, during an Oct. 4 change-of-command ceremony at the Brookings armory.

Pedersen assumed command from Capt. Lance Lockwood, of Rapid City, who commanded the unit since September 2012.

“I am extremely excited to be taking over command of such a well-established unit look forward to building upon that success in the future,” Pedersen said.

As commander, Pedersen is now responsible for the 77 Soldiers of the HHC, 139th BSB.

Lockwood is now assigned as the personnel officer for the 881st Troop Command in Sturgis.

“I am honored to have served as commander of HHC, 139th BSB, for the past three years,” Lockwood said. “I know that I am leaving this unit in great hands because of the top notch NCO leadership that is able to motivate Soldiers to achieve levels of performance that regularly surpass expectations. I have no doubt that the unit will continue great things under the leadership of Capt. Pedersen.”



NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIERS VOLUNTEER THROUGH DAY OF CARING

RAPID CITY – Members and employees of the South Dakota National Guard were among 964 Rapid City community members who volunteered their time to help those in need during the United Way of the Black Hills Day of Caring, Sept. 3.

This year volunteers completed 83 community projects for individuals and organizations in need.

The SDNG provided four teams of volunteers who did painting, staining and yardwork at three homes as well as paint work and landscaping at the Girl Scouts facility in Rapid City.

“The Black Hills community embraces the military and the South Dakota National Guard so the Day of Caring is an opportunity for us to give back,” said Col. Bill Freidel, S.D. Army National Guard chief of staff.

One team was able to landscape a yard of a former fellow Guardsmen.

“We all feel honored to give back to a veteran and his family because they have given so much to our community, state and nation,” said Maj. Quenten Johnson, SDNG.

“United Way is about making a positive change in our community,” said Sid Goss, Day of Caring emcee. “It’s a community effort and is only successful when lots of people come together for a common cause. I can’t think of a better example of this than the United Way Day of Caring. A project that touches people in a special way.”



ENGINEER AND AVIATION SOLDIERS TRAIN TO SAVE LIVES

By Sgt. Austin Slaughter
211th Engineer Company

MADISON – South Dakota Army National Guard engineer and aviation Soldiers joined to conduct medical evacuation training using a HH-60M Black Hawk helicopter at the Madison airport, Sept. 12.

Members of the 211th Engineer Company and Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, worked together to hone their medical evacuation procedures during mounted convoy operations. Skills tested included evaluating a casualty, requesting a 9-line medevac, detaining a high-value target and clearing a landing zone.

“Working side-by-side with the aviation crew provided our combat lifesavers and medics the opportunity to see the steps involved in the Army’s evacuation process,” said Staff Sgt. Nathan Olson, 211th medic. “Our medics were placed in a fast-paced and realistic atmosphere where they could see their medical competence at work.”

During one of the scenarios, 211th Soldiers conducting convoy operations experienced a simulated attack by the enemy and needed to call in a 9-line medevac request to save the life of one of their Soldiers.

“The nature of this training gave me the ability

to assess, critique and teach necessary triage, assessment, treatment and evacuation methods to a greater number of 211th Soldiers,” said Olson.

Once the casualty was loaded into the Black Hawk, the flight medic team performed further medical treatment while in route to the airport in Madison. The patients were then transported to an aid station where 211th medics performed additional medical care to treat and stabilize the casualties.

“The invaluable experience garnered from our collaboration with the 189th has truly made our unit stronger and gives me confidence in their ability to save lives, home or abroad,” said Olson.

Having the aviation crew available during drill weekend to train with the 211th is a rare opportunity.

“We don’t always get the opportunity to work with units outside of our chain of command and this is important because when we deploy, we often need to work in concert with other units,” said Capt. Christopher Schimke, 211th commander. “Utilizing the air asset allowed Soldiers on the ground to communicate with the pilots and flight medic team to successfully complete casualty evacuations.”



Members of the 211th Engineer Company participate in a medical evacuation training scenario designed to test the skills of the medics providing medical care to a wounded Soldier. (U.S. Army National Guard photo)



Members of the 211th Engineer Company and Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, participate in a medical evacuation training scenario designed to test the Soldiers’ ability to evacuate a wounded Soldier. (U.S. Army National Guard photo)

SOLDIERS DISPLAY MILITARY VEHICLES IN VINTIQUES CLASSIC CAR SHOW

By Sgt. Jen Smith
Company A, 139th Brigade Support Battalion

WATERTOWN – Soldiers of the South Dakota Army National Guard showcased a military display at the Vintiques Classic Car Show in Watertown, Sept. 13.

Members of Company A, 139th Brigade Support Battalion and 147th Forward Support Company, of Watertown, entered the military vehicles in the annual car show which displays more than 400 cars.

The military display featured a High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle, Heavy Expanded

Mobility Tactical Truck wrecker, HEMTT Truck, Forward Repair System, contact truck, .50 caliber rifle, MK 19 grenade launcher machine gun, and a sampling of Meals Ready-to-Eat.

“It was fantastic getting to serve the community and see how supportive and thankful they are to have the National Guard,” said Spc. Tracy Hague, 139th BSB, “The kids were the best part, their smiles are contagious and made everything worthwhile.”



WATERTOWN HOSTS “MEET THE MACHINES”

By Sgt. Jen Smith
Company A, 139th Brigade Support Battalion

WATERTOWN – Soldiers of the South Dakota Army National Guard hosted a “Meet the Machines” day for area community members at the Watertown Readiness Center, Aug. 8.

The event featured a variety of equipment and vehicles from local National Guard units and gave nearly 800 people an opportunity to see the military hardware firsthand.

Machines from other service professionals from the area were also on display such as the Watertown Fire and Police Departments, and local businesses. The Soldiers and service professionals worked

together to provide an afternoon full of excitement for those in attendance.

“This experience provided the community members with an opportunity to visit with several different professionals in the Watertown community,” said Sgt. Matthew Hess, of Company A, 139th Brigade Support Battalion. “It allowed the public to learn about some of the equipment they see rolling by up close.”



The Soldiers of Company A, 139th BSB, 147th Forward Support Company, and 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, displayed several pieces of equipment that are used to perform each of their vital missions in the National Guard.

Up-armored Humvees, medical ambulances, and water purification systems were a few of the featured machines.

114TH FIGHTER WING AWARDED FOR PERFORMANCE, SAFETY

SIoux FALLS – The 114th Fighter Wing continues to earn honors for excellence in performance and safety practices.

The South Dakota Air National Guard unit has earned the National Guard Association of the United States Distinguished Flying Unit Plaque and the Major General John J. Pesch Flight Safety Trophy, presented during the 2015 NGAUS conference in Nashville, Tennessee, Sept. 10-13.

The Distinguished Flying Unit Plaque recognizes the five highest-rated outstanding Air National Guard flying units in the nation. This is the fifth time the 114th has received the honor, which was previously awarded in 1980, 1985, 1988 and 2008.

For the fourth time in its history, the 114th has received the Pesch Trophy, which is presented to two flying units judged to have demonstrated the highest standards of flight safety. The 114th was previously awarded the Pesch Trophy in 1984, 1996 and 2004.

“The outstanding contributions of the 114th

Fighter Wing make them most deserving of these awards,” said Lt. Gen. Stanley Clarke III, director of the Air National Guard. “Their selection for this prestigious award reflects great credit upon themselves, the state of South Dakota and the Air National Guard.”

Distinguished flying units are selected by boards comprised of Army and Air Directorates of the National Guard Bureau, and selections are based on the overall combat readiness during the reporting year and the unit’s performance with respect to all other Air Guard flying units.

When making their selections, the board evaluates the unit’s flying safety record, aircraft operational readiness, unit manning, skill level qualifications and several other operational and manning requirements.

“It’s great to see the men and women of the 114th Fighter Wing recognized for these



prestigious awards,” said Col. Russ Walz, 114th commander. “Their dedication and commitment to excellence continues to lead at the national level representing South Dakota with great pride.”

The 114th operates F-16 fighter aircraft from facilities at Joe Foss Field in Sioux Falls. The ‘Flying Lobos’ have flown thousands of hours in F-16 aircraft without an accident from dozens of locations around the world, in a variety of weather conditions, during daylight and nighttime hours.

ENGINEER SKILLS TESTED IN BATTLE OF THE BLADES

By Pvt. Joshua Quandt

129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

SPEARFISH – Members of the 842nd Engineer Company hosted the 10th Battle of the Blades/Slashing Steel competition at the Spearfish rubble site, Sept. 12.

The event is held to give junior and senior heavy equipment operators a chance to gain experience operating bulldozers, scrapers, road graders, dump trucks and tractor-trailers. Senior operators coach junior operators through a series of tests designed to build their communication and operational skills.

“The biggest goal of this exercise is to get the newest operators the opportunity to get experience on the equipment,” said Sgt. 1st Class William Anderson, the event coordinator.

During the competition, teams of junior and senior operators completed tasks such as using a scraper to maneuver a bowling ball through an obstacle course and load and unload dirt using dump trucks.

The event gives unit members the opportunity to grow their trust in one another in order to accomplish their mission more efficiently.

“This is a great experience,” said Pfc. Tara Schmader, a heavy equipment operator. “We are already a close group but each event we do together, like Battle of the Blades or annual training, allows us to grow closer as a unit.”

The Battle of the Blades was originally designed as a way to find out which of the Soldiers of the company are the best operators.

“The Soldiers are proving to themselves and the rest of the unit who has the best operational skills,” said Anderson. “Whoever wins the battle gets bragging rights for the year.”



Spc. Danelle Clausen and Pfc. Alexander England compete in the Battle of the Blades competition by pushing a bowling ball around a obstacle course during a timed event. (Photo by Pvt. Joshua Quandt)

SDNG, SURINAME SHARE DISASTER MANAGEMENT BEST PRACTICES

By 1st Lt. Chad Carlson
SDNG Public Affairs Office

PARAMARIBO, Suriname – Members of the South Dakota National Guard, along with their South American partner nation Suriname, conducted a number of subject matter expert exchanges in August focusing on disaster management and response.

The exchanges began in early August when members of the Suriname Defense Forces were in South Dakota to observe emergency operation centers such as the SDNG's Joint Operation Center on Camp Rapid and the South Dakota Emergency Operations Center.

"Over the last few years, we've been troubled by some bad weather and flooding," said Suriname Defense Force Lt. Col. Johnny Antonius, head of Defense Strategic Planning and Education. "In just a three to four week period, we had severe wind gusts causing hundreds of houses to lose their roofs or be destroyed altogether. We believe storms like this will return and while we can't avoid it, we can at least get a system in place that better helps us get assistance to the ones that need it."

While Suriname's National Coordination Center for Disaster Relief, their equivalent to FEMA, is mandated to coordinate with all the ministries in their government for disaster relief operations, Antonius said they too are ready to establish emergency operation centers.

"The idea was to come here and look at your systems and see what we might be able to develop," said Antonius. "I will say that we've succeeded. What we've seen here was impressive at all levels."

Members of the SDNG followed up in Suriname, Aug. 19-20, with a second exchange focusing on disaster management.

Three Guardsmen met with members of the Suriname Defense Forces, Suriname's National Coordination Center for Disaster Relief and other governmental ministries to discuss command and control and standing operating procedures within the Suriname Disaster Response Systems.

"After learning the history, structure and capabilities of both the Suriname Defense Forces and Suriname's National Coordination Center for Disaster Relief, our team introduced some of South Dakota's National Guard "best practices" that apply to military personnel working with local authorities responding to disasters," said U.S. Army Maj. Kenn Kerfont, Training Branch operations officer, SDNG.

Some of the practices shared included planning essential support functions, which range from command and control to logistics, maintenance, security and medical support, among others, and how and when each function is involved in a disaster response.

Participants walked through disaster scenarios that Suriname recently dealt with to include flooding and high winds that recently destroyed more than 100 roofs of homes and the formal requesting procedures for assistance during these extreme situations.

The S.D. participants, which included Kerfont, and U.S. Air Force Master Sgts. Emil Salisbury III and Brian Lebrun, South Dakota Air National Guard, frequently referenced the SDNG's involvement in the Missouri River flooding and each essential support function during the response.

This exchange concluded with a practical exercise built around a potential real-world scenario involving two teams working towards a final product.

Each team presented its plan to the National Coordination Center for Disaster Relief coordinator on how they would prepare for the given scenario.



Capt. Jodi Gilberti, operations officer, South Dakota Army National Guard, briefs leadership from Suriname's Army, Navy, Air Force, Military Police, Special Troops and the National Coordination Center for Disaster Relief during a subject matter expert exchange focusing on disaster response best practices in Paramaribo, Suriname, Aug. 26. (U.S. Army National Guard photo)

"The exercise was vital to the success of the event," said Salisbury, deputy fire chief with the SDANG's 114th Fighter Wing. "This was a refreshingly different type of experience that provided an opportunity for me to gain a better understanding of cultural differences, develop my leadership skills and advance my knowledge of disaster management."

"We felt very satisfied with our team's accomplishments towards enabling further discussions between Suriname's National Coordination Center for Disaster Relief and the Suriname Defense Forces on the importance of working together to better plan, prepare and respond to known disasters," said Kerfont.

The SDNG sent another three members to Suriname, Aug. 26-27, to expand on the series of exchanges, this time focusing on disaster response best practices.

The Guardsmen met with leadership from Suriname's Army, Navy, Air Force, Military Police, Special Troops and the National Coordination Center for Disaster Relief to discuss joint operations during disaster response.

"This exchange brought together the various branches of Suriname's Defense Forces and allowed us to discuss practices that would allow them to best work together to achieve a common goal," said Sgt. Maj. Chad Schmitz, operations NCO, SDNG.

"Their leadership is striving to get the coordination between their National Coordination Center for Disaster Relief and their defense forces in an emergency situation or natural disaster to work together much like South Dakota's Office of Emergency Management and National Guard when responding to disasters," said Sgt. 1st Class Chad Brooks, Joint Operations Center NCO, SDNG.

Over the course of two days, S.D. Guardsmen presented briefs ranging in topics from command and control principles to the common operating procedure, all focused on joint operations, in which various branches of the military and civilian assets would need to work together.

"We shared some of South Dakota's best practices, how we run our

Continued on next page



Members of the South Dakota National Guard spent two days in Suriname, Aug. 19-20, as part of a subject matter expert exchange focusing on disaster management. Three Guardsmen met with members the Suriname Armed Forces, Suriname's National Coordination Center for Disaster Relief and other governmental ministries to discuss command and control and standing operating procedures within the Suriname Disaster Response Systems. (U.S. Army National Guard photo)



Skate through the Season at Main Street Square

- Holiday Celebration..... Nov. 28**
- Ugly Sweater Party..... Dec. 4**
- Movies on the Ice..... Dec. 5**
"The Santa Claus 3: The Escape Claus" at dusk
- Rapid City PD/FD Broomball match..... Dec. 12**
- Lights on the Ice Teen Night..... Dec. 18**
- Movies on the Ice..... Dec. 19**
"Arthur Christmas" at dusk
- Christmas Day CLOSED..... Dec. 25**
- Downtown Countdown..... Dec. 31**

Prices	
Skate Rental..... \$3	Youth Day Pass.....\$4
Helmet Rental.....Free	Adult Day pass.....\$5
<i>*Senior, military and group discounts available</i>	



200+ Events | Shopping | Dining | Entertainment
526 Main St., Downtown Rapid City (605) 716-7979
www.MainStreetSquareRC.com | f t i v



DOWNTOWN
RAPID CITY



Col. Thomas Croymans, left, South Dakota National Guard's director of the joint staff, shows members of Suriname's Defense Forces the SDNG's Joint Operations Center at Camp Rapid, July 28. (U.S. Army National Guard photo)

Joint Operations Center and how we manage the communication and coordination necessary when conducting operations," said Capt. Jodi Gilberti, operations officer, SDNG.

Following the briefs, leadership from the various branches of Suriname's military and the NCCDR were presented with a natural disaster exercise in which people and assets would need to be moved requiring all of the organizations to coordinate in order to accomplish the mission.

"We gave them an exercise with a few scenarios such as roads washing away causing the need for Navy boats and Air Force planes to move Army personnel to various locations," said Schmitz. "It really opened up a line of communication among leadership and started their planning process."

"We hope that this exchange helped reinforce some of the practices they've seen throughout South Dakota," Gilberti said. "We also hope it builds on the relationships between their joint military staff and civilian organizations."

250 SD AIRMEN RETURN FROM REPUBLIC OF KOREA

By Staff Sgt. Nick Wilson
8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs



Master Sgt. Lucas Roorda, 114th Maintenance Group aircraft armament system mechanic, is one of the almost 250 members of the South Dakota Air National Guard welcomed home to Joe Foss Field, Sep. 18. The members returned from a four-month tour in support of the Pacific Command Theater Security Package. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Luke Olson)

KUNSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea – About 250 South Dakota Air National Guardsmen returned from Kunsan Air Base Sept. 18, after supporting a Theater Security Package to the Republic of Korea.

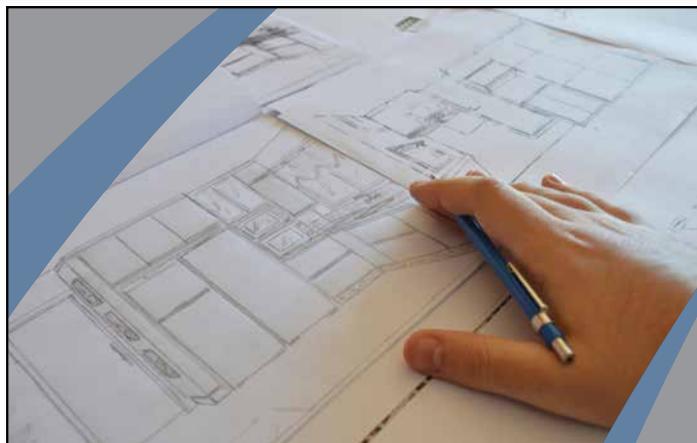
As a TSP, Guardsmen from the 175th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron integrated with Airmen from the 8th Fighter Wing here for four months as part of a rotation to enable the U.S. to maintain a significant presence within the Pacific Theater. Rotational forces at deployed locations reduce the distance and response time for contingency operations.

“It’s also a total force concept,” said Lt. Col. Todd M. Sheridan, 175th EFS commander. “We really showed a robust team of full-time Guardsmen, part-time Guardsmen and full-time active duty members. The ANG is all about being there to support the mission and being accessible.”

The deployment provided training opportunities for pilots from the 175th EFS to integrate with pilots from other fighter squadrons to conduct large force exercises. It also demonstrated the U.S. military’s contribution to the Asia-Pacific rebalance by maintaining training and operational readiness.

“It’s been very helpful both personally and professionally,” said Capt. Blake Schneider, 175th EFS F-16 Fighting Falcon pilot and assistant director of weapons and tactics. “For instance, we had another three fighter squadrons at Kunsan, Osan and the Republic of Korea air force we weren’t used to working with. Working on that kind of scale and dealing with the challenge of working into that schedule is unique for us because we’re accustomed to owning the airspace back home.”

The 175th EFS bolstered the Wolf Pack’s mission by generating 675 sorties and 911 flight hours. They also conducted three generation exercises, one large force exercise and maintainers and pilots to support Exercise Beverly Midnight 15-4 in July. Through these sorties and flight hours, they were able to partake in unique opportunities to integrate into joint, coalition and bilateral training across diverse environments.



We’ll Make It Happen...
With a HELOC from Highmark.

No appraisal • Quick turnaround

HighmarkFCU.com • 800.672.6365
Offices in Rapid City, Spearfish, Custer & Gillette





114th Fighter Wing firefighters welcome home an F-16 Fighting Falcon with a shower at Joe Foss Field as it returns from a deployment to South Korea. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Luke Olson)

“I think our Airmen hit a home run,” said Maj. Kelly Petterson, 175th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Unit officer in charge. “They took it as a challenge to showcase their talents.”

Older, more experienced Guardsmen were also able to pass down their knowledge to younger active duty Airmen.

“Guardsmen are kind of looked at as weekend warriors, but most of us, myself included, were prior active duty Airmen,” Petterson said. “We pass that experience and kind of nurture the younger folks. I think that’s the biggest benefit the ANG brings to the table.”

Maintainers from the 175th EFS also provided support to aircraft in both the 8th FW and the 175th EFS.

“My goal, from a maintenance perspective, was to successfully integrate, yet continue the upgrade training of our Airmen to 5-levels and 7-levels,” Petterson said. “We did a good job of pushing training, while simultaneously being ready to go and fight tonight.”

In fact, many of the Guardsmen in the 175th EFS that were previously active duty have been working on the equipment and aircraft for more than 25 years. They were able to provide assistance in the electronic countermeasures, aircraft armament systems and avionics intermediate shops.

“When we integrated into the shops, we were able to help a lot of the younger active duty folks improve their areas,” Petterson said. “Our guys went in there and helped out with a lot of their training so that when we leave here, the equipment will be in a lot better shape than it was when we got here. Our legacy for taking the fight north will go on after we leave.”

One of the challenges that the unit overcame was understanding what the “fight tonight” posture really was and providing a contribution.

Rotational deployments to host-nation allies build cooperation and bolster regional security interests and goals.

“You don’t really get the full spectrum of what

the Wolf Pack is all about until you get here and you see how the base is set up,” Petterson said. “This is the real deal. They weren’t kidding. We weren’t expecting that type of air expeditionary force environment to the level that it truly is.”

Being told about the mission and living through the mission are on opposite ends of the spectrum, Petterson said.

“Adapting to the environment, the facilities and the airspace was also a learning curve,” Sheridan said. “It’s been amazing to work with our 8th Fighter Wing and ROKAF counterparts. Above and beyond tactical execution and practice is learning about airmanship and making decisions on the fly with airspace and weather conditions that they might not be used to. The airspace was also more busy than what we were used to.”

The 175th EFS is also the only unit in the ANG that flies the block 40 F-16, which is the same model F-16 that the 8th FW flies.

“We’re the only ANG fighter wing that’s able to integrate to the level that we did here at Kunsan,” Petterson said. “Every other unit either flies block 30’s, block 42’s or block 52’s. Our F-16’s are exact carbon copies of the 8th Fighter Wing aircraft.”

The 175th ANG had more than 230 maintainers and support personnel to help pilots and keep the planes flying.

“It’s usually important both from an operations piece and a maintenance piece to have that right mix of people,” Sheridan said. “I had 25 pilots rotating in and out due to our alert commitment at home for homeland defense. We had a great team of maintainers, administrators, a command senior staff, an aircrew flight equipment flight and an intelligence flight who supported the mission on a daily basis. We couldn’t have done it without them.”

While rotating pilots, one of the challenges for Sheridan was tending to missions in theater and back home at the same time.

“Since we have a local mission answering to the governor in South Dakota and a federal



Master Sgt. Cory Jorgensen, 114th Maintenance Group avionics technician, is welcomed home by Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, the SDNG adjutant general and U.S. Senator John Thune. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Luke Olson)

mission here, it’s a good opportunity for us to use this as training,” Petterson said. “Most of our Airmen were traditional Guardsmen, which means they do two days a month, two weeks a year of training. To come to Kunsan, a place where we would go to war if called upon, bring them to this environment and work alongside active duty Airmen, they can now take that back and train the Guardsmen that didn’t come or the Guardsmen that are coming.”

The four-month deployment gave Guardsmen an opportunity to increase their experience to a level that would take years to acquire in their traditional role in South Dakota.

“Everything we learned here was invaluable,” Petterson said. “What we gained in 120 days was something we wouldn’t have got in five years. It was a steep, but rewarding learning curve. I think that’s the biggest value - just being here and learning what this is all about.”


 A photograph showing two soldiers in camouflage uniforms working on equipment. The soldier in the foreground is using a tool to work on a component, while the soldier behind him looks on. They are outdoors, and the equipment appears to be part of a vehicle or large machinery.

SIBLINGS JOIN FAMILY LINEAGE OF MILITARY SERVICE

By Jason Thomson
196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade

Spc. Briar Ahnberg and Pvt. Alyvia Ahnberg, of the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, South Dakota Army National Guard, work together on preventive maintenance on their section equipment while attending drill. (Photo by Maj. Jason Thomson)

As her family looked on, Alyvia Ahnberg took her oath of enlistment at the Military Entrance Processing Station in Sioux Falls, Aug. 3.

As she recited the words “to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic,” Alyvia’s brother, Briar, and father, Kevin, watched with pride, as she joined the family’s lineage of service in the U.S. military.

As the newest member of the South Dakota National Guard’s 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Ahnberg follows the footsteps of her brother Briar into the ranks of the Sioux Falls-based 196th. Alyvia’s father was another inspiration to her, who served in the Marine Corps.

“Congratulations, you are now a member of the South Dakota Army National Guard,” said Maj. Jason Thomson, 196th MEB personnel officer, after administering the oath. “This is the start of a career opportunity that you should be proud of.”

A resident of Sioux Falls, Alyvia is currently in her senior year within the Harrisburg School District. Alyvia said she felt no pressure or obligation to enlist – in fact, her parents preferred she enlist a little later.

“I knew that this was an opportunity that I would have to work hard for from the start, both physically and mentally, to prove that I can actually do this,” said Alyvia.

She credits her can-do attitude and work ethic to growing up with strong

family values. Alyvia enlisted as a human resource specialist within the human resource section of the 196th MEB.

Her brother, Briar, enlisted as a geospatial engineer within the brigade headquarters in 2013. He delayed his first year of college after graduating from the Harrisburg School District last year and attended training throughout the majority of 2014 in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

Briar was initially interested in joining the Marine Corps but kept his options open when making his decision. He recalls the moment his recruiter came to his family’s house to talk about the different units and jobs available in the National Guard.

“He explained to my parents and I that there were a few openings here in Sioux Falls that could really benefit my civilian job experience and opportunities down the road if I would like to attend college instead of going active duty,” said Briar. “I said without hesitating that this is what I want to do, causing my parents to get excited about me being able to be a citizen-Soldier and going to college locally.”

“This career opportunity opens up so many opportunities in life, especially with the job I chose, human resources,” said Alyvia. “My dad served in the Marines at one point and that always intrigued me. I knew this job could open up doors to that kind of thing.”

Alyvia’s father, Kevin, served in the Marine Corps from 1990 – 1994. He



Above: Spc. Briar Ahnberg and Pvt. Alyvia Ahnberg, of the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, pose for a photo during drill. (Photo by Maj. Jason Thomason)

Left: The Ahnberg family after the oath of enlistment of Pvt. Alyvia Ahnberg, Aug. 3, at the Military Entrance Processing Station in Sioux Falls. (Photo by Maj. Jason Thomason)



spent much of his time during his service at Camp Hanson, Okinawa, as well as Camp Pendleton, California.

"I regretted not continuing my service, so I appreciate the fact that my children recognize the importance of it and have taken the leap on their own," said Kevin.

After graduating high school later this spring, Alyvia will head to basic training and then to human resource training before joining the 196th.

"Both kids enlisted on their own and for their own reasons, and I believe the right reasons – not

anybody else's," said Kevin. "I'm proud of each of them and hope they take advantage of their service."

The unit that both Briar and Alyvia are a part of is scheduled for a deployment to Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom – Spartan Shield in late February 2016.

Thirty-nine Soldiers from the unit are being selected to serve on the nine-month deployment to conduct force protection and security operations.

Regardless of this knowledge, Alyvia still

decided to join the unit and looks forward to the opportunity when she will be able to contribute to the unit's mission.

"I am proud when anyone raises their right hand to serve," said Thomason. "I hope both are looking for a challenge and a chance to learn and grow within a professional organization."

Briar is looking to put his military education incentives to work this fall by starting college at South Dakota State University in Brookings. Alyvia also looks forward to attending SDSU upon the completion of her training.



FARMER, SOLDIER REFLECTS ON FREEDOM, LOVE OF FARMING

By Lura Roti

Originally published in the S.D. Farmers Union

Taking a break from soybean harvest, Tyler Gerlach, climbs into a John Deere 9430 and begins planting winter wheat. Well into the rhythm of planting, Gerlach, 31, begins visiting about the double life he leads – that of a Stickney farmer and the former company commander of the 1742nd Army National Guard Transportation Company.

As foreign as the two careers may seem from one another – Capt. Gerlach was recently responsible for the lives of 160 National Guard Soldiers whereas Farmer Gerlach, along with his brother LaRon are stewards of the land, raising 3,000 acres of corn, soybeans and winter wheat - Gerlach says there are many circumstances when his background in farming makes him a better Soldier and being a Soldier makes him a better farmer/business owner.

“Farmers learn not to make rash decisions. Just like planting corn. You don’t plant when it’s muddy because it won’t grow as well. As a Soldier I analyze everything and take all conditions into consideration before making a decision,” says Gerlach, who returned from a 9-month deployment to Afghanistan in October, 2014.

His years of leadership experience and training in the Army National Guard taught him the value of planning ahead. “In the military we plan for everything well ahead of time,” he explains. “If something doesn’t pan out, we don’t get upset, we move on to the next plan. Sounds a lot like farming doesn’t it?”

IN HIS BLOOD

Growing up, Gerlach spent his weekends and summers working on his Uncle Andy’s farm. When it came time to begin thinking about what he was going to do after high school, his uncle let him know that returning to farm was a viable option and encouraged him to study agriculture in college.

“I practically grew up on my uncle’s farm. I love working outside. I also love the technical nature of farming. He and my Aunt Doris never had children, so they invested a lot of energy in my brother and me. They are like our second parents.”

It became his plan to attend South Dakota State University and major in Agriculture Systems Technology with a specialization in Agronomy. To pay for college Gerlach joined the Army National Guard in August 2001 – just a month before September 11.

After high school, instead of spending his days on a college campus, Gerlach was attending Basic Training and then activated to Air Force Security at Joe Foss Field in Sioux Falls for two years.

“Since the farm was so close, on my days off I was able to help on the farm and I took a fair amount of leave during harvest.”

From the beginning, Gerlach says he felt right at home in the National Guard. “Many things that make farming fun, I also found in the Guard,” he



with his young children easy, Vicki had them place items in a basket to help remind them of things they wanted to talk to daddy about. “That really helped keep us connected.”

Although he and his brother also spoke frequently, LaRon kept farm-related discussions positive.

“He never brought any problems to me. He would only visit with me about issues after they were solved.”

Gerlach adds that while he was gone, family and neighbors pitched in to help with farm work.

“Being overseas, my family couldn’t have done it without family, friends and neighbors. My brother and our employee were pushed for time to get 900 acres of winter wheat out of the field and a bunch of neighbors pitched in to help – I have a photo on Facebook of all the neighbors semis lined up in our field to haul wheat for us.”

To thank them, Gerlach sent them each an American flag which flew over the base where they were stationed in Kandahar.

Although the mission was not uneventful, Gerlach’s entire unit made it home.

While the unit was collecting equipment from remote bases across Afghanistan, they were responsible for their own security.

“At times it was dangerous, but we all made it home and there were no serious injuries.”

Looking back on where he was just a little more than a year ago, Gerlach says he wouldn’t change a thing.

“I am more patriotic now than ever. I am glad I had the opportunity to do the thing I had signed up to do as a young man – to serve my country,” he says. “I also think it’s more important than ever that we try and find alternatives to foreign oil that could be heavily impacted by international conflict. As a corn producer, 95 percent of my corn goes to POET. In addition, in this global future we need to be very certain of the politics of war as we venture into the very cultural diverse regions of the world.”

explains, adding that his dad, Ronald and brother, LaRon also served in the Guard. “I developed a strong base of friends there.”

When his deployment ended, Gerlach began classes at SDSU. As a student, he along with his girlfriend at the time, Vicki Schumacher, became involved in Collegiate Farmers Union. Both of their families had been active in Farmers Union and Vicki is a Torchbearer.

“Lobbying for the needs of the family farmer is something we both feel very strongly about,” says Gerlach, who is President of Aurora County Farmers Union. “I am also grateful for all they do to support ethanol and renewable fuels. Farmers Union gives us a voice and the strength that can only be found within a grassroots organization.”

In 2008, he graduated, and returned to farming fulltime. His uncle retired, making it possible for Gerlach and his brother to begin taking over ownership of the farm.

“Uncle Andy made it easy. We couldn’t have done it without him. He was willing to take on risk and stick his neck out for us when the bank couldn’t,” says Gerlach, explaining that all parties involved began working with lawyers to design a transition plan that was fair for everyone.

“We had a lot of discussions with lawyers and the accountant and hashed everything out so that it was fair for everyone,” Gerlach says.

Together he and LaRon built upon their uncle’s farming legacy – continuing to implement Andy’s no-till farming practices and acceptance of precision agriculture technology.

They also began utilizing variable rate technology. As an agronomist, Gerlach writes prescriptions for seed and fertilizer placement. Scouting and input recommendations also fall on his plate.

“It works out well because my brother is a diesel mechanic, so he manages all the equipment,” Gerlach explains.

Also in 2008, he and Vicki married. Today they have two children, daughter, Alexis, 5 and a son, Easton, 4.

“I don’t think there is any better way to raise a family than on the farm,” he says. “We get to teach

our children a good work ethic. They get to see the value in a good day’s work.”

MORE PATRIOTIC THAN EVER

At the same time that he was building his farm and family, Gerlach remained active in the Army National Guard, serving one weekend a month and two weeks a year. Following his college graduation, Gerlach became an officer.

In 2012, he became a company commander and was notified that in a year his new unit would be deployed to Afghanistan. It was their job to gather unused equipment from remote operating bases, bring the equipment to a centralized location where it would be destroyed or shipped back to the U.S.

“Basically, it was our job to make sure our equipment didn’t fall into the wrong hands,” Gerlach explained.

Preparing 160 Soldiers and his farm for deployment became his fulltime job.

He and his brother hired an agronomist and employee to take over Gerlach’s farm responsibilities.

“We made good plans. When you have your life, livelihood and future 8,000 miles away, you cannot think of ‘what ifs.’”

As the countdown to deployment began, Gerlach moved to Sioux Falls so he could focus 100 percent of his energy on the imminent deployment.

“I needed to focus on one thing and that was taking my unit overseas,” he says. “As company commander everything that happens, good or bad, is my responsibility.”

Once he was deployed, Gerlach worked to stay in close communication with his family. He and Vicki chatted via FaceTime almost daily. To make conversations



SOLDIERS HELP BOY SCOUTS FIND

STRENGTH WITHIN

By Spc. Carl Johnson
129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The crisp air matches the participants' anticipation as dawn breaks over Lewis and Clark Scout Camp near Yankton. Over 250 Boy Scouts and more than 60 South Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers stand at attention as the flag ceremony begins. In the background the bugle plays as the children's eyes follow the crew of four Soldiers cradling the neatly folded red, white and blue flag. A picturesque scene with a pink and gold hewn sky stretches out over the crowd.

After the solemn moment fades, Soldiers and scouts began their busy weekend, Oct. 2-4, a joint opportunity allowing Soldiers to instruct while scouts sharpen their survival skills.

"We wanted to do some 'out of the box' training for our Soldiers," said Capt. Michael Nei, commander of Battery B, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery. "Our guys really enjoyed being able to invest their time into young lives. It was a great event for the community."

Multiple National Guard units from across South Dakota were involved to include: the 730th Area Support Medical Company; Battery B, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery; 842nd Engineer Company; 211th Engineer Company (Sapper), and the 196th Regiment, Regional Training Institute provided training support.

The event gave the Soldiers the opportunity to provide inspiration to young men.

"Everybody was so enthused about working with the National Guard," said Barry Schloss, property manager of the camp. "Our organization is built on learning how to do something, making mistakes, learning from it and moving on. Overcoming adversity really, in that way the two organizations are very similar."

The Soldiers were able to improve the scouts' knowledge in several areas: gun safety, fire building, survival techniques, rappelling, military communication, physical fitness, land navigation,

Soldiers from the South Dakota National Guard's Battery B, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, and Boy Scouts from various regional troops pay their respects to the flag. (Photo by Spc. Kristin Lichius)

flags and military customs, first aid, map reading and exposure to military equipment.

At the gun safety station, an electronic target system allowed scouts to test their marksmanship skills on an electronic target system. The weapons are not actually fired but a laser is released by the pull of the trigger and the target senses where the laser lands. The scores were recorded and friendly competition ensued.

Several scouts could also be seen exploring the various Humvees and track vehicles. The scouts showed particular interest in the different weapon systems that were on display. Soldiers explained how each system functioned and in what warfare situation they would be used.



Sgt. Brett Hanes of Battery B, helps a Boy Scout with Troop 102 down from a rappel tower during the Boy Scout Camporee. (Photo by Spc. Kristin Lichius)



A Boy Scout from Troop 72, rappels down a wall while Sgt. Brett Hanes, Battery B, assists. (Photo by Spc. Carl Johnson)



Dylan Kortan and Alex Ketter, of Troop 102, are taught how to complete a weapon functions check by Spc. Phil Oligmueller with Battery B. (Photo by Spc. Carl Johnson)

During the obstacle course, Soldiers guided the scouts through step swings, cargo nets, slide poles and climbing walls.

While the scouts and Soldiers worked on their skills, leadership saw how the training was benefitting both organizations.

“The National Guard helped us attract a lot more youth to this event,” said Tom Smotherman, the executive director for the Sioux Council Boy Scouts of America. “It brought nearly 300 kids out here. We would have expected around 100 normally. We had to cap it at 300 because that is all the dining hall could handle.”

“The Boy Scouts provided a realistic training experience for us,” said 1st Sgt. Brooks Schild, of Battery B, 1/147th FA.

Schild went on to say that training young people tested the Soldiers’ knowledge, as the scouts had numerous questions.

Staff Sgt. Michael Schwans, training NCO for the 147th, was in charge of securing resources for the event. Humvees, various track vehicles, a wide assortment of weapons, and even a MRE (meal ready to eat) lunch were available to the scouts and scout leaders.

“We really tried to get everything possible to provide a great experience for these kids,” said Schwans.

The National Guard was supportive of the Boy Scout leadership’s goal to create a ‘wow’ experience for the scouts, said Smotherman.

“Having the Soldiers here brings that ‘wow’ attraction more than going to the state park,

tying some knots and starting some fires,” said Smotherman. “Events like this one help keep kids in the program.”

Jordan Beukelman, a Boy Scout with Troop 72 in Mitchell, had his own ‘wow’ moment.

“I saw a video of people doing the rappel tower,” said Beukelman, with a hint of nervousness in his voice. “I thought to myself ‘I don’t know if I’m ever going to do that.’ I finally did though!”

Several scouts were similar to Beukelman and initially showed hesitation while attempting to scale and descend the rappel tower. As the assisting Soldiers calmly coached them through each step, the scouts’ fears dissipated and gave way to confidence. With a little help, each one found their strength within.



Ethan Peek, a Boy Scout from Troop 152 in Sioux Falls, sits in the cab of a tracked military vehicle at the Boy Scout Camporee. (Photo by Spc. Carl Johnson)

FOUR SOLDIERS COMMISSIONED AS WARRANT OFFICERS

By 1st Lt. Chad Olson

SDNG Public Affairs Office

Four South Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers completed Warrant Officer Candidate School and then took the Oath of Office, commissioning as warrant officers, during a ceremony at Camp Atterbury, Indiana, Sept. 24.

"The mission of Warrant Officer Candidate School is to educate, train and inspire candidates so that each graduate is an officer who is a leader of character committed to doing what is right legally, morally and ethically both on or off duty," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Brian Maschino, WOCS senior trainer.

The intensive three-phased leader development course prepares Soldiers for the responsibilities required of warrant officers.

"The course assesses the Soldiers' ability to achieve the core competencies for warrant officers, which are lead, develop and achieve," said Lt. Col. Deb Bartunek, commander of 1st Battalion, 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) at Fort Meade, S.D. "In a time restrictive environment, candidates are given missions which require them to think on their feet and come up with innovative ways to motivate their team and complete their missions successfully.

"Most Soldiers can lead and make decisions when there are no time limitations or pressure put on them, however these candidates are put into high pressure situations to assess their ability to handle stress and time management," said Bartunek.

In order to attend WOCS, Soldiers first submit pre-determination packets, which are approved through their respective U.S. Army proponents and screened for the ability to successfully perform in that career field.

Once accepted, candidates begin the 90-day distance learning phase I, which focuses on academics and includes two exams.

During phase II, conducted at Fort Meade over the course of five inactive-duty training weekends, in addition to academics, candidates conduct briefings, are evaluated in various leadership roles and physically tested, both with an Army Physical Fitness Test and on three ruck marches, with the final 10K- ruck march being evaluated.

"Experiential learning events throughout the program, such as warrior tasks and battle drill-related activities provide leadership opportunities while emphasizing lessons relevant to the operating environment," Maschino said.

Phase III, a two-week phase conducted at Camp Atterbury, incorporates everything the candidates have been taught in the program and concludes with a one-week field leadership exercise.

"Activities within the field leadership exercise provide candidates expanded opportunities to apply flexible, adaptive leadership principles in stressful, sometimes ambiguous, situations to reinforce and build upon previous classroom theory studies and discussion," said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Lonny Hofer, state command chief warrant officer for the SDNG.

"The ideal warrant officer candidate is an experienced noncommissioned officer who is highly specialized and a trainer in their career field who wants to take their military training, expertise and potential career path to the next level," said Hofer.

"Someone that is open and accepting to new ideas," Maschino added. "Someone that is willing to accept that becoming a warrant officer is a career of life-long learning through education and experiences. The individual must

be self-motivating, willing to put in long days. This person needs to be able to give direction with purpose that will motivate other to achieve a common goal. Be physically and mentally fit to maintain standards of the course."

Upon completing WOCS, candidates commission as warrant officers and are appointed to Army National Guard units across South Dakota.

"This was a great opportunity to challenge myself in a way not everyone gets the opportunity to do," said Warrant Officer Mark Mahoney, assigned to the 1742nd Transportation Company in Sioux Falls. "I also saw this as a great way of giving myself greater opportunity in my career for development."

The newly commissioned warrant officer will next attend training specific to their Army branches, where they will receive more focused technical training.

"We had the pleasure of watching four very talented Soldiers pin on the rank of warrant officer," said Bartunek. "These Soldiers all have the ability to be very successful leaders in the units they have been assigned. It has been fun to watch them develop and I look forward to seeing the contributions they will make to our organization as their careers progress."



Warrant Officers Mark Mahoney, 1742nd Transportation Company; Douglas Borchert, 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion; Anton Derline, Joint Force Headquarters, and Brandon Voss, 155th Engineer Company, completed Warrant Officer Candidate School and then took the Oath of Office, commissioning as warrant officers, during a ceremony at Camp Atterbury, Indiana, Sept. 24. (S.D. Army National Guard photo)

DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS ENHANCE NATIONAL GUARD EXPERIENCE

By Sgt. Mark VanGerpen

196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade

Being a minority in the Army is a challenge for some Soldiers. Coming from a wide variety of backgrounds from all corners of the nation, Soldiers in the South Dakota National Guard often work closely with Soldiers and civilians of other races, religions and genders.

According to two Soldiers in the SDNG's 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, having a different heritage than those around them can be both a blessing and a challenge.

Pfc. Angelica Rico enlisted in the SDNG Dec. 12, 2013, at the age of 17.

The youngest of five children, Rico was born to Mexican parents who immigrated to the United States in 1994. Her father was a farmer by trade who had moved to the U.S. in search of a better opportunity for his wife and family.

Rico's heritage and gender place her in the minority among her Army peers. But as far as she is concerned, neither has hindered any of her relationships in the military.

"Maybe (others) see it, but I don't," Rico said. "Nobody has pointed it out. I fit right in with everyone else."

In recent years, the Army has taken steps toward reducing barriers to equal opportunity, weeding out discrimination in all forms whether it's race, gender, creed or sexual orientation.

Rico said she has not experienced any barriers in her short time with the Army. Instead, she sees a wide spectrum of Soldiers who are capable in their own right, and has developed close friendships with Soldiers from all walks of life.

"It's like a second family to me," she said. "All the things you learn and the friends you make ... you just become accustomed to the differences."

But cultural differences are not invisible to everyone. Rico's superior, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jaime Badillo, is of Puerto Rican descent. During his tenure with the Army, Badillo has faced a number of instances of confusion and prejudice due to his heritage.

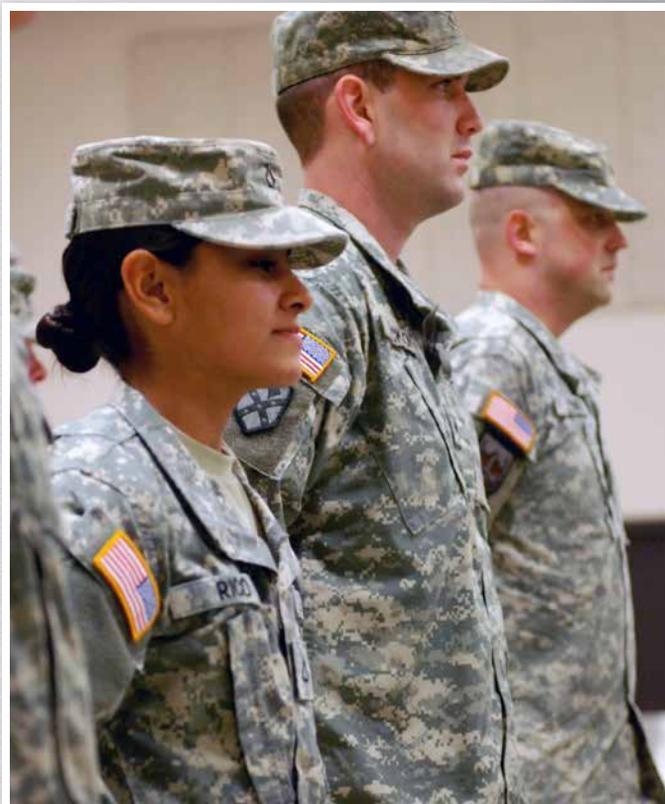
Badillo was only three months old when his parents brought him to the U.S., but he said that sometimes his name alone was enough for people to draw conclusions about him.

"Some people thought that because I was Puerto Rican, I had just come to the U.S. and could not speak English," Badillo said. "In basic training my drill sergeant wanted to send me to English school because he could not pronounce my last name."

Despite those challenges, the military ultimately helped Badillo develop the ability to overcome the stereotypes he faced.

"The military gave me direction and structure," Badillo said. "It provided me the ability to deal with challenges in my life ... I have always enjoyed a challenge and when most Soldiers meet me for the first time they don't believe that I can perform my responsibility. Once people get to know me and realize that I have a college degree and that I do a job that most people can't even understand, they treat me differently."

Rico and Badillo stand at opposite ends of their careers: Rico is just beginning hers, while Badillo is preparing to retire. Their heritage has given them both unique experiences in the Army, and while some have been positive and others negative, the Army's goal is the same: to eliminate discrimination on any basis, and instead celebrate the diversity that makes people who they are.



Pfc. Angelica Rico, left, stands in formation at her first official drill with the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade in Sioux Falls. (Photo by Sgt. Mark VanGerpen)



Pfc. Angelica Rico, right, checks the oil level on a Humvee with Staff Sgt. Mike Kotab at her first official drill. (Photo by Sgt. Mark VanGerpen)

SD GUARD HONORS CODE TALKERS WITH TRAVELING EXHIBIT

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

The South Dakota National Guard diversity council, in partnership with community organizations, held the first of four Oceti Sakowin (Oh-CHAY-tee Shaw-KOE-ween) Code Talker celebrations to be held throughout the state at the Pierre Indian Learning Center, Oct. 14.

The celebrations honor the 67 Native American code talkers from South Dakota who helped win World War I and World War II by confusing the Germans with their Dakota/Lakota language. The celebrations feature a traveling exhibit “Honoring Native Pride and Spirit – Yesterday, Today and Forever” that honors the code talkers, their families and all veterans who served or are currently serving in the military.

“We wanted to do this because it helps integrate the Native American culture into the military,” said 1st Lt. Carstin Jerzak, SDNG state equal employment manager. “Our diversity council puts on programs or traveling exhibits like this one throughout the year to help provide inclusion and understanding of our different cultures among our service members in the South Dakota National Guard.”

The exhibit includes tribal flags and seven medallions honoring the Cheyenne River, Crow Creek, Oglala, Rosebud, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate, Standing Rock and Yankton tribes. Another medallion, honoring the Lower Brule Tribe, is yet to be revealed as it is still being designed.

The Code Talkers Recognition Act of 2008 required the Secretary of the Treasury to strike Congressional Medals in recognition of the dedication and valor of Native American code talkers.

“Under the Act, unique gold medals were crafted and pressed for each Native American tribe member who served as code talkers,” said Master Sgt. James Badwound, emcee of the event.

Badwound added that gold medals went to each tribe. Silver duplicates were presented to specific code talkers or their next of kin. In addition, bronze duplicates were made available for sale.

The keynote speaker for the event, Brig. Gen. Kevin Griese, assistant adjutant general for the South Dakota Army National Guard, spoke about the importance of the code talker’s role.

The United States first used Native American code talkers during World War I in October 1918 and it was a secret tactic up until 1968, said Griese.

“Native American code talkers had a unique capability that had a lasting impact on history,” said Griese.

“It is an honor to help celebrate the long-overdue recognition they clearly deserved.”

The family of code talker Edmund St. John of the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe attended the ceremony.

“I am proud he did this for our country,” said Skyla Marks, Edmund’s granddaughter. “He kept this to himself and he never told us growing up. We found after he passed in the 90s. I am proud that he is being recognized for being a code talker and our whole community is proud and thankful for him.”

Ben Black Bear Jr., a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, showed his appreciation for the ceremony by standing up and speaking on behalf of his father-in-law who served as a code talker.

“We Lakota are now part, fully part, of the nation,” said Black Bear. “We fought for the nation, and now we’re recognized as heroes.”



First Lt. Carstin Jerzak, South Dakota Army National Guard, shows Carmen Chase, of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, the medallion from the Standing Rock Tribe during the Oct. 14 Oceti Sakowin Code Talker celebration. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Herrmann)



Members of the Bad Nation drum group perform the Flag Song for the audience during the Oceti Sakowin Code Talker celebration. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Herrmann)



From left to right, Birdina Fox, Joseph Grass, Darren Tobacco and Nevada Walker, students from the Pierre Indian Learning Center, look at a Code Talker Congressional Medallion during the Oceti Sakowin Code Talker celebration. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Herrmann)

STEP 1

EASIER JOB HUNTING

FOUR SIMPLE STEPS TO KEEP JOB HUNTING STRESS EASIER ON YOU. THIS IS THE FIRST STEP OR ARTICLE ON DEALING WITH THIS PROCESS.

Looking for a new job or deciding to change your career is a time consuming event and with proper planning, should be a very rewarding experience. When is the best time to begin a job search? If you're asking the question, the best time is now. Before your first interview takes place, plan your career moves. It's not unusual for an entry-level job seeker to spend six months to a year finding the job that best matches their interests and skills. For a full-time position after graduation, some begin a job search during the school year while others wait until after graduation. Your career interests, values and financial status also have an impact on when to begin. For an internship, part-time, temporary or seasonal position, any time is the right time!

The first step in launching this endeavor is organizing yourself and listing some thoughts down on paper. What do you want to do for your career?

Take the time to research the types of jobs that interest you. Do you enjoy working with your hands? Need to work outside or are you even happy where you live? Once you get a general direction of what area you want to work in and where, start working on a resume. A resume is a document that provides a concise outline of your job-related experiences and academic background. The purpose of a resume is not to get you a job, but an interview. Resumes are a screening device for employers so they can decide whether you are someone they would like to meet and learn more about. You may need to look over your resume for every application that you are submitting. Making sure that the language of your resume is telling your story of you while connecting you to the position you are seeking.

Think of your resume as a commercial: How can you best present yourself? Know your audience and highlight what you can offer them!

These guidelines are general suggestions, not hard and fast rules. Resume content, formats, and styles may vary according to individual preferences and career fields.

RESUME GUIDELINES



KNOW YOUR AUDIENCE: As much as possible, include experiences that are relevant to the work you seek. Use the jargon of the field if you know it.

ADVERTISE YOUR STRENGTHS: Write powerfully, beginning your statements with action verbs. Focus on accomplishments and the results of your work. Use numbers and/or percentages when possible to make your examples more specific and impressive.

MAKE YOUR RESUME SKIMMABLE: The body and layout should be concise. Write in fragments, not sentences. Put fragments in paragraph form or list them with a bullet point or other symbol preceding.

USE CLEAR AND ARTICULATE WRITING: Be sure to proofread multiple times and review for grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors.

HOW DO I LIST MY EXPERIENCE?: Make a list of all your past and present jobs and accomplishments. Don't forget to include what you did (your responsibilities and skills used). Remembering what you did may be easier if you think about your experiences in the following categories.

ORGANIZING YOUR RESUME

CHRONOLOGICAL RESUMES: List jobs and experiences in reverse chronological order with the most recent work first. This style of resume is most frequently used by students and recent graduates.

FUNCTIONAL RESUMES: Present information under headings. Abilities and experiences are grouped according to job-related functions such as research, statistical analysis, outreach, supervision and teaching.

WHAT ARE COMMON HEADINGS/SECTIONS?

CONTACT INFORMATION: Make sure your full name is at the top of your resume and stands out from your address. Remember you want to be noticed.

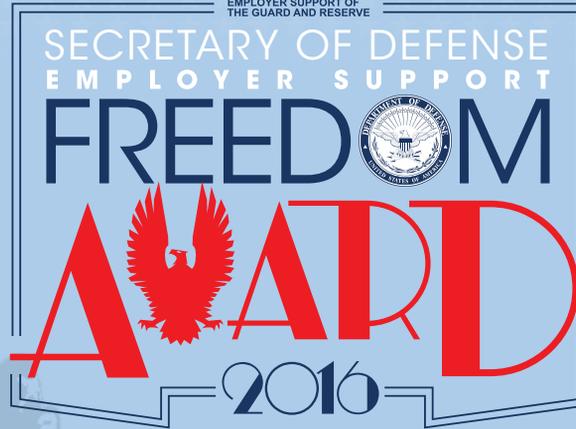
EDUCATION: The education section should list schools you attended in reverse chronological order with degrees and graduation dates or expected graduation dates.

EXPERIENCE: Your experience section can be arranged in a number of ways or divided into more than one section depending on your individual experiences. It should be organized in reverse chronological order.

OPTIONAL SECTIONS: The following sections are optional and should be included only if they market you effectively. Remember your space limitations: a one page resume is generally recommended, especially for recent graduates:

- Summary of qualifications or skills
- Professional memberships or affiliations
- Professional development
- Licenses or certifications
- Articles or publications
- Student Leaderships
- Activities
- Interests or hobbies
- Military experience
- Honors and awards
- Foreign languages
- Computer skills

REFERENCES: People you contact who agree to speak with potential employers regarding their interactions with you. Have this list ready to present to any employer who will ask for references. Recommend that you have "References available upon request" at the bottom of your resume.



NOMINATE YOUR OUTSTANDING EMPLOYER OCT. 1-DEC. 31, 2015

www.FreedomAward.mil



The **Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award** is the highest recognition given by the U.S. Government to employers for their support of their employees who serve in the Guard and Reserve. The award was created to publicly recognize employers who provide exceptional support to their **Guard and Reserve employees**.



Nominations must come from a Guard or Reserve member who is employed by the organization they are nominating, or from a family member.

Source: what is CSF2 & what is ARMYFIT- <http://csf2.army.mil/faqs.html>



How to Find Joy & Balance for the

Holidays

A man went to his dentist because something was drastically wrong with his mouth. After a brief exam the dentist said, "That plate I installed six months ago is almost completely

corroded! What on earth have you been eating?!" The man responded, "My wife made me some asparagus four months ago with Hollandaise sauce on it. It was so good that ever since, I put it on everything!—meat, fish, toast—you name it!" "Well that explains it," said the dentist. "Hollandaise sauce is made with lemon juice, which is acidic and highly corrosive. I'll have to install a new plate, but this time made out of chrome!" "Why chrome?" asked the man. The dentist responded, "Well, everyone knows there's no plate like chrome for the Hollandaise!"

We often hear "There's no place like home for the Holidays!" And often times that's true. But not always. I recently read a good article by R. Morgan Griffin from WebMD that had some good tips on how to reduce stress and find joy for the holidays.

KEEP YOUR EXPECTATIONS MODEST

Don't get so hung up on what the Holidays are supposed to be like or comparing someone else's plans with your own. Maybe what is a fun holiday for you is Christmas at the movies! The most important thing about the Holidays isn't that all the lights worked or you got what you wanted. Instead, enjoy the activities, the people and the things you did get rather than worrying about the activities, people or things someone else did!

THINK ABOUT HOW TO BLESS SOMEONE ELSE

Call someone by phone you know has had some tough times lately. Encourage them by letting them know you were thinking or praying for them. Or perhaps volunteer at a soup kitchen or work for a toy drive.

REMEMBER: YOU HAVE CONTROL OVER YOUR EMOTIONS

Sometimes we let the stresses of the Holidays control us rather than we control it. As Dr. Griffin writes, "You really have more control than you think." While you can't control the "crazy Uncle" or "nutty Granddad" you see each Holiday, you CAN control your reaction to them. Don't let their bad manners become your emotions. That's their problem; don't make it yours!

PACE YOURSELF

Don't schedule so much during the Holidays that you don't have any "ah-moments"; time when you can just catch your breath. Don't say yes to everything. Use the old military method we all learned of "I'll get back to you on that" if you're not sure about some invitation. Pace your shopping too and don't leave it all to the end (something I'm bad at!). Get a couple things done a week, and go past the Holidays to finish if needed. Some of the best gifts I've ever received have been gifts someone sent post-Holidays. Also, pace yourself by taking care of yourself; get some exercise, eat sensibly (another struggle with all the great food i.e. Hollandaise!).

REMEMBER THE TRUE MEANING OF THE HOLIDAYS

Sometimes we get so caught up in the gifts, we forget the Gift. John 3:16 in the Bible says God so loved us that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever would believe in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. Like the poem 'The First Christmas' puts it, "Glory to God in the highest, thus the angels sang. All earth seemed to listen while the heavenly chorus rang. Peace on earth, good will to men, God's message from above; And in a lowly manger lay the token of His love." Regardless of your belief, the message of the Holidays is a reminder that oftentimes the greatest gifts are the smallest—more time spent with family and friends, a little reprieve from the busyness of work and a reminder that it's not the holiday that brings the joy, it's the gift of loving and being loved.

Lt. Col. Lynn Wilson
Full-time Support Chaplain



We Want You!

The American Legion changed the course of history

In 1944, The American Legion wrote the original GI Bill.
From the *Greatest Generation* to the *Latest Generation*,
we advocate for our Military, our Veterans and their Families,
and for a strong America.

To read the rest of the story on the original GI Bill go to:
www.legion.org/education/history

JOIN THE AMERICAN LEGION TODAY AND HELP US
PROTECT YOUR EARNED BENEFITS
TO FIND THE NEAREST AMERICAN LEGION POST....
Call: 605-886-3604 or email: sdlegion@dailypost.com



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Nicholas Hemen, of Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, flies a HH-60M Black Hawk helicopter from Rapid City to Sioux Falls, Oct. 28. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Herrmann)



SIN



Below: The 137th National Guard Association of the United States General Conference and Exhibition in Nashville, Tenn., was well attended as shown here when supporters representing the South Dakota National Guard gathered for a Sept. 11 group photo. (S.D. Army National Guard photo)



Staff Sgt. Randi Brickey, South Dakota Army National Guard, plays to a mock crash scene to educate high school freshman on the in crash was a part of a one-day prevention program that provides destructive teenage behaviors. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Herrmann)



U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem visits with Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general of the South Dakota National Guard, during a visit to Camp Rapid, Aug. 25. Noem received an operational overview of the SDNG on their current capabilities, operations and future challenges. (Photo by Maj. Anthony Deiss)

Forty South Dakota Army National Guardsmen from units across the state participated in two weeks of training with Danish soldiers, Sept. 26 – Oct. 11 at Camp Nymindgab in Denmark. Soldiers trained in a field environment on weapons qualification, fighting in built up areas, tracking, safety and small drills, close quarter combat, infantry exercises and a live fire exercise. (S.D. Army National Guard photo)



APSHOTS



...s an injured Soldier, while local emergency responders respond
...impacts of making bad decisions, at Camp Rapid, Sept. The mock
...hands-on activities for students to learn the consequences of



Soldiers and family members of the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade and 153rd Engineer Battalion complete work raking a yard in Sioux Falls during the city's "Rake the Town" event, Oct. 31. The annual event assists senior citizens work who are not financially or physically able to do fall yard themselves. (Photo by Maj. Jason Thomson)

South Dakota National Guard
2823 West Main Street
Rapid City, SD 57702



We are pleased to announce that
Simpsons Printing has become
the first G7 Master Certified
facility in the state of South Dakota

There's a place for you at BHSU.
Enroll today & attend for free with the military tuition reduction rate.



Earn your Associate, Bachelor or Master's Degree in the Beautiful Black Hills

Your Degree - *Your Way*

Convenient classes | Convenient options | Convenient locations
Black Hills State University-Spearfish, Black Hills State University-Rapid City, and Online



www.BHSU.edu/Veterans

