

DAKOTA PACK

MAGAZINE OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD • SUMMER 2016

GUARDSMAN AWARDED SOLDIER'S MEDAL FOR LIFE-SAVING ACTIONS

» TRAINING

- 139th BSB Soldiers sharpen warfighter skills
- Soldiers, NOCs compete in Best Warrior Competition

» ACHIEVEMENTS

- SD Guard names Lieutenant, Warrant Officer of the Year
- Walz promoted to brigadier general, new director of the joint staff

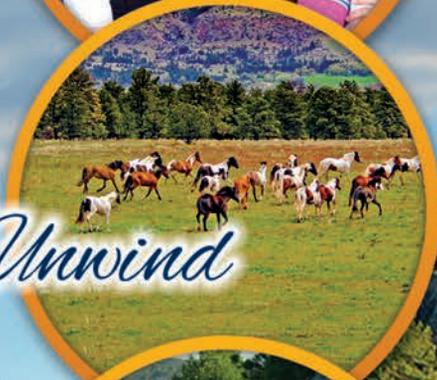




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Magazine of the South Dakota Army and Air National Guard



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On the Cover - Sgt. Jameson Bartscher, Battery A, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, was presented the Soldier's Medal for life-saving actions he performed to remove passengers from a burning vehicle. The Soldier's Medal is the military's highest non-combat valor award, presented to members of the Armed Forces that distinguish themselves by heroism not involving conflict with an enemy.
(Photo by Master Sgt. Nancy Ausland)



MESSAGE FROM THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

I want to begin by congratulating Brig. Gen. Matt Jamison on his retirement from the South Dakota National Guard. Gen. Jamison capped his 36-year military career by serving as the Air Guard's assistant adjutant general for the past three years. He did an outstanding job in that role, just as he had done throughout his entire career. I wish him and Dawn the very

best as they begin this next chapter of their lives.

I also want to congratulate Col. Bill Freidel who will retire on July 31 with 34 years of service. Col. Freidel excelled in every one of the command and staff positions he held throughout his career including that of chief of staff, which he has served in since December of 2014. Best wishes to Bill and Traci as they transition to the next phase of their lives.

These retirements open doors for several other high-quality officers to move up. Brig. Gen. Steve Warren takes over as the assistant adjutant general-Air and Col. Marshall Michels becomes the new Army chief of staff. Col. Russ Walz, who commanded the 114th Fighter Wing for over a decade has moved to state headquarters in Rapid City as the director of the joint staff. This assignment comes with a new set of responsibilities and a well-deserved promotion to brigadier general. Col. Nate Alholina has taken over as the new 114th Wing commander with Col. Greg Lair moving up from Operations Group commander to the vice wing commander position. Every one of these officers are superstars and I know they will continue to raise the bar in their new positions.

We recently received word that the South Dakota Army National Guard was selected as the First Place Gold Division winner in the Army Communities of Excellence program. This distinguishes the SDARNG as an organizational role model for performance excellence in delivering value, improving performance, sharing innovation and demonstrating readiness results. It recognizes our clear commitment to exceeding standards and in utilizing best business practices as well as an Integrated Management System approach. I want to commend Lt. Col. Orson Ward for leading our ACOE efforts that resulted in this noteworthy achievement.

The ACOE award is just one of an ever-growing list of national awards that we have won over the last several years. I attribute this lineage of accolades to three things. First, we have the best Soldiers and Airmen in the nation. The SDNG has long been known for having outstanding personnel who stand head and shoulders above our contemporaries. Secondly, we set the highest expectations for our performance. This starts with our vision to be "The most professional, competent and reliable state National Guard organization in the United States of America." In other words, we expect to be the best in

everything that we do. Finally, we set high, measurable goals and regularly track our progress toward their achievement. It's one thing to say you're the best. Almost all states make that claim; but the SDNG has developed a proven set of metrics that has driven truly extraordinary performance in recent years.

I recently traveled to Kuwait with State Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Hoekman to visit our Soldiers deployed there. Lt. Col. Doug Bogenhagen and Maj. Troy Ness met us at the airport in Kuwait City and transported us to and around both Camp Arifjan and Camp Buehring where our units were based. The 155th Engineer Company mobilized last August so they are nearing the end of their tour. Capt. David Dodson and 1st Sgt. Jay Spaans have provided excellent leadership throughout this deployment. When I visited with their higher headquarters I was told that the 155th was the best engineer unit they had assigned to them. Command Sgt. Maj. Hoekman and I were able to visit several of the projects completed by the 155th during our visit and they are doing tremendous work in multiple locations.

Next we visited the 38 members of 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade who had only gotten to theater a few weeks earlier. The leadership team of Lt. Col. Bogenhagen and Master Sgt. Josh Cunningham, along with the rest of the staff, quickly settled into their prominent roles as a part of Area Support Group Kuwait. Their mission is critical to the success of U.S. and allied troops across the entire region. There is no doubt in my mind that they will be highly successful throughout the duration of their deployment.

It has become more and more obvious to me that the reliance on the National Guard will continue to be high in the years ahead. Nationally, the Air Guard's numbers have hit bottom and are slowly beginning to increase; however unless Congress intervenes, all components of the Army (active, Guard and Reserve) will continue to shrink through fiscal year 2019. Unfortunately, the worldwide threats we face as a nation continue to be a significant challenge.

I depend on leaders at every level of our organization to do all they can to strive for excellence. That means planning and executing high-quality training during every drill, and making sure that our equipment is properly maintained. I want to commend both the Air and the Army Guard for making recruiting and retention a priority. I have always considered every Soldier and Airman to be a recruiter. Each one of us can tell our unique Guard story and share the many attributes of belonging to this world class organization.

In closing, I want you to know that I pray every day for the safety and wellbeing of all of our Soldiers and Airmen, whether serving at home or abroad. I am extremely appreciative of your service to our state and nation. I also want express my most sincere gratitude to our supportive family members and employers for everything you do to make our organization so great. Our state and nation are forever in your debt.

Sincerely,

Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch
The Adjutant General



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RICE CONFIRMED AS AIR GUARD DIRECTOR; TO RECEIVE THIRD STAR

WASHINGTON – Air Force Maj. Gen. Scott Rice, the adjutant general of the Massachusetts National Guard, was confirmed April 28 as the next director of the Air National Guard by the U.S. Senate.

Rice will be promoted to lieutenant general.

“I’m honored and humbled to be chosen to lead the outstanding Airmen of the Air National Guard,” Rice said. “I look forward to working with Air Force leaders and the adjutants general to

shape our force for the future.”

In his new role, Rice is responsible for formulating, developing and coordinating all policies, plans and programs affecting more than 105,000 Guard members and civilians in more than 90 wings and 175 geographically separated units across 213 locations throughout the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands.



AIR GUARD ENLISTED BESTOW HIGHEST HONOR ON LT. GEN. STANLEY CLARKE III

MONTGOMERY, Ala. – Command Chief Master Sergeant of the Air National Guard James Hotaling served as chief of the mess and inducted the Director of the Air National Guard Lt. Gen. Stanley E. Clarke III into the Order of the Sword at an April 17 induction ceremony in Montgomery.

The Order of the Sword was adopted by the enlisted Air Force to recognize senior officer,

colonel and above and civilian equivalents for extraordinary contributions to the Air Force enlisted corps.

“I knew that the Order of the Sword was a big deal,” Clarke said of the highest honor enlisted Airmen can bestow upon an officer. “It means a lot to me, it means a lot to my family; I think it means a lot to the Airmen out there to be a part of this also.”



ARMY GUARD SOLDIERS WIN BEST RANGER COMPETITION FOR FIRST TIME IN COMPETITION HISTORY

FORT BENNING, Ga. – Soldiers from the Army National Guard took first place in the grueling Lt. Gen. David E. Grange Jr. Best Ranger Competition, the first time in the competition’s 33-year history it has been won by an Army Guard team.

Army Capt. Robert Killian, from the Colorado Army National Guard, and Army Staff Sgt. Erich Friedlein, with the Pennsylvania Army National Guard, were named the Army’s best Rangers after

the 60-hour crucible came to an end on April 17.

Competing five times, with two second-place finishes in 2014 and 2015, Killian, a detachment commander with B Company, 5th Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne), said the win was humbling.

“It’s a big thing for the Guard and I’m humbled and honored to be the first,” Killian said. “I’m ecstatic and honored and I hope I’m an inspiration for others.”



WEBER PROMOTED TO COLONEL IN SD NATIONAL GUARD

RAPID CITY – The South Dakota Army National Guard promoted John Weber, of Rapid City, to the rank of colonel during a March 24 ceremony on Camp Rapid.

Weber, a native of Ethan, began his military service in 1986 as a canon crewman with Battery A, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, which was located in Mitchell at the time. He received his commission through the South Dakota Military Academy in 1990. The following year he earned a Bachelor of Science in Geography and Education from South Dakota State University.

Weber has worked as the full-time

deputy directorate of plans with responsibility for the State Partnership Program, the National Guard State Strategic Plan, Continuous Process Improvement, Continuity of Operations Plan and Army Communities of Excellence.

Most recently, he was appointed as the full-time deputy chief of staff for personnel.

“I am humbled to be given this opportunity to continue to serve this great state and nation at this level,” said Weber. “We have some of the best Soldiers in the Army and getting this chance to continue to serve with them in this new role is truly an honor.”



SDARNG'S JORDAN PROMOTED TO COLONEL

RAPID CITY – The South Dakota Army National Guard promoted Aaron Jordan, of Sturgis, to the rank of colonel during a March 25 ceremony on Camp Rapid.

Jordan began his military service in 1984 with the SDARNG's 842nd Engineer Company. After graduating and commissioning through ROTC at Black Hills State University in Spearfish in 1991, Jordan served on active duty in the U.S. Army.

After separating from active duty in late 1995, Jordan rejoined the SDARNG in April 1997 where he's held numerous positions to include platoon leader and commander in the 842nd En. Co., numerous staff assignments in

the 109th Engineer Battalion, 109th Regional Support Group and Joint Force Headquarters, and commander of the 152nd Combat Support Sustainment Battalion in Pierre from May 2009 until September 2011. Jordan works fulltime at Camp Rapid as the G3/director of operations.

Concluding the ceremony, he thanked colleagues past and present, along with his family, who have supported him throughout his military career.

"All of my success has never been individual success," Jordan said. "All of my success has always been tied to the teams that I'm on. I feel fortunate that I've had people that have shaped me - mentored me."



114TH AIRMEN SHINE AT AIRMAN LEADERSHIP SCHOOL

SIOUX FALLS – Airmen from the 114th Fighter Wing are preparing to become future Air National Guard leaders by excelling at Airman Leadership School.

ALS teaches Airmen the necessary tools to become successful leaders as they progress to becoming non-commissioned officers.

For the 2016 fiscal year, the SDANG sent 13 Airmen to the five-week in-residence course at Ellsworth Air Force Base and 10 to the satellite course, which consists of six weekends at Joe Foss Field and two weeks in-residence at McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base, Tennessee.

During the satellite course, Staff Sgt. Jorrie Hart, 114th Security Forces Squadron installation controller, received the Commandant Leadership Award. This award is given to one Airman per class who is selected by their peers for demonstrating outstanding leadership skills.

Along with Hart, Staff Sgt. Ethan Dellman, 114th Maintenance Squadron ammunitions, and Staff Sgt. Zach Hollstrom, 114th Operation Support Squadron aviation resource management, received the Distinguished Graduate Award. This award is given to Airmen who graduate in the top 10 percent of their class.



ALS is required for all Airmen to complete in order to become eligible for promotion to staff sergeant.

AIRMEN SPEND TIME MENTORING

SIOUX FALLS – Airmen from the South Dakota Air National Guard were recognized at an April 20 quarterly technician meeting for their volunteering efforts.

Col. Nathan B. Alholinna, 114th Fighter Wing vice commander, received a letter from Lutheran Social Services commending Airmen for their time and passion working with local children.

The Airmen, Senior Master Sgt. Shawn Emerson, Master Sgt. Paul Beukelman, Master Sgt. Casey Bullis, Master Sgt. Brent Garner and Tech. Sgt. Nate Blom, all members of the 114th

FW, worked with varying age groups and programs mentoring local youth.

Garner, 114th Medical Group public health supervisor, spends his Mondays off with a freshman at Washington High School in Sioux Falls. He has been mentoring the same student for the past five years. Garner is involved in the "You Succeed" program provided by Lutheran Social Services.

"I recommend reaching out and getting involved in the program," said Garner. "It is a great way to make an impact in someone's life, especially when they are facing adversity."



WATERTOWN ARMORY RECEIVES LEED "SILVER" CERTIFICATION

WATERTOWN – The South Dakota Army National Guard's Watertown Readiness Center has received a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, "Silver" certification for the building's energy efficiency and environmentally friendly design.

Completed in September 2013, the state-of-the-art \$25 million, 85,000 square-foot training facility includes a number of environmentally responsible and resource efficient features in its

design, operation and construction.

Developed by the non-profit USGBC, the LEED rating system evaluates the environmental performance of a building and encourages market transformation toward sustainable design. The system is credit based, allowing projects to earn points for environmentally friendly actions taken during construction and use of a building.

Achieving the certification required many efforts by the building's designer, contractors and

project management team. This included using more regional materials during the building's construction, as well as weighing, recycling and diverting on-site generated construction waste from the local landfill. Other green features include minimization of water runoff, indigenous drought-tolerant landscaping, low-flow water fixtures, LED lighting with occupancy sensors, and high-efficiency HVAC equipment.

SD AIR GUARD HAS NEW ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL

SIOUX FALLS – Brig. Gen. Steven Warren is the new assistant adjutant general for the South Dakota Air National Guard.

A change of authority ceremony took place, May 1, at Joe Foss Field between Warren and the outgoing assistant adjutant general, Brig. Gen. Matthew Jamison.

“It is a fantastic honor and privilege to be selected as the assistant adjutant general for the South Dakota Air National Guard, and I look forward to working with proud and professional Airmen in the unit,” said Warren.

As the assistant adjutant general, Warren is now responsible to the South Dakota National Guard’s Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, for strategic planning, strength management, Airmen readiness and mobilization support of the state’s more than 1,000 Air National Guard members.

“I am excited about taking care of these Airmen and their families and working on securing the F-35 fighter to solidify the unit’s future,” said Warren.

“General Warren has done an excellent job in every position he has held and I’m confident

he will continue that record of excellence as the assistant adjutant general as well,” said Reisch.

Jamison, who served in the position since May 2013, retires from the National Guard with 37 years of service to the state and nation.

“It has been a true pleasure working with the outgoing assistant adjutant, Brig. Gen. Matt Jamison,” said Warren. “He was a dedicated professional.”

Warren began his career in the SDANG nearly 40 years ago, enlisting in 1977 and achieving the rank of staff sergeant.

After receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from South Dakota State University in 1981, Warren went on to commission as a second lieutenant in the Biomedical Sciences Corps in the United States Air Force.

By 1990, he moved to the Air Force Reserve and later returned to the SDANG in 1993.

Warren has held several key leadership positions throughout his career to include chief of staff for the Headquarters, SDANG, 114th Fighter Wing vice commander, and 114th Mission Support Group commander.



A few of Warren’s awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

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114TH FIGHTER WING CHANGES LEADERSHIP

SIoux FALLS – The South Dakota Air National Guard's 114th Fighter Wing underwent several senior leadership changes during a May 1 ceremony at Joe Foss Field.

Brig. Gen. Steven Warren, former chief of staff, Headquarters SDANG, replaced Brig. Gen. Matthew Jamison as the new assistant adjutant general for the Air Guard. Jamison retired May 1 with more than 37 years of military service.

Col. Nathan Alholinna took command of the 114th Fighter Wing from Brig. Gen. Russ Walz. Alholinna previously served as vice commander

of the unit. Walz begins his new position as director of joint staff at Joint Force Headquarters, South Dakota National Guard, in Rapid City, and as the SDANG's chief of staff.

These changes prompted several other change of commands at the 114th Fighter Wing to include Col. Gregory Lair to 114th Fighter Wing vice commander and Lt. Col. Quenten Esser to 114th Operations Group commander.



BRIG. GEN. MATTHEW JAMISON RETIRES AFTER 37 YEARS OF SERVICE

By Tech. Sgt. Abbey Rotter
114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

SIoux FALLS – Brig. Gen. Matthew P. Jamison completed his assignment as the South Dakota Air National Guard's assistant adjutant general and retired with 37 years of military service following a May 1 ceremony at Joe Foss Field.

Jamison enlisted into the SDANG as a crew chief in 1979. He graduated from pilot training in 1985 after commissioning through the Academy of Military Science in Knoxville, Tenn.

During his time with the South Dakota Air National Guard, he gained 3,800 total fighter hours in the A-7D and F-16C aircraft. He

has over 125 combat hours in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom, Northern Watch and Southern Watch.

Jamison held various leadership positions such as chief of staff, 114th Fighter Wing vice commander, 114th Operations Group commander and 175th Fighter Squadron commander. In May of 2013, he assumed position of SDANG's assistant adjutant general.

Jamison was presented with the Air Force Distinguished Service Medal, the first ever.



SD GUARD WINS GOLD IN ACOE AWARDS

ARLINGTON, Va. – The South Dakota Army National Guard was presented with a first place gold finish in the 2016 Army Communities of Excellence Awards during a ceremony at the Pentagon, May 24.

The ACOE Awards recognize top performance within U.S. Army, National Guard and Reserve installations/communities and their approach to systems management.

The SDARNG placed 2nd overall, just behind Wisconsin who is the overall winner among 36 applicants in the Army National Guard category.

"This award is proof positive that the South Dakota Army National Guard is a world class organization," said U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general of the SDNG. "Every one of our Soldiers should take great pride in the part they played in helping to achieve this milestone."

The ACOE Awards follow a 12-month evaluation and scored using the Malcolm Baldrige criteria for performance excellence.

"The first place gold finish represents our commitment to ourselves and our fellow South Dakotans to be the most professional, competent and reliable National Guard organization in the

U.S.," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Orson Ward, SDNG director of human resources and lead coordinator for the award's submission packet.

Participants in ACOE are not judged against each other, but scored on how well they can demonstrate the maturity of key organizational processes and their ability to show results in key areas such as leadership, strategic planning, customer focus, work force management and operational effectiveness.

The assessment considers how senior leaders lead, how the SDARNG focuses on the future needs of its customers, how it creates knowledge to improve performance and learning, how it develops and guides its workforce to improve operational effectiveness and deliver the most value to its customers.

By using criteria established for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award as a framework for performance assessment, the ACOE program helps participating Army installations/communities focus on providing excellence in facilities and services in support of Soldiers, their families and civilians.

"It's a responsibility we owe to our service members and their families to find more

efficient and effective ways in doing business," said Ward. "We are trusted to make the most out of the resources we are provided."

Baldrige-based performance assessments provide opportunities to identify best practices in installation management and reveal potential opportunities to apply appropriate performance improvement tools.



114TH FIGHTER WING'S CAREER DAY DRAWS A CROWD

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



Airman 1st Class Katherine French, 114th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, speaks to students, April 6, at Career Day at Joe Foss Field. (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Nancy Ausland)

SIOUX FALLS – Recruiters of the South Dakota Air National Guard held their bi-annual Career Day, April 6, at Joe Foss Field.

The main focus of the day was to bring high school juniors and seniors to Joe Foss Field and show them the various shops and offices that have vacancies they could enlist into.

“We hold these career days twice a year, one in April and one in October, and our goal is to get about a 10 percent enlistment rate from attendees,” said Senior Master Sgt. Brian Voges, Headquarters, SDANG recruiting and retention superintendent.

The April career day event had approximately 46 young adults, many with their parents, who had the opportunity to see first-hand how members of the unit perform their duties.

One student, Tim Peterson, a high school junior from Beresford, attended with his father, Master Sgt. Greg Peterson, 114th Security Forces Squadron flight sergeant. Peterson is a 22-year veteran and works fulltime at the base.

“I’m proud of him on his decision to join,” said Master Sgt. Peterson. “I have already transferred my GI Bill to Tim to use for college, but he said he still wants to join. He’s showing me he really wants to be a part of the unit and not just for the benefits.”

While Tim’s choice of careers in the Air National Guard is still not decided, the career day increased his interest in the areas he wants to pursue - avionics and munitions.

“I want to do something in the medical field, but would really like to pursue something different

for my part-time career in the Air Guard,” he said.

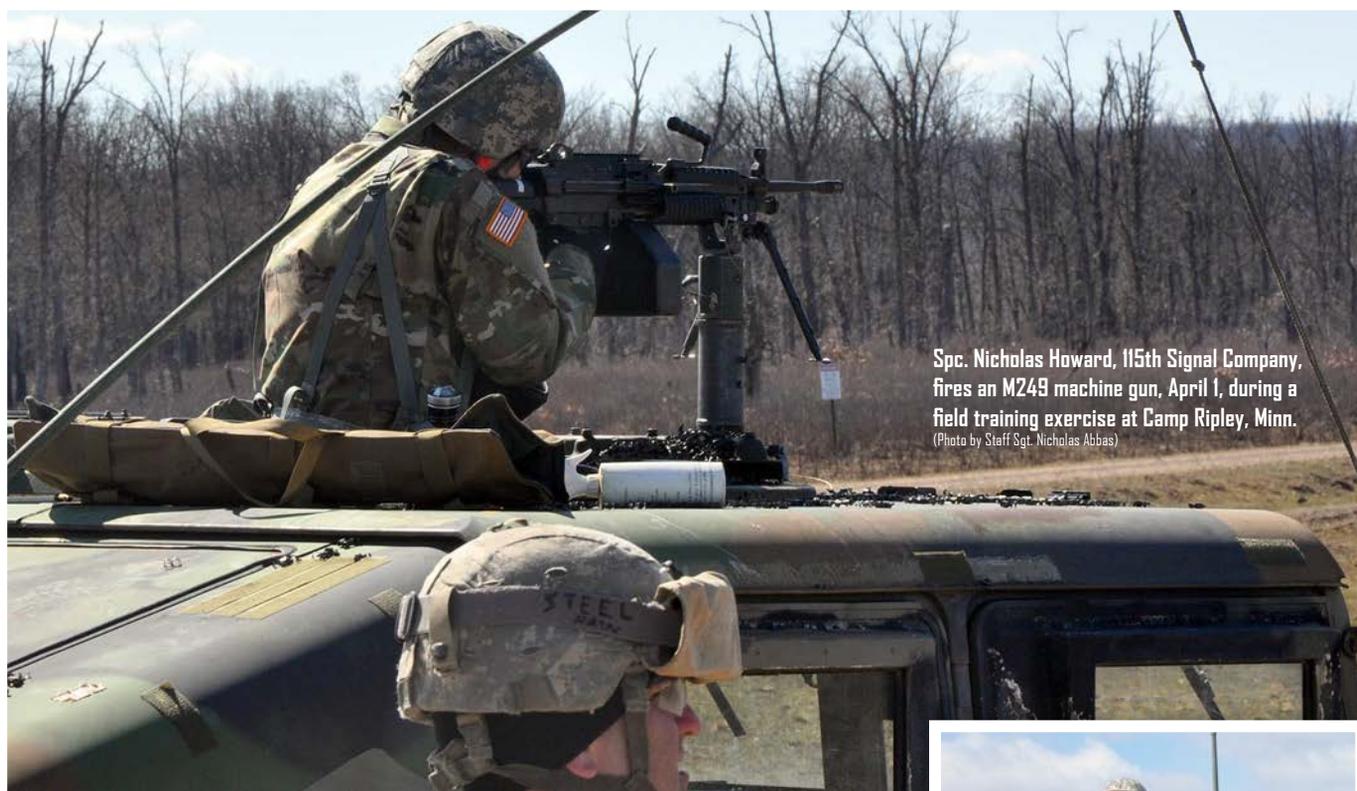
Some of the benefits for young adults are the opportunity to explore different career options while gaining college credits, pay and college tuition assistance as part-time members of the Air National Guard.

The 114th believes that their members are the best recruiters and this was demonstrated at career day by the inclusion of young Airmen like Airman 1st Class Katherine French, 114th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, who was only back from technical training for one week and attended to speak to the young adults.

“I can’t say enough about how glad I am that I joined the Guard,” said French. “I love it out here!”

139TH BSB SOLDIERS SHARPEN WARFIGHTER SKILLS

By Staff Sgt. Nicholas Abbas
139th Brigade Support Battalion



Spc. Nicholas Howard, 115th Signal Company, fires an M249 machine gun, April 1, during a field training exercise at Camp Ripley, Minn.
(Photo by Staff Sgt. Nicholas Abbas)

CAMP RIPLEY, Minn. – Members of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 139th Brigade Support Battalion completed a spring field training exercise, March 31-April 3, at Camp Ripley, where they trained on basic Soldier skills and conducted weapons qualification.

About 320 Soldiers from the battalion participated in the training, which included the Headquarters Company and Companies A and B of the 139th, the 115th Signal Company and 235th Military Police Company.

The event gave junior and senior Soldiers a chance to gain experience and sharpen their warfighting skills with assigned weapons systems and confidence-building courses.

"The biggest goal of this exercise is to get experience on the equipment from the newest to the most senior operators," said Master Sgt. Scott Bull, operations NCO for the 139th BSB. "The event gave Soldiers the opportunity to grow trust in themselves, as well as one another in order to accomplish their mission more efficiently."

The weapons training included the M2 .50 caliber machine gun, MK19 grenade launcher, M240B machine gun and M16 rifle. The Soldiers sent rounds down range from foxholes to Humvee mounted positions and engaged targets to hone their marksmanship skills.

In addition to the weapons training, the

Soldiers negotiated several confidence-building courses to test their operating, communication and team work skills. This included rappelling down a 40 ft. tower, applying their problem solving skills during the Leader Reaction Course, clearing buildings at the Military Operations in Urban Terrain site, and pushing their physical limits on the obstacle course.

"The Soldiers had the opportunity to prove to themselves and the rest of the unit that they are able to accomplish tasks outside of their normal day-to-day MOS (military occupation) skill sets," said Capt. Carlton Willems, commander, 115th Signal Co.

"This is a great experience," said Maj. Jason Kleinschmit, support operations officer for the 139th BSB and rappel tower officer in charge.

"It was great to see some Soldiers overcome their fear of heights and trust their training to accomplish what they set out to do."

The training exercise was not only beneficial for the unit members – unit recruiters brought in prospective recruits to watch and participate in the training. The exercise gave them a chance to see the quality, real-world training Soldiers conduct.

"The opportunity to bring recruits to this event so they can see and participate in real-life training is not only motivational to the recruits,



A Soldier from the 139th Brigade Support Battalion conducts weapons qualification with a Humvee mounted M2 .50 caliber machine gun. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Nicholas Abbas)

it also helps them see what they can train on if they become a member of the South Dakota Army National Guard," said Sgt. 1st Class Phil Keller, Brookings area recruiter.

"We are already a close group, but each event we do together like this or annual training allows us to grow closer as a unit," said Staff Sgt. Grant Evans, training NCO for Company A.

2016 LOGISTICS DINING OUT, "SUSTAINMENT INTO THE FUTURE"

Story courtesy of the 139th Brigade Support Battalion

BROOKINGS – The 139th Brigade Support Battalion hosted the 2016 Logistics Dining Out in Brookings, March 5, which included more than 150 Soldiers, retirees and spouses from across the state.

The event is held to bring together the logistics community of the South Dakota Army National Guard in one location and includes service members from the quartermaster, ordnance, and transportation branches.

Units in attendance included the 139th BSB and the 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, along with representatives from the subordinate units within their commands and members from the 109th Regional Support Group.

The President of the Mess for the evening was Lt. Col. Jason Kettwig, commander of the 139th, and Ms. Vice was 2nd Lt. Alyssa Pederson, 139th BSB Lieutenant of the Year and member of Company A, 139th BSB. There were also a number of past battalion commanders and retirees at the event, which gave leaders from the past, present and future the chance to meet both on a professional level and in fellowship.

"The 139th Brigade Support Battalion was honored to have such an excellent turnout of significant past leaders within the SDARNG logistics community, and without their support and hard work, the logistics branch would not be what it is today," said Maj. Rebecca Trygstad, administrative officer for the 139th. "Many of these retirees are Ancient Order of Saint Christopher recipients, which made the presentation of those awards extremely special."

The program included guest speakers retired Brig. Gen. Keith Corbett, former assistant adjutant general of the SDARNG, and Brig. Gen. Thomas Croymans, land component commander, SDARNG. Both addressed the main body and were also involved in the presentation of logistics awards for each branch.

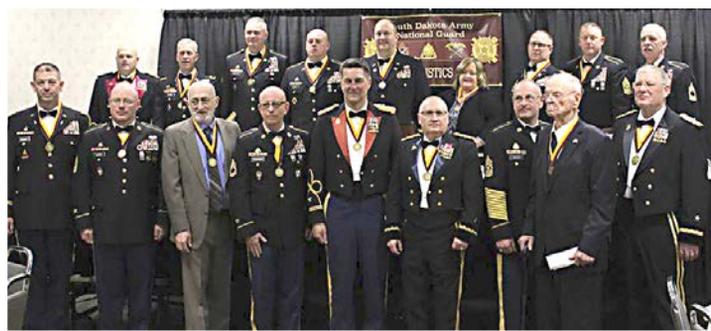
"Both of these leaders were chosen to speak because they have made a significant impact in the logistics community in South Dakota, and through their mentorship they continue to be an influence on both current and future leaders in the SDARNG," said Trygstad.

There were three logistics awards presented at the event: the Ancient Order of Saint Christopher, the Ancient Order of Saint Martin, and the Order of Samuel Sharpe.

The Ancient Order of Saint Christopher is given to Soldiers who have made significant impacts within the Transportation Corps in the course of their service. Soldiers receiving this award were: Sgt. 1st Class Randy Tollefson; retired Sgt. 1st Class Neal Gunderson; Sgt. 1st Class Paul E. Gruener (deceased); Master Sgt. Dean Nixon; retired Chief Warrant Officer 2 Terry Beynon; Warrant Officer Douglas Borchert; Command Sgt. Maj. James Hoekman; Lt. Col. Robert DeJong; Lt. Col. Timothy Schlotterback; and Col. Anthony Verchio.

The Ancient Order of Samuel Sharpe is awarded to ordnance Soldiers who have made a significant impact to the Ordnance Corps during their careers. The Ancient Order of Samuel Sharpe was presented to: Chief Warrant Officer 2 Joshua Brenden, Co. B, 139th BSB – the first time the 139th has presented the award. Two other recipients, Master Sgt. Daniel Harrington, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, and Sgt. 1st Class Terry Letsche, Forward Support Company, 153rd Engineer Battalion, also received their awards at their respective dining outs.

The Ancient Order of Saint Martin is present to a quartermaster Soldier who has made a significant impact in the Quartermaster Corps during military service. First Sgt. Jeffrey Wessels, Co. A, 139th



Recent and past recipients of the Honorable Order of Saint Christopher (Transportation Corps) Award are recognized at the 2016 Logistics Dining Out, March 5, in Brookings. The event brought together the logistics community of the South Dakota Army National Guard, which includes service members from the quartermaster, ordnance and transportation branches. (Photo by Sgt. April Masters)

BSB, was recognized with this auspicious award, and this was also the first time the battalion has awarded the Ancient Order of Saint Martin.

"As an Army logistician, it was a distinct privilege to share the room with such great leaders, both in the logistics field and in the South Dakota National Guard," said Kettwig. "We as logisticians get to see each other in passing generally, but rarely do we get to be in the same room to celebrate the Logistics Corps and our accomplishments. I am proud to have been a part of the evening, and I look forward to this tradition being revitalized in our organization."



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SD GUARD, SURINAME MILITARY COLLABORATE TO PROTECT ENVIRONMENT, SOLDIERS

By SDNG Public Affairs Office

RAPID CITY – Members of the South Dakota National Guard and Suriname military collaborated on how to protect service members and the environment from toxic chemicals during a subject matter expert exchange at Camp Rapid, May 13-15.

The goal of the exchange, conducted as a part of the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program, was to share information on best practices for handling hazardous materials, or hazmat, and spill response procedures.

Four members of the Suriname Defense Force met with more than a dozen SDNG Soldiers from several units and facilities to discuss protocols and processes for storing, containing and disposing of hazmat.

Whether it's operating vehicles or equipment in a field environment or maintenance operations in a facility, military personnel must plan and prepare for the hazards chemicals pose to the environment and people.

"The dialog is beneficial to be able to share knowledge on prevention, containment and cleanup in the event of fuel, oil or other chemical spills," said Army Capt. Shawn Mamula, maintenance officer for the 109th Regional Support Group. "It is important for not only protecting our Soldiers but also the environment."

"The exchange is very positive and valuable," said Army Capt. Joeri Kasandiredjo, head of transportation for the SDF. "Chemicals and materials can be very dangerous and it's important to take the right approach to dealing with the handling and disposition of the materials should they leak or spill."

The Suriname members first met with staff from Joint Force Headquarters' Directorate of Logistics and discussed compliance with policies and procedures and how to mitigate potential hazards.

"We always want to be sure we are following all the applicable state and federal regulations," said Army Chief Warrant Officer 4 James McGuire, supervisory surface maintenance specialist with Joint Force Headquarters. "One area we focus on is the reduction of hazmat quantities to minimize the potential for hazardous waste."

From there, McGuire said the Suriname members were able to see the practical application of these processes at several maintenance facilities.

"In our facilities we have to be sure we are properly managing our hazardous materials – everything from storing basic products to how we cleanup waste in the shops using spill kits," said McGuire. "Having a plan and implementing it is key to ensuring a quick and safe response to spills."

Kasandiredjo said there are many similarities, and differences, to how each organization handles hazmat.

"Every unit in the Suriname Defense Force works under the same regulation," said Kasandiredjo, who oversees logistics support on land for all of the SDF, which includes the Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force and National Police. "However, in Suriname we don't have all the materials or resources to do it the same. We do it, but in a different way."

Kasandiredjo said the lack of resources to deal with hazmat is replaced by ingenuity.

"We use about any reusable material we can find that is absorbent," he said. "Sawdust works well."

The Suriname members also visited with Soldiers from the 109th Regional Support Group, Training Center and 451st Engineer Detachment (Firefighting Team) to gain additional feedback for spill response and containment.

"Each unit has a different mission and provides different perspectives and experiences when handling hazmat," said Mamula. "The goal is to

consolidate that information and use those lessons learned for enhancing any program."

It's these lessons that Mamula and Kasandiredjo say will help improve both programs and ultimately protect Soldiers and the environment.

"We will take the lessons learned and see how we can use the knowledge gained to incorporate into our processes and our work place," said Kasandiredjo. "We are always looking for ways to do it better. It's very important for the sake of our environment and our soldiers."

"It was great to learn about their culture, their backgrounds, how their military system works and some of their different operational processes," said Mamula. "I think we learned a lot about each other's procedures and how we can better protect our people and Mother Nature."



Staff Sgt. Ben Petrik, Training Center Command, discusses hazardous spill containment units with members of the Suriname Defense Force at Camp Rapid, May 14. (Photo by Capt. Waylon Skelton)



Sgt. Sean Fischer, 451st Engineer Detachment (Firefighting Team), discusses hazardous materials response procedures with members of the Suriname Defense Force, May 14. (Photo by Capt. Waylon Skelton)

SD SOLDIER NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD LOGISTICIAN OF THE YEAR

By SDNG Public Affairs Office

The South Dakota Army National Guard's Staff Sgt. Anson Juelfs, of Belle Fourche, was named the Army National Guard's Logistician of the Year for 2015.

Juelfs was selected nationally among officers, warrant officers, noncommissioned officers and Department of the Army civilians from the ARNG's 54 states and territories for his contributions to ARNG logistics readiness.

Juelfs serves as a supply sergeant in the 842nd Engineer Company of Spearfish, Belle Fourche and Sturgis. He has been a member of the SDARNG for 16 years, serving the past three as a supply NCO.

"It is an amazing recognition and I believe this truly speaks to our entire organization and the mentorship and training I have received since becoming a supply NCO," said Juelfs. "It is very humbling to have been chosen from such a wide field of qualified candidates. It proves that hard work, dedication and commitment to the organization will take you a long way."

The award is presented to a logistician who displays excellent skills in many functional areas to include the ability to support National Guard Bureau and state procedures and policies, innovation and proactive leadership, professionalism, quality of work and a customer focused mentality.

"Juelfs has distinguished himself by exceptional

service and performance supporting the Army National Guard's Logistics Division and the South Dakota Army National Guard," said Col. Bruce Walton Jr., chief of NGB's Logistics Division, in a letter announcing Juelfs selection for the award. "His proven leadership, competence, extraordinary service to the community, and care for Soldiers exceeded all expectations in his selection for this award."

"Juelfs is a solid NCO who ensures logistics and training work in unison, allowing for maximum training for his unit Soldiers," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Eric Borah, property book officer for the 153rd Engineer Battalion. "He has the ability to work with others and foresee future events, plan accordingly and simplify the logistics process."

Juelfs was nominated by his battalion for the award, where they took into account his past year's performance as well as involvement in his community.

"He was selected to compete for this award on his values and work ethic," said Borah. "He is also a true

citizen-Soldier and is very involved with his community. Being an Amateur Athletic Union and middle school wrestling coach, he fosters the development of youth within his community. He's simply a great guy, and Soldier, and made the selection quite simple all the way up to the national level."



"Juelfs is a role model logistician and citizen-Soldier," said Walton. "His outstanding service and commitment to logistics excellence reflects great credit upon himself, the state of South Dakota, the ARNG Logistics Division and the United States Army."



SD AIR GUARD'S WALZ PROMOTED TO BRIGADIER GENERAL, NEW DIRECTOR OF THE JOINT STAFF

By 2nd Lt. Jessica Bak and Tech. Sgt. Abbey Rotter
114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs



Brig. Gen. Russ Walz, former 114th Fighter Wing commander, relinquishes command and is recognized for his promotion to brigadier general during a May 1 ceremony at Joe Foss Field. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Luke Olson)



After leaving a 10-year legacy that includes serving as the second longest reigning commander, Russ Walz relinquished command of the South Dakota Air National Guard's 114th Fighter Wing at a May 1 ceremony at Joe Foss Field.

Moments after Col. Nathan Alholinna took command of the 114th, Walz was promoted to brigadier general and will now serve as the South Dakota National Guard's director of the joint staff at Joint Force Headquarters in Rapid City.

For 10 years, Walz led the men and women of the 114th FW through multiple changes and challenges that include the conversion to Block 40 F-16s and standing up and supporting two aerospace control alert sites.

Under Walz's command, more than 2,000 Airmen deployed to 17 countries in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn and Operation Inherent Resolve.

"Our Airmen have a lot to be proud of," said Walz. "As I look back on the last 10 years, I'm filled with enormous pride."

Walz, who's served with the 114th since 1980, enlisted as a fire protection specialist prior to commissioning as a pilot. He's flown both the A-7D and F-16C aircraft and logged more than 3,750 total fighter hours, with over 70 combat hours in support of Operations Northern and Southern Watch.

Other assignments included the 114th Maintenance Group assistant deputy commander, commander of the 114th Operations Support Flight, 175th Fighter Squadron and the 114th Operations Group.

The 114th FW received numerous awards under the command of Walz to include: the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with six oak leaf clusters; the National Guard Association of the United States' Spaatz Trophy; the NGAUS Distinguished Flying Unit Plaque; the National Guard Bureau's Winston P. Wilson Trophy; the Air Force Association's Outstanding Air National Guard Flying Unit Award; the Air National Guard Maj. Gen. John J. Pesch Safety Award; and the Air National Guard William W. Spruance Safety Award.

In 2014, the 114th FW received the first 'Highly Effective' rating awarded by the Air Combat Command for a Unit Effectiveness Inspection.

"Our Airmen are the best of the best," Walz said to an audience of hundreds of his fellow Airmen, co-workers, friends and family.

Amidst all of the changes over his tenure as commander, Walz said he sees the mission of the Air National Guard as something that has remained constant.

"The mission of the National Guard has not changed at all," Walz said. "Our primary mission is to secure the home front."

Under his leadership, the FW was involved in numerous natural disaster responses to include relief and recovery operations following the Delmont tornado and providing relief during the historical Missouri River flood.

While excited about the new opportunities that lie ahead, he said he will miss seeing his 114th FW family on a daily basis.

"For 35 years, I've been driving through the gate and getting the opportunity to work with amazing professionals working toward a common goal," said Walz. "It is an organization of family and friends and is certainly something that I hope never changes."

SD GUARD NAMES LIEUTENANT, WARRANT OFFICER OF THE YEAR

The South Dakota Army National Guard named the 2016 recipients of the Lt. Col. John J. Steele Award (SDARNG Lieutenant of the Year) and the Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael F. O'Connor Award (SDARNG Warrant Officer of the Year).

LIEUTENANT OF THE YEAR

First Lt. Alan Armstrong, who currently serves as the executive officer in the 200th Engineer Company in Pierre, was selected as the most exceptional lieutenant after competing against lieutenants from several of the SDNG's major commands.



The award was presented by the National Guard Association of South Dakota at its annual officers' conference in Rapid City, April 23.

"It was an honor to even compete for this award," said Armstrong. "This award is a direct reflection of the training and mentoring from my leaders and the support I have received along the way from my family."

Armstrong, who has more than 12 years of service in the military – six of those years as a member of the South Dakota Army National Guard – first enlisted in the active duty Army as an indirect fire infantryman with Company B, 1st Battalion, 504th

Parachute Infantry Regiment in Fort Bragg, North Carolina. After transferring the SDARNG in 2009, he enrolled in the Officer Candidate School program and received his commission as a second lieutenant in August 2012.

"When I first began the OCS program, an instructor reflected on his job of training us to lead his son or daughter someday," said Armstrong. "I took that to heart, and I have made it my goal to ensure the Soldiers I lead have the training and guidance to accomplish their missions, be the best at it, and do it safely, so we can all return home to our families."

He served as a platoon leader (2012-2014) in the 211th Engineer Company in both Madison and De Smet before moving to his current position.

"First Lt. Armstrong always performs his duties and accomplishes all assigned missions with the utmost professionalism," said Col. Patrick Parady, commander of the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade. "His accomplishments and dedication to duty over the past year have definitely earned him the distinction of being recognized as the South Dakota National Guard's most outstanding lieutenant of the year."

In addition to his responsibilities in the National Guard, Armstrong not only ranches near Springfield for himself but assists some neighbors with their ranching and farming operations. He is also employed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources Conservation Service as a soil conservationist.

"Armstrong is a professional officer with outstanding leadership ability and exceptional proficiency in engineering," said Capt. Mark Francisco, 200th Eng. Co. commander. "He continually strives to better himself, his unit and the community he serves."

Armstrong is an active member in his local church, the American Legion Post 132, and volunteers his time at various community events.

"The support my wife and I receive from our National Guard family is beyond remarkable," said Armstrong. "I am proud to be a member of such a great organization. I look forward to many more years of service with the Soldiers I have the privilege to lead and serve with."

Other officers representing their major command for this year's award competition were 1st Lt. Joshua Nelson, 114th Fighter Wing, and 1st Lt. Terry Berndt, 109th

Regional Support Group.

The Lt. Col. John J. Steele Award was established in 1968 to annually recognize the most outstanding lieutenant in the South Dakota National Guard. Selection is based on exceptional qualities of leadership, values and performance.

WARRANT OFFICER OF THE YEAR



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Sandra Norris, who currently serves as G1 mobilization officer for Joint Force Headquarters in Rapid City, was selected as the most exceptional warrant officer after competing against warrant officers from several of the SDARNG's major commands.

The award was presented by the National Guard Association of South Dakota during its annual officers' conference in Rapid City, April 23.

"It is a great honor to be considered and selected among such an outstanding group of warrant officers throughout the state," said Norris.

Norris, who has 31 years of military service, is the senior human resources officer in the headquarters' personnel section and responsible for coordinating

and facilitating all personnel requirements related to mobilizing and demobilizing Soldiers in the state.

“CW4 Norris is a true professional and has been an invaluable member of this organization for over 30 years,” said Maj. Clint Shepherd, detachment commander for Joint Force Headquarters. “She is an extremely proficient and versatile leader with the ability to manage multiple tasks.”

In addition to her full-time responsibilities, Norris also volunteers much of her free time to local organizations. She serves as the supervisory committee chair for Minuteman Federal Credit Union,

member of the Southwest and Stevens Parent/Teacher Association, and volunteers for the Rushmore Thunder Hockey and the Black Hills Rapids Soccer Club.

“Norris is a caring and compassionate leader who willingly gives of her time,” said Col. John Weber, deputy chief of staff for personnel, JFHQ. “She is active in her community and fosters positive relationships between the community and the SDARNG.”

“What I love most about serving in the National Guard is the ability to help people,” said Norris. “There is nothing quite as rewarding as taking care of Soldiers.”

Other warrant officers representing their major command for this year’s award competition were

Warrant Officer Jason Bestgen, 109th Regional Support Group, and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Brent Simon, 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade.

The CW4 Michael F. O’Connor Award was established in 2000 to recognize the most outstanding South

Dakota Army National Guard Warrant Officer of the past year. Criterion for the award is based on exceptional qualities of technical knowledge, leadership, dedication and initiative.

SOUTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD

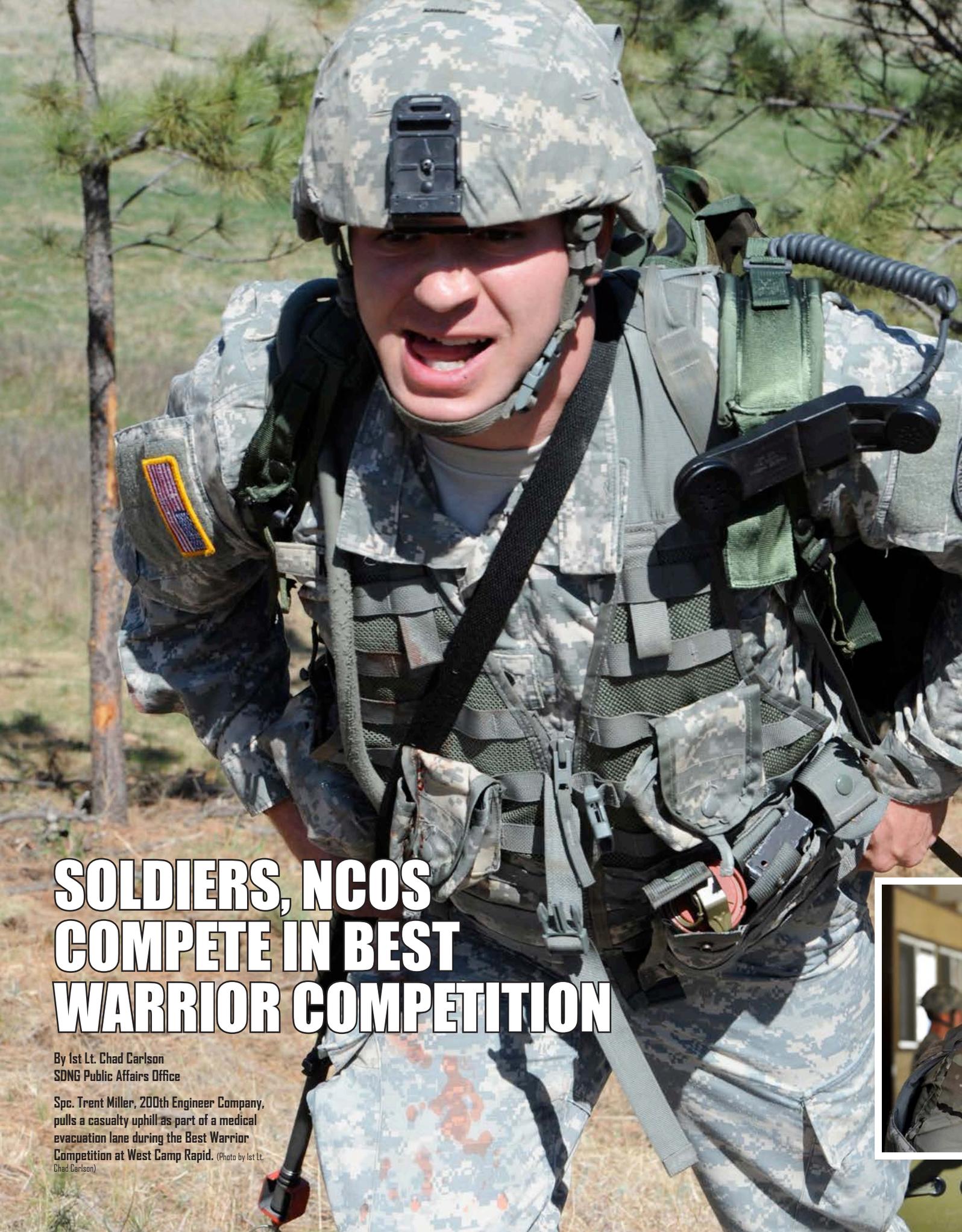
LTC JOHN J. STEELE – OUTSTANDING LIEUTENANT OF THE YEAR – PAST RECIPIENTS

1968	1st Lt. Douglas Anderson	211th Engineer Company	1993	2nd Lt. Douglas Bogenhagen	Btry C, 1st Battalion, 147th FA
1969	1st Lt. Arthur Wilbur	Det. 1, 741st Transportation Company	1994	1st Lt. Michael Oster	665th Maintenance Company
1970	1st Lt. Dennis Krsnak	Company D, 153rd Engineer Battalion	1995	1st Lt. Kory Knight	Det. 1, Btry. B, 1st Battalion, 147th FA
1971	1st Lt. Lawrence Weiss	200th Engineer Company	1996	1st Lt. Joseph Jacobson	665th Maintenance Company
1972	1st Lt. John Hershman	HHC, 153rd Engineer Battalion	1997	1st Lt. Kevin Curley	HQ, SDANG
1973	1st Lt. David Super	129th PI Detachment	1998	2nd Lt. Scott Rounds	2nd Battalion, 147th FA Brigade
1974	2nd Lt. Rodney Green	Btry A, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery	1999	1st Lt. Buffy Groves	1085th Medical Company
1975	1st Lt. Stanley Parker	842nd Engineer Company	2000	1st Lt. Cory Norris	235th MP Company
1976	1st Lt. Ray Spellman	742nd Transportation Company	2001	1st Lt. Steven Mielke	114th Operations Support Flt
1977	1st Lt. Donald Ludens	Company D, 153rd Engineer Battalion	2002	1st Lt. Rebecca Hoffman	1742nd Transportation Company
1978	1st Lt. Raymond Carpenter	Det. 3, 842nd Engineer Company	2003	1st Lt. Dave Moore	665th Maintenance Company
1979	2nd Lt. Daniel Hacking	HQ, 114 TFG	2004	1st Lt. Kerry Nilson	2/147th Field Artillery
1980	2nd Lt. Jerry Jorgensen	HHB, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery	2005	1st Lt. Jason Kleinschmit	727th TC Company
1981	2nd Lt. Timothy Goodwin	HHD, 139th Transportation Battalion	2006	1st Lt. Collin Enstad	Btry B, 2nd Battalion, 147th Field Artillery
1982	1st Lt. Gary Bak	HQ, SDANG	2007	1st Lt. Jason Thomson	Company C, 153rd Engineer Battalion
1983	1st Lt. Robert Stahl	Company A, 153rd Engineer Battalion	2008	2nd Lt. Patrick Schneider	114th Maintenance Squadron
1984	2nd Lt. Kay Henderson	HQ, SDANG	2009	1st Lt. Daren Ketcham	740th Transportation Company
1985	1st Lt. Gregory Koenders	Det. 2, 1742nd Transportation Company	2010	1st Lt. Duston Mullen	1st Battalion (OCS), 196th Regiment (RTI)
1986	2nd Lt. Lawrence Krcil	1007th Quartermaster Company	2011	1st Lt. Christopher Long	211th Engineer Company
1987	1st Lt. Keith Corbett	HHD, 139th Transportation Battalion	2012	1st Lt. Cody Becker	Btry A, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery
1988	1st Lt. Reid Christopherson	114th Mission Support Sq	2013	1st Lt. Richard Bauman	HHD, 109th Regional Support Group
1989	2nd Lt. Randy Weller	Btry C, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery	2014	1st Lt. Nilofar Meyer	114th Fighter Wing
1990	1st Lt. Harold Walker	HHD, 109th Engineer Battalion	2015	1st Lt. Kale Skogen	153rd Engineer Battalion
1991	1st Lt. Wayne Shanks	114th Resource Mgmt Sq	2016	1st Lt. Alan Armstrong	200th Engineer Company
1992	1st Lt. Mark Bauer	HQ, SDANG			

SOUTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD

MICHAEL F O’CONNOR – OUTSTANDING WARRANT OFFICER OF THE YEAR – PAST RECIPIENTS

2000	CW4 Paul Wilson	HQ, SDSTARC	2008	CW2 David Handshue	881st Troop Command
2001	CW2 Tom Flint	HHS, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery	2009	CW4 Terry Beckler	147th Army Band
2002	CW2 Wayne Walker	1085th Medical Company	2010	CW2 Brian Maschino	1st Battalion (OCS), 196th Regiment
2003	CW2 Tom Flint	HHS, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery	2011	CW4 Kenneth Schoenfelder	927th Survey & Design Team
2004	CW3 Jerry Eaton	HHC, 153rd Engineer Battalion	2012	CW2 Benjamin Smetana	196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade
2005	CW3 Alan Nicolaisen	1742nd Transportation Company	2013	CW4 Todd Dressler	Joint Force Headquarters
2006	CW2 William White	HHC, 109th Engineer Group	2014	CW2 Terry Hoey	216th Engineer Detachment
2007	CW2 Brett Anderson	Joint Force Headquarters	2015	CW4 Sandra Norris	Joint Force Headquarters



SOLDIERS, NCOs COMPETE IN BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION

By 1st Lt. Chad Carlson
SDNG Public Affairs Office

Spc. Trent Miller, 200th Engineer Company, pulls a casualty uphill as part of a medical evacuation lane during the Best Warrior Competition at West Camp Rapid. (Photo by 1st Lt. Chad Carlson)





South Dakota Army National Guard's Soldier of the Year - Spc. Trent Miller

The South Dakota Army National Guard brought four of their top enlisted Soldiers and four noncommissioned officers to the Black Hills, April 20-22, to compete in the state's Best Warrior Competition, which names the Soldier and Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year, respectively.

After the three-day competition, Staff Sgt. Bjorn Henstein, Joint Force Headquarters, was named the 2016 SDARNG Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year and Spc. Trent Miller, 200th Engineer Company, the 2016 SDARNG Soldier of the Year.

"A great honor," said Miller, of Sioux Center, Iowa, on being named Soldier of the Year. "There are so many top notch Soldiers within the South Dakota Army National Guard."

The Best Warrior Competition tests each competitor's Army knowledge, skills and abilities while adding the additional pressure of competition.

"It basically encompasses every aspect of being a Soldier - of being a warrior," said Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Shay, 881st Troop Command. "It tests their ability to think under pressure and make decisions on the battlefield."

The Soldiers and NCOs were given a very brief welcome from State Command Sgt. James Hoekman, the SDNG's senior enlisted leader, and a drill floor lined with command sergeants major before shouts of "Gas! Gas! Gas!" officially kicked off the Best Warrior Competition.

Once in their full chemical and biological protective suits with their masks on, competitors move to a Firearms Training



South Dakota Army National Guard's Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year - Staff Sgt. Bjorn Henstein

Simulator where they engage targets with the M16 rifle. Moments later, competitors are handed a 50-question test as they board a bus to the outdoor firing range at West Camp Rapid to qualify on the M16 and M9 pistol.

Testing would continue on events ranging from building firing positions to conducting an ambush to a late-night obstacle course.

"We put them through physical test after physical test throughout the competition pushing their endurance levels while at the same time testing them mentally," said Shay. "The Soldiers and NCOs compete in a wide variety of events, from Soldier skills to essays and tests, all designed to challenge them and make them rise to the top amongst their peers."

The following day began with the Army Physical Fitness Test, followed by lanes testing their abilities to evaluate and treat a casualty, request medical evacuation, a timed five-mile ruck march, a land navigation course and a final event testing their familiarization with three weapons systems.

"It's fun - it's challenging - it works you to your extremes," said Henstein, of Rapid City. "You learn what your limits are and how far your body really can go."

The third day placed competitors in front of a board of sergeants major who quizzed them on a wide array of Army knowledge before scores were tallied and winners announced at a National Guard Association conference in Rapid City.

Henstein and Miller will move on to the Region 6 Best Warrior Competition next month, where they will represent the SDARNG against Soldiers from Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and North Dakota.

"It's a big honor," said Henstein. "We're representing all of the Soldiers, NCOs for me, at the regional level. It's kind of heavy - a lot of weight of on your shoulders but at the same time it feels good to get the opportunity to represent the state."

Henstein's fellow competitors in the Non-Commissioned Officer category were: Sgt. Shawn Hulbert, 740th Transportation Company; Staff Sgt. Seth Fredrickson, Battery B, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery; and Staff Sgt. Steven Zubko, 2nd Battalion, 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute).

Joining Miller in the Soldier of the Year competition were: Spc. Cory Mergen, Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment; Spc. Rebekah McLaughlin, 147th Army Band; and Spc. Garrett Welsh, Detachment 1, 235th Military Police Company.



Spc. Cory Mergen, Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, qualifies with the M9 pistol.



GUARDSMAN AWARDED SOLDIER'S MEDAL FOR LIFE-SAVING ACTIONS

Story by 1st Lt. Chad Carlson
SDNG Public Affairs Office

Photos by Master Sgt. Nancy Ausland
114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Nearly one year ago, a Soldier with the South Dakota Army National Guard used a fire extinguisher to break his way into a vehicle engulfed in flames to remove three passengers trapped inside.

As a result of his actions, Sgt. Jameson Bartscher, a Multiple Launch Rocket System crewmember in the Aberdeen-based Battery A, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, was presented the Soldier's Medal - the military's highest non-combat valor award, presented to members of the Armed Forces that distinguish themselves by heroism not involving conflict with an enemy.

It's the afternoon of June 9, Bartscher is returning to Aberdeen from Sioux Falls after delivering a pump for his employer, the City of Aberdeen. While traveling northbound on Interstate 29, near Summit, a southbound slow-moving car catches his attention.

As Bartscher gets closer to the car, he sees flames from the underside of the back of the vehicle and decides to turn around.

"I asked myself if I could actually help these people," he says. "Having a fire extinguisher in my work truck made this an easy decision."

Bartscher puts on his hazard lights, turns around, cuts through the median and puts the fire extinguisher in his lap.

"My plan was just help them out in any way possible and buy them some time to get stuff out of their vehicle," he says. "Nothing too serious."

Now stopped behind the car, the fire is quickly growing and more concerning to Bartscher is why no one has gotten out of the car. He knows before he even steps out of his vehicle that his plan needs to change and it needs to change now.

"My plan now is all about time and speed," he says.

He opens his door and starts running towards the car while pulling the pin from the fire extinguisher on the way. Flames are consuming the car as Bartscher races through the ditch.

"The car is parked on the shoulder of the road so I approach from the ditch because of the traffic still driving by the whole time," he says. "It was really my only option."

The car's fuel line was on fire and once the car came to a stop, fuel began to pool under the car. The ditch that Bartscher is running through is now burning as well.

"When I get to the car it's engulfed in flames," he says. "I couldn't see inside - the windows were blackened. At this point, I'm hoping it's not nearly as severe on the inside as it is on the outside."

The fire in the ditch is preventing Bartscher from getting to the doors, so he works his way towards the vehicle with the fire extinguisher.

"I start with the fire extinguisher four to five feet from the back passenger door and work my way to the fuel tank," says Bartscher "As soon as I get to the fuel tank, my fire extinguisher is running out."

While the flames are not put out, Bartscher is able to push them to the other



side of the vehicle.

“Since there’s no wind at this time, I think it helps in buying me some time,” Bartscher says.

At the exact same time the fire extinguisher is running out, he hears pounding on the rear window.

“I immediately turn the fire extinguisher around and hit the window,” says Bartscher. “The bottom of the fire extinguisher is rounded, so the first two strikes glance off. This is when I’m feeling the most panic because I’m not sure if the window is going to break.”

Bartscher swings the extinguisher a third time, breaking the back passenger window.

“As soon as the window broke and the smoke clears a little, I see a baby carrier,” Bartscher says. “I couldn’t see the baby, but I grabbed the carrier and pull it through the window. The seat belt is still on the carrier, but I’m able to pull it all the way out of the car.”

A car passing by has stopped and Todd Clausen from Sioux City, Iowa, is now helping Bartscher.

“He tells me ‘I will get the baby out of here, you get the rest’ and as he’s moving the baby, I get the door open and that’s when I see two ladies in the front seats,” Bartscher says.

He enters the vehicle far enough to help the driver out and then comes back for the passenger.

He sees the passenger’s arms have severe burns and she has oxygen tubing that’s preventing her from exiting the car. Bartscher removes the tubing and once she’s outside of the car and sitting on the ground, he and Clausen are able to move her about 10 feet away from the car.

Bartscher grabs his phone to call 911 and

sees a woman on her cell phone about 100 yards from the burning car. She’s parked about 100 yards from the car, so he runs far enough to find out if she’s called 911. She tells him she’s on the phone with them now. Bartscher confirms that an ambulance needs to be sent and runs back to the victims.

“When I get back, I realize the fire is getting too big and hot to be this close, so we talk the passenger into moving another 10 feet away,” says Bartscher. “We move one or two more times, but eventually she doesn’t want to move any farther. From 30 feet away from the fire, we just stand with her while the car burns.”

Once paramedics arrive, Bartscher gets his first indication that everyone is finally safe.

The three passengers, Gabrielle Wanna, 23, of Peever, Rebecca Stoughton, 53, of Veblen, and Cassidy Wanna, an infant, of Sisseton, were transported to the Hennepin County Burn Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Gabrielle and Cassidy were treated for injuries and released.

On June 22, Stoughton, the front passenger, died as a result of injuries suffered in the vehicle fire.

Bartscher and Clausen were presented Life Saving Awards from the South Dakota State Highway Patrol at a ceremony in Sisseton three days later. Members of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Tribe, of which all the occupants of the vehicle are members, presented both men with traditional star quilts for their actions.

Bartscher has since attended a family gathering and said he still talks to Gabrielle’s father and



Rebecca’s brother.

The Aberdeen City Council recognized Bartscher in August where he was presented the Soldiers Medal by Brig. Gen. Thomas Croymans, SDNG’s director of the joint staff and Aberdeen resident.

“Being presented with the Soldiers Medal is a great honor and to be honest I would’ve been happy with a pat on the back,” Bartscher says. “It makes Guard members feel that they’re part of a special group people - who are willing to risk it for others, so I was happy to accept it.”

Bartscher served in the U.S. Army from 2004-2008 as an M1 armor crewman. He deployed in 2005-2006 to Camp Rustamiyah, Iraq, with 3rd Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment, 4th Infantry Division. In 2010 he was recalled to go back overseas and deployed to Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

In 2011, he joined the SDARNG as a Multiple Launch Rocket System crewmember in the Aberdeen-based Battery A, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery.



THE WAY WEST!

CAMPERS AGES 9-11 / JUNIOR COUNSELORS AGES 15-17 BLACK HILLS

Our SD Military Youth Camps are wonderful opportunities for our military youth to learn life and leadership skills, to work together as team members and build resilience, and to grow as individuals and connect with other military youth. Both camps focus on military values, resilience and outdoor activities galore.



SD-ESGR PROGRAM SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

RAPID CITY – The South Dakota Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve program is seeking volunteers to add to their team to promote and enhance employer support for military service members in the National Guard and Reserve.

Whether working behind the scenes or directly with people, SD-ESGR is in need of volunteers with leadership, public speaking or organizational skills for a variety of committees, which include employer outreach, ombudsman, public affairs, awards and military outreach.

SD-ESGR is currently looking for volunteers for the Pierre, Brookings, Mitchell, Hermosa, Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Yankton and Vermillion areas.

ESGR, a Department of Defense office, was established in 1972 to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve component service members and their civilian employers and to assist in the resolution of conflicts arising from an employee's military commitment. ESGR is supported by a network of more than 4,700 volunteers in 54 committees located across all 50 states, three U.S. territories and the District of Columbia.

Volunteers, hailing from small business and industry, government, education and prior military service, bring a vast amount of experience to assist in serving employers, service members and their families. Volunteers can choose how much time they would like to be involved and in what capacity. Their efforts can improve the relationships service men and women have with their employers.

The ESGR program offers free education and training to civilian employers of service members, service members and their families.

“For many of our volunteers, it is about giving back, because they received help and assistance from the organization,” said Maj. Lona Christensen, SD-ESGR program director. “Becoming a dedicated volunteer gives them a sense of pride and accomplishment. Some have even said since they had never served in the military, it was their way to support and serve now. No matter why one chooses to volunteer, the time a person dedicates to the organization is appreciated.”

If you are interested in volunteering, check out ESGR at <http://esgr.mil> or contact Maj. Lona Christensen, SD-ESGR program director, at 605-737-6540.



EXPLORE!

CAMPERS AGES 12-14 BLACK HILLS

For information about camp and volunteer opportunities, please contact Taryn Broomfield, lead Child & Youth Program coordinator, at (605) 737-6919 or taryn.m.broomfield.ctr@mail.mil.



DIVERSITY STRENGTHENS THE NATIONAL GUARD

Staff Sgt. John Samuel, 114th Maintenance Squadron crew chief, waits for instruction during a 4 Lenses class at Joe Foss Field. Airmen of the South Dakota Air National Guard are routinely given opportunities for professional growth in an ongoing force development effort.

(Photo by Tech. Sgt. Christopher Stewart)

By Staff Sgt. Michelle Gonzalez
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. – Since its inception nearly 400 years ago, a diverse population of National Guard members have protected the communities where they live and serve. It’s a key reason, noted Army Gen. Frank Grass, why they have succeeded in combat and homeland response.

“One of our National Guard’s greatest strength as an operational force is that we are present in communities across the country,” said Grass, chief of the National Guard Bureau. “In the end, when you bring in the National Guard, you bring in the richness and diversity of hometown America.”

The National Guard, with a presence in nearly 2,600 communities, has a demographic makeup that mirrors the nation.

“The National Guard reflects the fabric of our nation’s communities – in every state, territory and the District of Columbia,” said Alfranda Durr, program manager for the Equal Opportunity and Diversity Office. According to Durr, that means that diversity is more than just race, gender and

ethnicity. It also includes diversity of thought and skills.

“We benefit immensely from the different perspectives, linguistic and cultural skills of all Americans,” Durr said.

With approximately 69 percent of the National Guard force made up of the millennial generation, Durr used the example of how millennials in the ranks would strengthen the enterprise.

“Since we’re looking at a day and age where cyber security will play a larger role in our organization, we are looking to those millennials who have those digital skills will change the face in terms of how we address battles in the future,” he said.

Understanding cultural backgrounds and capabilities is a thought echoed by Army Maj. Gen. Linda L. Singh, Maryland’s adjutant general.

“It is imperative that we understand the different cultural backgrounds; that we understand what our different capabilities can do in order to

be able to support that and we have to understand how our people are going to be able to interact with that global environment,” she said in an NGB Diversity Conference interview.

Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Mitch Brush, the senior enlisted advisor to the chief of the National Guard Bureau, said different people and perspectives strengthen the Guard.

“Embracing a diverse group of people brings in a wealth of skills, knowledge and experience to the Guard,” he insisted. “With all that talent, we can tap into that reservoir to develop our force and our leaders.”

The National Guard’s Joint Diversity Executive Council, charged by the chief of the National Guard Bureau to take a strategic look at the National Guard as an enterprise and seek opportunities to develop diversity, has been ranked in the Top 25 nationally by the Association of Diversity Councils the last four years - last year the JDEC placed second.



"HTGS"

Recently I completed some training that included "HTGS" - Hunt the Good Stuff. Hunt the Good Stuff is getting into the habit of building positive emotions such as gratitude. It does not mean trying to see something positive in every negative experience you've encountered, but simply looking for something good that happened each day.

I bring HTGS up because the busiest time of year is upon us now.

There will be annual training (for many of us that means Golden Coyote) as well as trying to squeeze in a vacation to loved ones we haven't seen for a while. If we're not careful, it will be very easy to "HTBS" - hunt the bad stuff! Let me give a few examples of how we might hunt the good stuff.

Example #1: On December 11, 2015, I was involved in a serious car accident, leading to two surgeries and two stays (Dec. 11-15/Dec. 23-25) in the hospital. Hunt the good stuff isn't "Praise the Lord! I was in a car accident!" but rather, it's being grateful to God that my left leg was completely unharmed. Being grateful my wife and 4-year-old daughter (was planning to pick them up at AAMCO Transmission) were not in the car with me! I am grateful for friends who helped get me home from the hospital and friends who shoveled our driveway when the snow was so high!

Example #2: Annual Training 2016. Usually advertised as two weeks, it now lasts closer to a month it seems. HTBS would be "Look at all this time I can't spend with my family!" And that would be true. But you could also do some HTGS. It means 15 days of pay for my family. It may mean catching up on some bills I wouldn't normally be able to if it were just my technician pay. It might mean being able to work with the finest people I know, the members of the South Dakota National Guard. You could even remind yourself "15 days compared to what the 155th, 196th and two members of the 144th Fighter Wing are putting in!!" I bet if they heard us complain about 15 days away from our family, they might remind us "How does 365 days sound????!!!"

Example #3: Summer Vacation. They're meant to be fun, but sometimes the distances are long and we always end up arguing with at least someone in our family. But HTGS might mean something like "Thank God my family members are still around!" Memorial Day 2016, I plan to visit the graves of my parents (dad passed away Sept. 15). I wish they were still around to visit with! Maybe your vacation will be nothing but a blast, but if it isn't, you can still "HTGS", thank God for health that enables you to drive, be grateful for family who are still with you and be grateful for a place to come home to when your vacation is done.

May you have a blessed, and I'm sure, busy summer! Try doing some "HTGS" this year, and let me know if it was a help. God bless our South Dakota National Guard, our heroes in the 155th, 196th and 114th, and may God bless you and your loved ones!

Lt. Col. Lynn Wilson
Full-time Support Chaplain

South Dakota NATIONAL GUARD
147th FIGHTER WING

THE SDNG HAS MOVED TO A NEW WEBSITE!
Check us out at: sd.ng.mil

S.D. National Guard @SD_Guard · Aug 8
@SD_Guard 1-147th Field Artillery conducts live-fire operations in Wyoming. on.fb.me/1wFwrHr #SDNG

S.D. National Guard @SD_Guard · Aug 6
@SD_Guard Army and Air Force members conduct joint patrol training at Camp Rapid. on.fb.me/1SVnpi #SDNG

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SNAP SHOTS



Soldiers from the 1742nd Transportation Company conduct drivers training in 915-A5 tractors throughout the Black Hills, April 16. The unit sent out convoy serials, each containing five trucks, on a 117-mile course throughout the area. Soldier skills were tested by handling the curves and hills, while integrating with civilian traffic. (Photo courtesy 1742nd Transportation Co.)



Master Sgt. April Wollan, 114th Medical Group medical laboratory technician, prepares a petri dish with a sample to see if any bacteria grows at Tripler Army Medical Center, Hawaii, May 17. Thirty-eight Airmen from the 114th MGB deployed to bases in the area to train and practice their medical skills. (Photo by Master Sgt. Christopher Stewart)



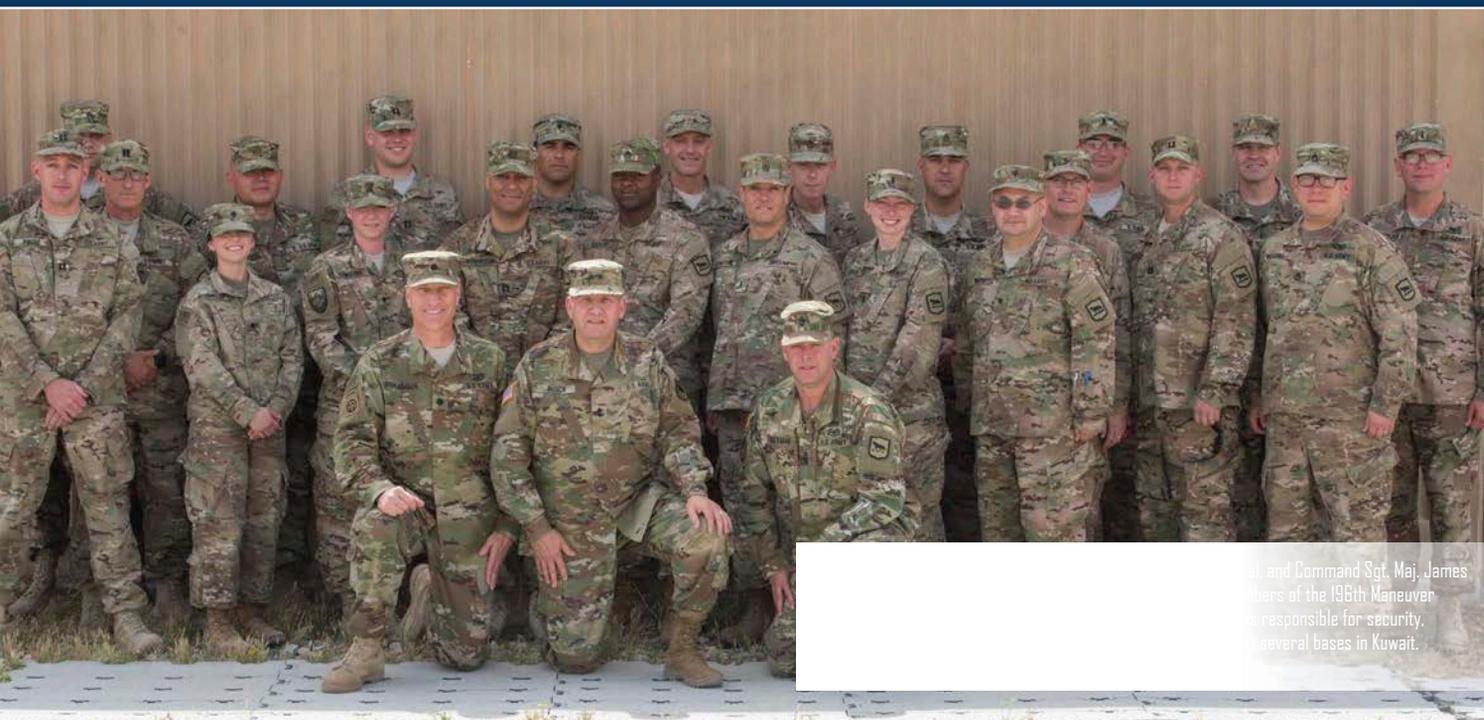
OTS



Sgt. Maj. Phil Lakner, Joint Force Headquarters, fires a M9 pistol during a marksmanship competition at West Camp Rapid in Rapid City, April 8. (Photo by 1st Lt. Chad Carlson)



Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, South Dakota National Guard adjutant general, visits with Soldiers from the 155th Engineer Company during a visit to Kuwait, April 10. The 155th has been providing construction, repair and maintenance of vertical infrastructures and facilities on bases throughout the Middle East. (Photo by Sgt. Mike Dodge)



... and Command Sgt. Maj. James ... of the 196th Maneuver ... responsible for security, ... several bases in Kuwait.

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