

DAKOTA PACK

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



» DEPLOYMENTS

- 155th Soldiers welcomed home from Kuwait deployment
- Three SD Army National Guard unit receive mobilization orders

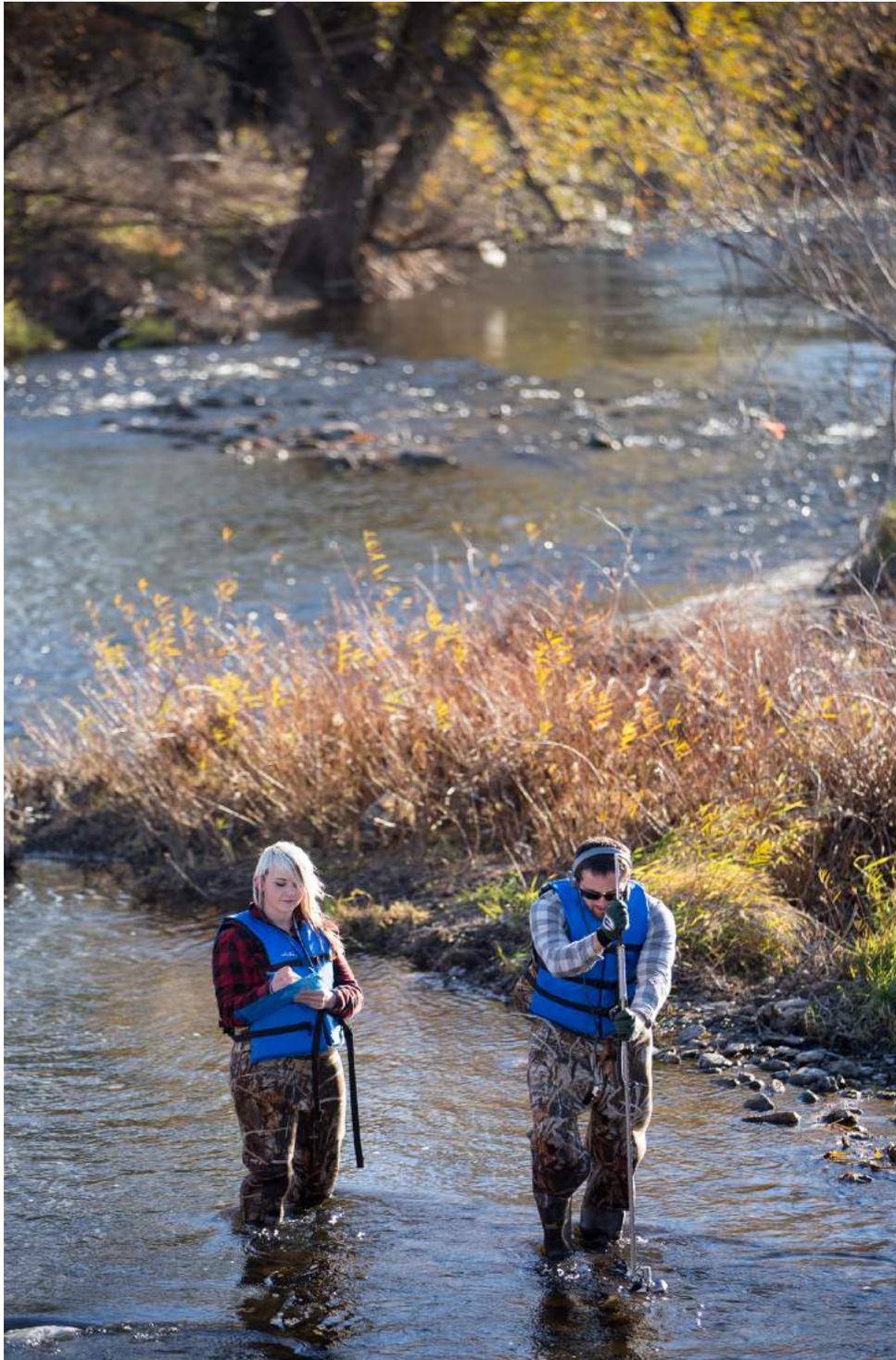
» TRAINING

- SDNG hosts 32nd annual Golden Coyote
- 196th MEB trains in warfighter exercise

» ACHIEVEMENTS

- SD Air National Guard celebrates 70 years
- 109th RSG wins Eisenhower Trophy, State's top superior units named

SDANG FIRST FEMALE FIGHTER PILOTS TAKE FLIGHT



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Magazine of the South Dakota Army and Air National Guard



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On the Cover -Capts. Shanon Davis and Valerie Van De Rostyne made history as the first female fighter pilots in the South Dakota Air National Guard's 70 year history. (Photo by Master Sgt. Nancy Ausland)



MESSAGE FROM THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

I'd like to begin by welcoming the 155th Engineer Company back from their successful deployment overseas.

Although the unit was based in Kuwait, they performed numerous missions in Jordan and in Iraq. Command Sgt. Maj. Hoekman and I were privileged to visit the 155th at Camp Buehring in April. Of course the highlight of the visit was the one-

on-one time we were able to spend visiting with our Soldiers. Additionally, we were able to meet with their higher headquarters as well as several of the entities that were the recipients of the 155th's hard work. Without exception, everyone we spoke to praised both their work quality and work ethic. On June 22 we celebrated the 10-year anniversary of our State Partnership with the country of Suriname during an event conducted at Joint Force Headquarters in Rapid City. Dignitaries in attendance included South Dakota's Lieutenant Governor Matt Michels and Suriname's Deputy Commander of the Armed Forces Col. Adolf Jardim. We have conducted many valuable leadership exchanges between the SDNG and Suriname over the past decade, which have fostered long-term, enduring personal and professional relationships that have played a key role in ensuring the success of this partnership.

Hundreds of Soldiers and Airmen from South Dakota have had the opportunity to work directly with their counterparts in Suriname. Both the SDNG and Suriname benefit greatly from this partnership and we look forward to continuing to enhance our relationship in the years ahead!

It was an honor to be in attendance at an event conducted in Sioux Falls in July 23 to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the SD Air National Guard. Retired Maj. Gen. Phil Killey and his wife, Ellen, made the trip from Arizona along with many other distinguished retirees who took the time to be in attendance. Killey provided remarks that were both interesting and informative about the unit, noting that from its earliest days to the present time, the SDANG has proven itself to be the best fighter unit in the nation. The 114th Fighter Wing is currently one of 18 Fighter Wings in the nation being considered for fielding of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter in the 2021/2022 time frame. This highly decorated unit has certainly proven itself worthy of that distinction having just recently been announced as a recipient of the Distinguished Flying Unit Plaque for the second consecutive year. This award is reserved for only the top five flying units in the nation each year. Together with the fact that the 114th received the Spaatz Trophy in 2014 as the top overall outstanding flying unit in the nation, it has become crystal clear that the 114th is in a class by itself!

The SDANG captured national media attention in late July for having

two female F-16 pilots. Stories highlighting the careers of Capts. Shanon Davis and Valerie Vanderostyne were featured first by Sioux Falls-based media and later picked up by the Associated Press, the Air Force Times and Fox News. The 114th FW received huge recognition for having two of only five ANG fighter jet pilots in the nation assigned here. I've had the pleasure of meeting both Cpts. Davis and Vanderostyne on several occasions and their professionalism, self-confidence and poise are truly extraordinary. Their personal success stories will pave the way for other women to follow in their footsteps.

Congratulations are in order for the 109th Regional Support Group for being selected as the recipient of the Eisenhower Trophy which is awarded by National Guard Bureau to the Army National Guard unit in each state that rated the most outstanding during the training year. Under the command of Col. Marshall Michels, the unit achieved exemplary readiness levels throughout the training year. The 109th RSG along with the 14 units listed below were named Superior Units for Training Year 2015:

82nd Civil Support Team – Ellsworth Air Force Base
HHC, 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion – Watertown
Battery A, 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion – Aberdeen
Battery B, 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion – Yankton
HHC, 153rd Engineer Battalion – Huron
Forward Support Company, 153rd Engineer Battalion – Huron and
Parkston

155th Engineer Company – Rapid City and Wagner
200th Engineer Company – Pierre, Moberly and Chamberlain
211th Engineer Company – Madison and De Smet
842nd Engineer Company – Spearfish, Sturgis and Belle Fourche
730th Area Support Medical Company – Vermillion
740th Transportation Company – Milbank and Aberdeen
Training Center Command – Rapid City
Medical Command – Rapid City

I also extend my most sincere congratulations to the outstanding Airmen of the Year for training year 2015. Master Sgt. Justin Rey was selected as the First Sergeant of the Year. Master Sgt. Elizabeth Johnson was named the Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. Tech. Sgt. Jared Bowen earned Noncommissioned Officer of the Year honors and Senior Airman Amber Spade was selected as the Airman of the Year. All four individuals will compete against other ANG members nationwide to determine the overall Air National Guard Airmen of the Year.

In closing, I ask your continued support and prayers for the safety and wellbeing of all of our Soldiers and Airmen, whether serving at home or abroad. I am extremely grateful for your service to our state and nation as well as for the contributions that our families and employers make. Our state and nation are forever in your debt.

Sincerely,

Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch
The Adjutant General



MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR ENLISTED LEADER

I want to start off by quoting Heraclitus, “Change is the only constant in life.” This is true within the Army as well. I am going to briefly talk about the changes to Noncommissioned Officer Education System and career management for the NCO Corps. I ask all of you to please read the NCO 2020 Strategy.

The U.S. Army NCO Corps is the envy of the world, but we cannot rest on our laurels. We have to continue to get better and to best prepare our NCO Corps for the challenges of an uncertain future.

The U.S. Army is currently in the process of fundamentally changing and evolving the NCOES into a comprehensive leader development system that links training, education and experiences spanning the operational, institutional and self-development learning domains.

The new strategy is NCO 2020, which represents an analytical, data-driven process for evolving the NCOES of today into the NCOPDS, or Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development System, of the future.

This holistic approach to addressing NCOPDS through the three lines of effort will produce the next generation of competent professionals who are committed to making the backbone of our Army even stronger.

Central to this strategy, is that all leaders understand their responsibility for developing new leaders by teaching, training and providing the supporting experiences Soldiers need to grow. Leaders must also emphasize career-long learning as essential to development and force readiness.

In this decade, the NCO Corps must evolve to optimize human performance. NCOPDS will operationalize the concepts outlined in the NCO 2020 Strategy, which is organized into three efforts:

(1) Development. NCOs develop as leaders over time through deliberate progressive and sequential processes incorporating training, education, and experience across the three learning domains throughout the Soldier Lifecycle. The major objectives are: STEP, NCO PME, Credentialing, and Validate.

(2) Talent Management. The purposeful expansion of an NCO's core MOS proficiency and leadership provided through developmental positions, opportunities, and assignments both within and outside of their Career Management Field. The major objectives are: Broadening, Operational, and PDM (Career Map).

(3) Stewardship of the Profession. Strengthen the NCO Corps by: emphasizing the role of the NCO in building and sustaining trust;

constantly improving military expertise; setting an example of honorable service; fostering a climate rich in esprit de corps; and serving as stewards of the Army profession. Major objectives are: Doctrine, self-development, and 2020 Year of the NCO.

The end state to NCO 2020 is a Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development System integrated and synchronized in the development of the next generation of competent and committed NCOs of character as trusted Army professionals capable of thriving in chaos, adapting and winning in a complex world.

This will also change requirements for promotion and professional military education. The Army will be adding additional structured self-development requirements, up to SSD VI and two more professional military education course. Those courses will be the master leader course, which will be a requirement to be promoted to E8, and the executive leader course for normative sergeants major and command sergeants major.

In closing, I would like to say thank you all for what you do. Without dedicated Soldiers and Airmen we would not be the best National Guard organization in the Nation. I encourage everyone to read the NCO 2020 Strategy, NCOs Operating in a Complex World. This is the way forward for NCO professional development system.

Respectfully,

Command Sgt. Maj. James Hoekman
Senior Enlisted Leader

LT. GEN. LENGYEL CONFIRMED AS NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU CHIEF

WASHINGTON – Air Force Lt. Gen. Joseph Lengyel was confirmed as the 28th chief of the National Guard Bureau by the U.S. Senate, June 29.

Lengyel, who also will be a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will be promoted to four-star general, the highest-ranking officer in the nation's oldest military force.

The Senate action follows Lengyel's June 21 Senate Armed Services Committee hearing.

"Although we are proud of our heritage and our past, I am more excited about our future," Lengyel told the committee, adding that the skill and devotion of Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen since 9/11 has transformed the National Guard into an

operational force at home and overseas.

"The development of our most important assets, our people, will be our foremost task," Lengyel told the committee. Among other priorities Lengyel mentioned during his testimony:

- Working seamlessly with the joint force.
- Nurturing the National Guard's enduring local, state, national and international partnerships.
- Effectively communicating, collaborating and coordinating with all the National Guard's stakeholders.
- Continuing to enhance the Guard's cyber capabilities.
- Keeping deployments predictable.



COMMAND SGT. MAJ. KEPNER ASSUMES DUTIES AS 11TH SERGEANT MAJOR OF THE ARMY GUARD

ARLINGTON, Va. – Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Kepner officially took on his duties as the 11th sergeant major of the Army National Guard in a June 7 ceremony at the Army National Guard Readiness Center in Arlington.

He takes over the position from Command Sgt. Maj. Brunk Conley, who will be returning to the Oregon Army National Guard.

During the ceremony, Conley asked that those in the lower enlisted ranks always be kept in mind.

"I ask you all to protect and serve the 67 percent," he said, referring to Soldiers in the ranks of private through sergeant, who make up the majority of Soldiers in the Army Guard. "They are the doers. They drive the trucks. They break the track [for repair of tracked vehicles]. They maintain the [AH-64] Apaches. They fire the rounds. They blow up the bridges. And, as an infantrymen, they take the hill."

Kepner, assured him that he would.



AIR NATIONAL GUARD WELCOMES ITS 12TH COMMAND CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT

JOINT BASE ANDREWS, Md. – The director of the Air National Guard welcomed the ANG's 12th command chief master sergeant during a June 2 ceremony at Joint Base Andrews.

Chief Master Sgt. Ronald C. Anderson stepped into his new role as the Air Guard's top enlisted leader, taking over from Chief Master Sgt. James W. Hotaling, who retired in May.

"The words escape me to express the gratitude I have," said Anderson. "I'm excited about what the

future brings, not only for our command team, but also for our Air National Guard. Thank you for this incredible opportunity."

As the ANG command chief master sergeant, Anderson represents the highest level of enlisted leadership in the Air National Guard. He is responsible for matters influencing the health, morale and welfare of assigned enlisted personnel and their families.



109TH REGIONAL SUPPORT GROUP CHANGES COMMAND

RAPID CITY – Col. Michael Oster, of Rapid City, took command of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 109th Regional Support Group during a July 10 change of command ceremony at Duke Corning Armory on Camp Rapid.

Oster assumed responsibility from Col. Marshall Michels, of Rapid City, who served in the position since September 2013.

"I am really honored to be given this opportunity," said Oster. "It is a tremendous privilege and brings with it a tremendous amount of responsibility. The history of the 109th is long

and incredibly decorated and I am following a long list of incredibly successful leaders and members of that organization."

The 109th RSG is one of four major commands for the SDARNG. As the commander, Oster is responsible for the command and control of about 18 units totaling more than 900 Soldiers in nine communities throughout South Dakota. The 109th assists assigned units in meeting training, administrative and logistical requirements to maintain the unit's readiness in support of state and federal missions.



153RD ENGINEER BN., FORWARD SUPPORT CO. TO DEPLOY TO KUWAIT

HURON – More than 160 Soldiers from the South Dakota Army National Guard’s 153rd Engineer Battalion and its Forward Support Company have received an official mobilization order for a nine month deployment to Kuwait beginning in November 2016.

The mission of the Huron-based 153rd En. Bn. is to provide command and control for assigned or attached engineer units. The mission of the

Huron- and Parkston-based FSC is to provide logistics and maintenance support.

The unit will report to Fort Bliss, Texas, to complete several weeks of theater-specific training prior to deployment overseas.

This will be the second mobilization for the 153rd En. Bn., which deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004–2005. This is the first deployment for the FSC.



216TH ENGINEER DET. (FIREFIGHTING TEAM) TO DEPLOY TO EUROPE

RAPID CITY – The South Dakota Army National Guard’s 216th Engineer Detachment (Firefighting Team) has received an official mobilization order for deployment to Romania scheduled for July 2017.

The Rapid City-based 216th is a three-member headquarters element with a mission to provide command and control of assigned or attached firefighting teams to provide fire protection of aviation assets, facilities and installations in the

European Command area of operation.

The unit will report to Fort Bliss, Texas, to complete several weeks of theater-specific training prior to deployment overseas.

This will be the second mobilization for the 216th, which deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from December 2003–June 2005.



200TH ENGINEER CO. TO DEPLOY 15 SOLDIERS TO KUWAIT

PIERRE – Fifteen Soldiers from the South Dakota Army National Guard’s 200th Engineer Company have received an official mobilization order for deployment to Kuwait beginning in July 2017.

The Soldiers from the Pierre, Chamberlain and Mobridge-based unit are scheduled for a nine-month deployment where they will serve as a training assistance team and provide training and expertise to coalition forces on military bridging systems.

As a multi-role bridge unit, the 200th’s mission is to assemble, maintain, repair and replace all standard U.S. Army bridging systems.

The unit will report to Fort Bliss, Texas, to complete several weeks of theater-specific training prior to deployment overseas. This will be the third mobilization for the 200th, which deployed to Iraq in 2003–2004 and Afghanistan in 2011–2012.



SD ARMY NATIONAL GUARD AWARDS FIRST INSTRUCTOR BADGE

FORT MCCOY, Wis. – The 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute), South Dakota Army National Guard, awarded its first Basic Army Instructor Badge to Sgt. 1st Class Neal Stratman, June 21, at Fort McCoy.

The badge was awarded by 196th Regiment leadership during a 13M30 or Multiple Launch Rocket Specialist and High Mobility Artillery Rocket System Advanced Leader Course taking place as part of a Mobile Training Team.

“As the first National Guard instructor in South Dakota to receive the badge, it brings a sense of pride and accomplishment,” said

Stratman, a Sioux Falls native. “I am humbled that leadership came all this way to award the badge to me in front of my students. Wearing this badge means that one has taken not only the instruction, but the institution to a higher level of excellence, and I look forward to others in the unit also receiving it.”

Stratman has been teaching courses at Sioux Falls’ 2nd Battalion, 196th Regiment (RTI) since 2013. He is a certified 13M instructor for Senior Leader, Advanced Leader and Military Occupational Specialty Qualification courses at the institution.



MOBILE TRAINING TEAMS BRING ARTILLERY CLASSROOM TO SOLDIERS' BACKYARD

By 1st Lt. Rebecca Linder
2nd Battalion, 196th Regiment (RTI)

FORT MCCOY, Wis. –The South Dakota Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) is bringing the field artillery classroom to Soldiers throughout the Midwest through its Mobile Training Teams.

Based out of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, the 2-196th RTI provides MTT instructors who travel to teach a variety of 13M and 13P basic, advanced and senior leader field artillery courses, which allows units to train their Soldiers at, or close to, their home station.

The MTTs specialize in the Multiple Launch Rocket and High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems.

Instructors and students of the course say it enhances training, saves money and allows for better networking among Soldiers looking to further develop their artillery skills.

"The 13M MTT has taught more than 650 hours of NCOES (noncommissioned officer education system) instruction alone," said Sgt. 1st Class Neal Stratman, 13M instructor and MTT member. "I enjoy going out to different states and instructing. Not only do we meet great students along the way, we are able to network with others in the field artillery community, which only builds and expands our force."

"These courses create about an 80 percent cost savings for the unit and it drives retention and readiness," 1st Sgt. Micheal Seefeld, senior operations NCO, Field Artillery Subject Matter Expert cell. "Soldiers get to train closer to home and many of them get to see their families and sleep in their own bed at night."

In June, MTT members traveled to Fort McCoy to train Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 121st Field Artillery Regiment, Wisconsin Army National Guard.

Recently back from a deployment in Afghanistan, the course was an opportunity for Soldiers of the 1-121st to continue to train together in their home state, alongside those they served in combat with.

"Training in a familiar environment with the people I deployed with and the equipment we used makes the classes that much more enjoyable – the class is more cohesive this way," said



Staff Sgt. Matthew McIntyre, left, a student in the Multiple Launch Rocket Specialist and High Mobility Artillery Rocket System Advanced Leader Course, tutors Sgt. Jack Nicholson downloading the HIMARS training pods during a squad training exercise, June 23, at Fort McCoy, Wis. (Photo by 1st Lt. Rebecca Linder)

Staff Sgt. Matthew McIntyre, resupply vehicle ammunition section chief with the 1-121st. "Many of us have worked together for the past six years, which means we can jump right in and start training without any icebreakers."

This request is one of eight that the 2-196th has fulfilled within the last year from requests within the state and MTTs outside the state. Nearly 130 Soldiers, in addition to the schoolhouse's forecasted requirements, have been trained by the 2-196th RTI in the 13M and 13P military occupational specialties.

Besides Wisconsin, instructors from the 2-196th have conducted courses in Wyoming, Kansas, Colorado, and throughout South Dakota.

States are also using a training strategy to increase the amount of Soldiers they can put through schools per year by conducting courses during their annual training periods in relation to their deployment cycle.

One of the units who took advantage of this

cost-saving approach, the 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion, South Dakota Army National Guard, was able to allow 55 Soldiers to receive training in professional military education during their annual training in the unit's deployment cycle reset year.

"If I had it my way, this would be the way of the future," said Seefeld.

"The most efficient methodology of MTTs should be how courses are conducted in order to maximize fiscal responsibility while establishing the ability to keep the force trained at many levels," said Stratman.

More than 300 field artillerymen across the nation have been trained this fiscal year from in-state requests and MTT requests.

The amount of training has gone above and beyond the projected number and field artillery schoolhouses are projected to train approximately 450 by the end of the year, said Seefeld.

SD GUARD, DENMARK PARTNERSHIP GIVES OFFICER CANDIDATES INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE DURING TRAINING

By 1st Lt. Rebecca Linder
2nd Battalion, 196th Regiment (RTI)

NORRE NEBEL, Denmark – Three members of South Dakota Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) traveled to western Denmark to train members of the Danish Home Guard, Denmark's equivalent to the Army National Guard.

The Soldiers, based out of Sioux Falls, S.D., conducted the U.S. Army Basic Instructor Course during the Danish Home Guard's one-week summer camp at Nymindegab Camp, graduating 11 members at a July 8 ceremony.

As graduates of the course, members of the Home Guard will put their skills to use as instructors at the SDARNG's Officer Candidate School at Fort Meade, S.D.

Through the DoD Reserve Officers Foreign Exchange Program, the SDARNG, and the 196th RTI in particular, have had a growing partnership with the Danish Home Guard since 2014.

"The relationship we have affords us the opportunity to execute the OCS Program of Instruction in a manner no other national OCS program can execute," said Col. Scott Petrik, 196th Regiment commander. "Danish Home

Guard soldiers fulfill the requirements as instructors during the program and further advance the knowledge of future leaders in the U.S. Army National Guard by sharing their personal experiences and knowledge with the officer candidates during classroom instruction."

Over the last two summers, Home Guard instructors who graduated from a 2014 ABIC conducted in Denmark were able to instruct in the U.S. and take their experiences back to their fellow soldiers.

"U.S. Soldiers get to learn about Danes and how they do things," said Pia Hjort, head of the education section for the Danish Home Guard. "We get to learn about how the U.S. National Guard works and take that knowledge back to Denmark."

"Officer Candidates learn about Danish culture when we instruct and if they deploy with us, they will know how to operate with Danish or other international soldiers," said Jannik Ruemann, an OCS instructor and Danish Home Guard Soldier. "The instructors and staff learn the same lessons as the OCs, such as tailoring lesson plans to individuals rather than doing a group approach."

Home Guard soldiers complete the Danish Instructors Course prior to attending ABIC, which allows them to see the different teaching methods and standards of each course.

"They see another way of doing things," said Danish Home Guard Maj. Soren Kristensen, head of the planning section for the Danish Home Guard Academy. "I think that we shall continue to learn about our different ways, develop a common understanding about teaching and bring that into play for a third party country."

Roles will reverse for the first time in August as six soldiers from the Danish Home Guard will travel to Fort Meade to conduct the Danish Instructors Course, enabling Soldiers from the SDARNG to see the Danish way of conducting the course and will also allow for future training in Denmark from U.S. Soldiers.

"The opportunity for growth and development are endless," said Petrik. "We need to continue to strengthen our relationship with the Danish Home Guard by qualifying more U.S. Soldiers to instruct in Denmark as well as qualifying additional Home Guard Soldiers to instruct courses in the U.S."

Continued on page 9

Hooah.

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196TH MANEUVER ENHANCEMENT BRIGADE TRAINS IN WARFIGHTER EXERCISE

By Sgt. Mark VanGerpen
196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade



Lt. Col. Dennis Bickett, center, operations officer, 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, strategizes with fellow Soldiers during Warfighter Exercise 16-05, June 9, at the Mission Training Complex, Leavenworth, Kan. The exercise tested the MEB's capabilities in command and control operations during a simulated wartime scenario. (Photo by Sgt. Zach Sheely)

FORT LEAVENWORTH, Kan. – Soldiers with the South Dakota Army National Guard's 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade spent more than two weeks simulating an overseas war, June 1–17, near Fort Leavenworth.

Two years in the making, the “warfighter” exercise presented 185 MEB Soldiers with a realistic, strategic wartime experience that tested the brigade's abilities to operate in the simulated liberation of Atropia, a notional country in the Middle East.

“The warfighter exercise was without a doubt the most challenging exercise I have ever been a part of,” said Col. Patrick Pardy, MEB commander. “This exercise allowed us to train all the war fighting functions at all levels of command ... This exercise allowed us to prove to ourselves that this headquarters can function at a high level as a battle space owner if called upon to do so.”

The MEB is a multifaceted unit made up of engineers, military police, chemical personnel,

field artillery and more. It is unique in that it is one of the only units able to add or remove different unit types and personnel depending on the needs of the mission.

In general terms, the MEB is responsible for the sustainment of an operating area between headquarters and the front line. That could include overseeing road construction and maintenance, route clearance, artillery operations and security, among others.

“The importance of our mission to the overall fight is to ensure that our forward fighting elements have a division rear that's safe,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Todd Mettler, operations sergeant major for the MEB. “They can get convoys into the fighting areas and resupply and maintain their critical statuses to keep going with the battle.

“We're a very tailor able force to deal with a lot of different types of events.”

The Sioux Falls unit constructed a rapid-deploying tent system as their headquarters during

the exercise, running on generators and intricate printed and digital maps for their operations.

Alongside the MEB were nearly 2,000 Soldiers from states across the country, each conducting operations of their own and coordinating with the South Dakota unit the same way they would in a deployed environment.

It was an exercise on a larger scale than the brigade had seen in years, Mettler said, and the first time the MEB had operated under a division element, as it would while deployed.

“I couldn't be prouder of my team,” Pardy said. “The professional manner in which they approached this training with and the selfless service they gave over the last 24 months is remarkable. Their dedication and hard work led to our senior mentor stating that this was the first MEB he had seen that operated at the graduate level.”

SD AIR GUARD NAMES AIRMEN OF THE YEAR

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



Master Sgt. Justin Rey
First Sergeant of the Year



Master Sgt. Elizabeth Johnson
Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year



Tech. Sgt. Jared Bowen
Noncommissioned Officer of the Year



Senior Airman Amber Spade
Airman of the Year

SIOUX FALLS – The South Dakota Air National Guard named its outstanding Airmen of the Year for 2015 in July.

Four Airmen from the 114th Fighter Wing were selected as the First Sergeant, Senior Noncommissioned Officer, Noncommissioned Officer, and Airman of the Year.

The recipients were chosen based on their leadership, job performance, personal achievements and adherence to the U.S. Air Force core values: integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do.

Master Sgt. Justin Rey, of Sioux Falls, was selected as the First Sergeant of the Year. Rey is the first sergeant for the 114th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and Maintenance Group. He originally joined the National Guard for the education benefits, but has stayed for 20 years because of the patriotic duty and the fellow Airmen serving alongside him.

“I am honored to be recognized along with such great Airmen,” said Rey. “I consider this a testament to those that have mentored and coached me along the way.”

In the civilian sector, Rey works as the director of human resources and senior vice president with Heritage Bank.

Rey wants to continue to serve, teach and mentor Airmen within the unit, and said, “Put yourself out there. Do your best every day to perform at a high level and continue to improve.”

Master Sgt. Elizabeth Johnson was selected as the Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. Johnson grew up in Hartford and is a member of the 114th Medical Group. She was intrigued by the SDANG because she wanted the opportunity to give back to her community. As a civilian, she works as a registered nurse at Prairie States Surgical Center.

In the future, Johnson hopes to commission as an officer with the Medical Group.

“I want other Airmen to know that this is their career, and they are responsible for making the most of it,” said Johnson. “Do not wait for opportunities, seek them out.”

Technical Sgt. Jared Bowen, of Fordyce, Neb., was selected as the Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. He works with the 114th Maintenance Squadron as a quality assurance inspector. Bowen has served with the SDANG for 14 years and joined after 9/11 to serve his country after the attacks.

“I am very proud to receive this honor,” Bowen said. “I am grateful for all the support and mentorship that I have received over the years.”

Bowen works as a quality manager for Manitou Americas in Yankton, and said the experience he has gained from the military has provided him with a strong set of personal values and makes him a valuable asset in the civilian sector.

“Airmen should never stop gaining knowledge,” he said. “They should continue to gain experiences that will make them valuable to the organization.”

In the future, he wants to continue to meet the needs of the maintenance squadron and look for ways to improve the entire organization.

Senior Airmen Amber Spade, of Dell Rapids, was selected as the Airman of the Year. For the past three years, Spade has been a member of the 114th Force Support Squadron. She joined the SDANG after seeing her best friend’s accomplishments within the unit.

“Her accomplishments really made me to push to achieve the same,” said Spade.

Spade said she has many family members who have also joined the military and is excited to follow in their footsteps.

The 2015 Airmen of the Year will represent the 114th Fighter Wing as they compete against other Air National Guard members nationwide to determine the overall Air National Guard Airmen of the Year.

Continued from page 7 – SD Guard, Denmark Partnership

As the partnership between the two continues to strengthen, the two organizations look to expand instructing roles beyond OCS.

“We have a great opportunity to strengthen our relationship by incorporating more Danish Home Guard Soldiers into other phases of the OCS program and also explore the possibility of incorporating Home Guard Soldiers into our Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness, Combat Lifesaver and Field Artillery courses as well,” said Petrik.

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Jon Gohn, an ABIC instructor with 2nd Battalion, 196th RTI, summarized working with the Danish Home Guard as one of the most wonderful events he’s had the opportunity to participate in his nearly 17 years in the SDARNG.

“The students were some of the most professional, friendly and hardworking we have had the opportunity to work with,” said Gohn. “Their leadership down to the lowest enlisted were simply superb. I look forward to the friendships gained and hope that a partnership with this great military organization is long lasting.”

SD NATIONAL GUARD, SURINAME CELEBRATE 10 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP

By Spc. Kristin Lichius
129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

RAPID CITY – Members of the South Dakota National Guard and Suriname Defense Force celebrated 10 years of partnership as they gathered together to attend an anniversary ceremony at Joint Force Headquarters on Camp Rapid, June 22.

The event recognized the 10th anniversary of the formation of the State Partnership Program between Suriname and the SDNG.

In coordination with U.S. Southern Command, Suriname and South Dakota established a successful security cooperation relationship in 2006 under the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program. The partnership has flourished during the past decade, becoming a model for mutual security cooperation.

Since the trust-building process began in 2006, Soldiers from both countries have had the opportunity to visit each others' homelands to gain knowledge and experience in both military operations and civilian culture.

"The skills learned by service members, both in South Dakota and Suriname, have been invaluable," said Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, the adjutant general of the SDNG. "This partnership provides the best venue to experience working with a foreign partner."

The two entities have conducted over 100 engagement activities in support of USSOUTHCOM cooperation objectives with Suriname, including defeating transnational criminal networks, promoting response capacity for natural disasters and providing humanitarian relief, building partnership capacity for peacekeeping operation missions, enhancing regional access and advancing security sector reform.

Col. Adolf Jardim, Suriname Defense Force deputy commander, said both military forces benefit when subject matter experts from each country are able to share their knowledge on military topics, such as training in a jungle environment and building relations with local communities.

Suriname and the SDNG conduct about 10 subject matter expert exchanges a year on a variety of military related topics to include: field leadership and NCO development, logistics operations, military police crowd control training and procedures, medical and communications training, and women serving in the military seminars, to name a few.

Every year, hundreds of individuals from the SDNG, SDF, U.S. State Department and USSOUTHCOM directly participate with the experts during the exchanges.

Several days prior to the ceremony, Jardim and other officials from the SDF had the opportunity to observe various units working on projects and training being conducted during the 32nd annual Golden Coyote training exercise.

Jardim said the exercise and yearly exchanges help to facilitate new ideas and ways of expanding the partnership into the future.

"I'm looking forward to the upcoming discussions that we will have during the strategic planning event next year," said Jardim. "I hope we can strengthen our relationship and expand our activities."

While the ceremony was short, the relationship between the SDNG and Suriname will continue to grow for many years to come.

"Ultimately, the intent of the program is to foster peace and it starts with relationships," said Col. Mike Oster, current SDNG SPP director.



Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, South Dakota National Guard adjutant general, and Col. Adolf Jardim, deputy commander of the Suriname Defense Force, observe the urban patrol training lane during the Golden Coyote training exercise at West Camp Rapid, June 20. (Photo by Spc. Kristin Lichius)



South Dakota Lt. Gov. Matt Michels speaks at the ceremony for the 10th anniversary of the State Partnership Program between the South Dakota National Guard and Suriname at Joint Force Headquarters, June 22. (Photo by Spc. Joshua Quandt)

109TH GROUP WINS EISENHOWER TROPHY, NAMED STATE'S TOP SUPERIOR UNIT

By SDNG Public Affairs Office



Soldiers of the South Dakota Army National Guard's Headquarters Detachment, 109th Regional Support Group, are recognized for excellence with the Superior Unit Award and the Eisenhower Trophy at Camp Rapid, June 22. (Photo by Spc. Rebecca Green)

RAPID CITY – The South Dakota Army National Guard’s 109th Regional Support Group of Rapid City was awarded the coveted Eisenhower Trophy, June 22, for superior performance during training year 2015.

The 109th was selected as the top ranked unit in the state in a field of 15 units who received the National Guard Bureau’s Superior Unit Award. The SUA is awarded annually to units who meet highly-enforced military standards in the areas of personnel, training and readiness.

The award was presented by Brig. Gen. Kevin Griese, SDARNG assistant adjutant general, who applauded the unit for their outstanding performance.

“About one-third of our units in the state won a Superior Unit Award, and that’s quite an accomplishment for our organization,” said Griese. “But if you look at all the units that qualified for the award, the Eisenhower Trophy is given to the most outstanding unit of all of them. This is a tremendous accomplishment for your unit and for all of you to be proud of.”

“We were very pleased to achieve the SUA, because the HHD (Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment) 109th worked very hard to accomplish all of the requirements for the award,” said Col. Marshall Michels, 109th commander. “When we found out that we received the Eisenhower Trophy the team was ecstatic. Being the best of the best is truly and honor.”

In order to earn the award, units must achieve 95 percent in: assigned personnel strength, monthly drill and annual training attendance, and weapons qualification. Units must also attain 90 percent in Soldiers passing the Army Physical Fitness Test and being fully qualified in their occupational specialty. Unit inspections also factor into award requirements.

“Each member of the HHD, 109th RSG, has made a commitment to this unit and made it a priority to do their best,” said Capt. Marie Strang, 109th detachment commander. “They put drill attendance above numerous personal activities, made weapons qualification a priority, worked hard on their physical fitness and personal readiness and made a lot of sacrifices over the last training year to be here for the unit.”

This is the first time the 109th RSG has received a SUA since converting from its legacy unit, the 109th Engineer Group.

“I’m very proud and honored to be a member of this unit at a time when everyone came together to earn this award,” said Strang. “It really exemplifies each member coming together to work as a team.”

The 109th joins the other 14 SDARNG units in continuing a third straight year of training excellence – with three units receiving the SUA award for the second time in a row and five units for a third straight year. The 211th Engineer Company has earned the SUA four years consecutively and the 740th Transportation Company has received it four out of the last five years.

This year’s recipients of the Superior Unit Award include:

- HHC, 1–147th Field Artillery BattalionWatertown
- Battery A, 1–147th Field Artillery Battalion**Aberdeen
- Battery B, 1–147th Field Artillery BattalionYankton
- HHC, 153rd Engineer Battalion**Huron
- Forward Support Company, 153rd Engineer Battalion** ...Huron and Parkston
- 155th Engineer Company**Rapid City and Wagner
- 200th Engineer Company** Pierre, Mobridge and Chamberlain
- 211th Engineer Company***Madison and De Smet
- 842nd Engineer Company Spearfish, Sturgis & Belle Fourche
- Training Center Command* Rapid City
- Medical Command* Rapid City
- 82nd Civil Support Team* Rapid City
- 730th Area Support Medical Company Vermillion
- 740th Transportation Company Milbank and Aberdeen

* Denotes second straight year for receiving the award.

** Denotes third straight year for receiving the award.

*** Denotes fourth straight year for receiving the award.

155TH SOLDIERS WELCOMED HOME FROM KUWAIT DEPLOYMENT

By SDNG Public Affairs Office

More than 150 Soldiers from the South Dakota Army National Guard's 155th Engineer Company were welcomed home by family and friends at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center in Rapid City, July 2, after returning from duty in Kuwait.

The Rapid City- and Wagner-based unit served 10 months completing new construction and remodeling projects at bases across the Middle East. 155th members traveled throughout the region, to include Iraq and Jordan, to complete carpentry, plumbing, masonry and electrical projects.

The Soldiers arrived home just in time to celebrate Independence Day with their families.

"The Fourth of July for my family is a big deal, because I grew up with my family owning a fireworks stand and it's always been one of those holidays we always got together for," said Sgt. 1st Class Adam Sanderson, of Sioux Falls." Arriving home in time to celebrate the holiday makes it really special."

"Were home and it's an awesome feeling having been gone for almost a year and reuniting with my family," said Sgt. 1st Class Allan Baker, of Summerset." To see my daughter and how much she has [grown] this past year, to see my wife and to make it home one day before my daughter's birthday on the Fourth of July is a dream come true."

"Happy and overwhelmed" were just a few of the words Baker's wife, Stephanie, used to describe her husband's return home from his second deployment overseas.

"We are just happy he is home safe," she said. "We were nervous and scared when he left, but you don't have any choice – you just have to go with it. We really rely on our other military wives to get us through it.

Many state and local government leaders were also pleased to see the Soldiers return home safe.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard, U.S. Senators John Thune and Mike Rounds, U.S. Representative Kristi Noem, Rapid City Mayor Steve Allender and SDNG Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Tim Reich were at the event and praised the Soldiers for their service.

"It's great to have you back!" said Reich, congratulating the Soldiers on a mission well done. "The mission you performed was critical to this nation's strategic objectives in the Middle East and by all accounts you performed all aspects of your mission in an outstanding manner."

During their deployment, the 155th completed over 300 projects – totaling more than 67,000 man hours of work. The Soldiers remodeled schools, clinics, offices and living areas. They demolished old buildings and brought more viable buildings up to code.

"You answered the call to service. You were handed the toughest assignments. You exceeded all expectations. Your work shaped the battlefield... and with every project, you



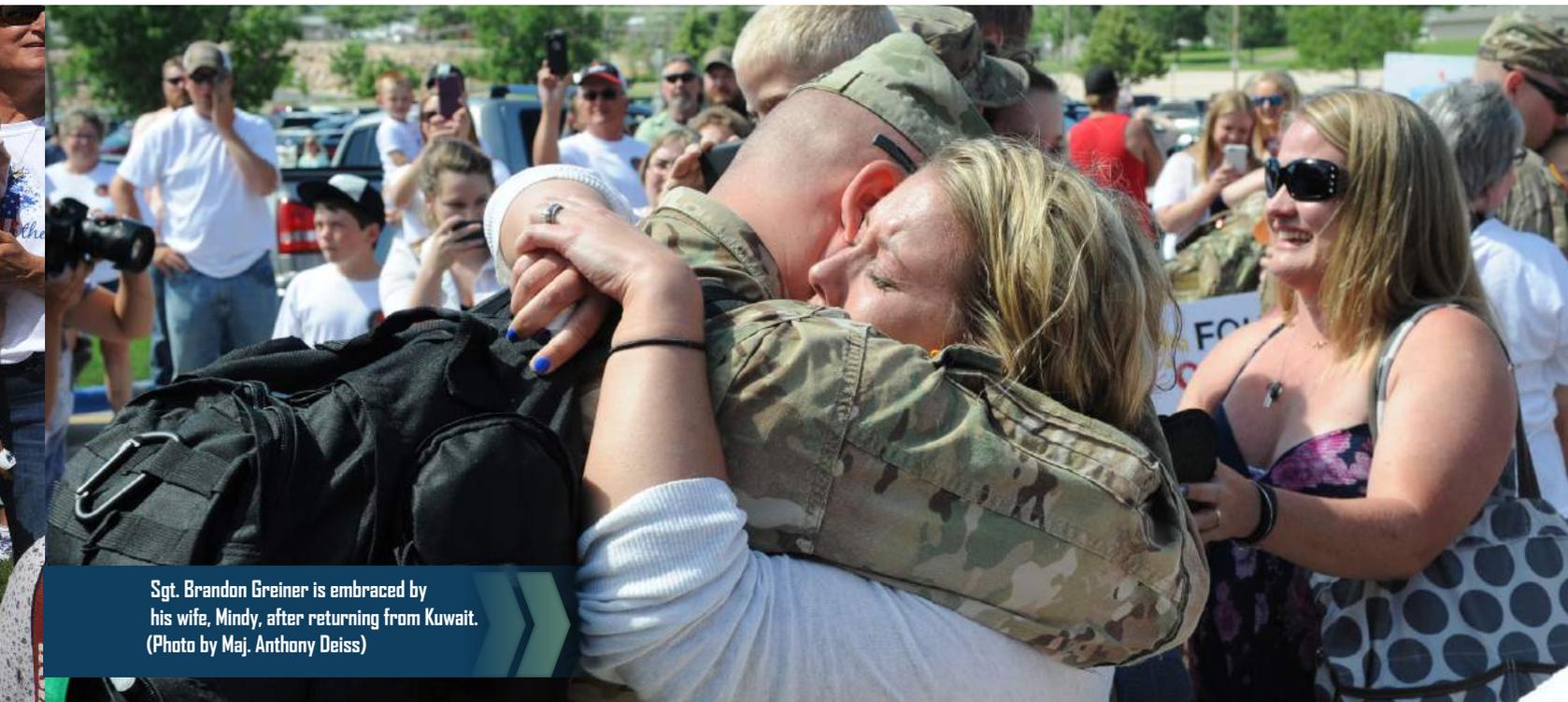
"Independence Day is about celebrating the beliefs upon which America was founded. But beliefs alone did not secure America's way of life. Rather, it was those beliefs made tangible through the sacrifices of those who have worn our country's uniform. It is thanks to the men and women of the 155th Engineer Company and all of those who have served that we are free." – Gov. Dennis Daugaard



Sgt. Justin Kolbeck is embraced by his wife, Megan, after returning from Kuwait. (Photo by Maj. Anthony Deiss)

improved the conditions of those around you. You represent the best of South Dakota.” Capt. David Dodson, 155th commander. “To all the members of the 155th, to the families, and to everyone else in their lives, the people of South Dakota truly appreciate your sacrifices, your patriotism and your hard work,” said Daugaard. “Thank you and welcome home.”

Sgt. Justin Kolbeck is embraced by his wife, Megan, after returning from Kuwait. (Photo by Maj. Anthony Deiss)



Sgt. Brandon Greiner is embraced by his wife, Mindy, after returning from Kuwait. (Photo by Maj. Anthony Deiss)

SOUTH DAKOTA AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Celebrates 70 Years

By SDNG Public Affairs Office

On July 10, 1946, Medal of Honor recipient and Marine Ace, Joseph J. “Joe” Foss was appointed to form an Air National Guard Squadron in Sioux Falls, S.D.

The mission of the squadron would be to recruit and train aircrews and ground crews to a level of operational proficiency, which would enable them to intercept and destroy enemy airborne weapons.

The equipment slate for the proposed unit included 25 of the fast and maneuverable P-51 Mustangs, a first-line fighter of the day.

Col. Foss called a meeting for those interested and plans were formulated for organizing the squadron.

Authority to activate the 175th Fighter Squadron was issued and on Sept. 20, 1946, the organization received federal recognition.

The 175th was reassigned to the 133rd Fighter Interceptor Wing, along with

units from Fargo, N.D., and Duluth and Minneapolis, Minn., in November 1950. The unit was called to active duty on March 1, 1951 and moved to Ellsworth AFB, Rapid City, to provide support for the B-36 bombers stationed there. The unit remained nearly intact and at the end of the active duty was returned to state control and reorganized on Dec. 1, 1952.

Two T-33 trainers were assigned to the unit in July 1954 to start the transition of the pilots into jet aircraft. The assignment of jet fighters began with F-94A/Bs and in a short time, the pilots were all checked out in jets. On April 16, 1956, the 175th Fighter Interceptor Squadron became part of the newly constituted 114th Fighter Interceptor Group, headquartered in Sioux Falls.

In May 1956, the first F-94C Starfire was received and another aircraft conversion was underway. In 1958, the F-94s were retired for the more powerful and longer range F-89 Scorpions. After two successful years with the F-89, notification was received that F-102 Delta Daggers were on the way.

In 1960, the unit received the F-102s and was placed under the direct supervision of the Air Defense Command. The 114th

Fighter Group was assigned to the 132nd Fighter Wing. As part of taking over a more active role in the defense of the continental United States, aircrews were placed on five-minute alert, and four aircraft were armed and ready to intercept and destroy enemy targets.

A significant change was encountered in May 1970 when the 114th Fighter Group, Aerospace Defense Command, was changed to the 114th Tactical Fighter Group, Tactical Air Command. The F-102s were replaced with F-100D Super Sabres. The mission became that of controlling the combat skies from enemy use and to reinforce the combat forces on the ground. News was received in March 1976 of the replacement of the unit’s F-100D aircraft with A-7D Corsair II jets. The last Super Sabres left Joe Foss Field in June 1977.

In 1979, the unit began a 12-year era of participation in Operation Coronet Cove at Howard AFB providing for defense of the Panama Canal. Both aircrew and support personnel were extended there in the summer of 1979 during the Nicaraguan crisis. The unit was awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamer for combat duty as a part of Operation Just Cause during 1989-1990.



F-16 TAIL ART COMMEMORATES ANNIVERSARY

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



Master Sgt. Roger Vearrier, 114th Maintenance Squadron fabrication technician, makes a final inspection of the 70th anniversary tail art painted on an F-16 assigned to the 114th Fighter Wing. (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Nancy Ausland)

To celebrate the 70th anniversary of the 114th Fighter Wing, the unit painted an aircraft with a distinctive tail flash, ventral fins and horizontal stabilizers. The usual subdued gray color scheme was replaced temporarily with bold black, red and white colors.

Meant to represent aircraft of the unit throughout its history, the red lightning bolt in the design is representative of the first aircraft flown by the unit in 1946, the P-51 Mustang. The P-51 was an American long-range, single-seat fighter and fighter-bomber used during World War II, the Korean War and other conflicts.

The original design of the P-51 included a bold red lightning bolt across the nose of the aircraft. The lightning bolt is also a part of the ventral fin design on the 70th anniversary commemorative aircraft.

The ever present “Lobo” with a unique color scheme graces the left view of the tail of the aircraft with “70 years” prominently displayed on the right.

The process of changing the tail art on this commemorative aircraft was left up to the skilled craftsmen of the 114th Fighter Wing fabrication shop. From concept and design, to the final

painting of the tail, several people were involved to make the project happen.

The unit reached out to long-time supporter and Sioux Falls aircraft enthusiast, John Mollison, to design the tail based on ideas from the unit. The Airman responsible for the final product was Master Sgt. Roger Vearrier, 114th Maintenance Squadron structural repair technician, a 25-year veteran of the unit.

“This was a fun and unique project to complete,” said Vearrier. “I’ve been here since the beginning of the F-16 at Joe Foss Field, and this is the first time I can remember us painting a tail with a unique design.”

Easily seen on the ground and in the sky, the tail design will grace the skies over Sioux Falls and the surrounding area for the rest of 2016.

“We are very excited about celebrating 70 years of the South Dakota Air National Guard,” said Col. Nathan Alholinna, 114th Fighter Wing commander. “The pride and professionalism of the Lobo Airmen is reflected in the striking uniqueness of tail 428.”

The 114 TFG received the first of its F-16C/D fighters in August 1991 with the official conversion from the A-7 to the F-16 occurring on January 1, 1992. The unit was redesignated as the 114th Fighter Group on March 16, 1992 and became a part of the newly formed Air Combat Command on June 1, 1992.

The unit was one of the first four Air National Guard units tasked to deploy in support of Operation Provide Comfort II based out of Incirlik AB, Turkey. Combat patrol missions were flown over the northern “No Fly” zone of Iraq from December 1993 to January 1994. The 114th Fighter Group was redesignated as the 114th Fighter Wing in October 1995. The unit subsequently supported Operation Northern Watch, based out of Turkey in 1995 and

2002, and Operation South Watch based out of Kuwait in 1998 and Saudi Arabia in 2001.

A new chapter was opened in the history of the Air National Guard with the terrorist attacks on America on Sept. 11, 2001. In addition to the unit’s ongoing tasking as part of the Air Expeditionary Force, unit members were also activated to support Operation Noble Eagle within the United States and Operation Enduring Freedom abroad.

With both a state and a federal mission, today’s SDANG, comprised of approximately 1,000 Airmen assigned to its headquarters and the 114th Fighter Wing, is an integral component of the most unique reserve military Air Force in the world, the Air National Guard of the

United States.

This two-fold mission requires the SDANG to provide combat capable aircraft, aircrew, support personnel, and equipment to augment existing active forces during times of crisis, national emergencies, or war. This requirement for worldwide mobility, deployment, and operations is the benchmark of excellence of the SDANG.

At the same time, the unit must provide resources and a disciplined force to protect life and property during natural disasters, civil disorders and other emergencies.

Deployments, exercises and direct support to the Air Combat Command of the United States Air Force on a day-to-day basis, give the SDANG members the constant training needed to maintain their high level of readiness.

SDNG hosts 32nd Annual

By SDNG Public Affairs Office



Sgts. Alexander Duam and Brandon Mann, truck drivers with the 1487th Transportation Company, Ohio Army National Guard, work with local members from the Cheyenne River Sioux Nation to sweep debris off of trailers used to haul timber to Eagle Butte, S.D., June 17. The timber haul provides an opportunity for Soldiers to work with local communities to provide timber to use throughout the year. (Photo by Spc. Kristin Lichius)



The South Dakota National Guard hosted its 32nd annual Golden Coyote training exercise in the Black Hills, June 11–25, providing military units with relevant training opportunities in support of overseas contingency operations and homeland defense.

Created in 1984 by the SDNG, with the cooperation of the National Forest Service and Custer State Park, this year's exercise allowed approximately 3,400 service members to conduct combat–support and service–support missions in a realistic training environment and provide valuable services to the public.

“When it started it was purely a SDNG exercise,” said Col. Timothy P. Moran, the chief of staff for Golden Coyote 2016. “Over the years it has evolved into a multi–component and multi–national exercise.”

This year, 44 military units representing 12 states and four foreign nations from multiple branches of military service – Army, Navy

Danish 3rd Battalion Engineer Corps Sgt. 1st Class Jesper Tandrup, left, gives direction to Lance Cpls. Bo Andreasen and Abel Frederikson while they remove cross beams from a bridge at Spearfish Falls in Spearfish Canyon, S.D., June 14. The bridge will connect a hiking trail that will provide access to the falls. (Photo by Spc. Joshua Quandt)



Annual Golden Coyote



Soldiers of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, South Dakota National Guard, conduct Medevac training in support of Golden Coyote, near Mount Rushmore in the Black Hills, June 19. (Photo by Spc. Mitchell Murphy)



and Air Force – worked together to create an invaluable training experience. Participating units conducted military operations, trained on their equipment and employed tactics, and completed various humanitarian missions and engineer projects that helped improve the forest and infrastructure of many communities.

“What benefits everybody is the ability to work in a joint environment,” said Moran. “That is exactly the way we fight. When we deploy, it’s the same environment so it’s great training.”

Local residents received numerous benefits from the many engineer projects conducted during the exercise. Units transported timber to Native American communities that use it as firewood, conducted building construction, repairs and upgrades, identified hazardous wilderness areas and made them safe for public use, and resurfaced local roadways that had fallen into disrepair.

Units participated in many training tasks and battle drills such as combat patrols, urban combat operations, land navigation, first aid, casualty evacuation and convoy operations.

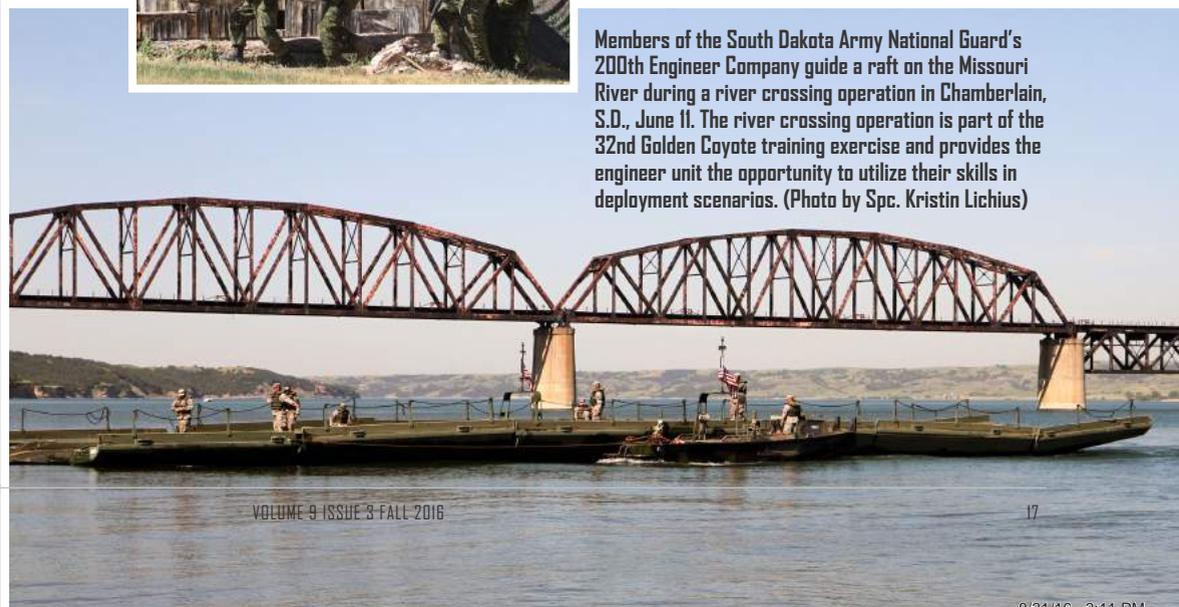
The exercise once again provided a valuable opportunity for units to train on skills needed for any future overseas deployment.



Soldiers of Task Force 41, Canadian Army, prepare to enter a building at the urban patrol training lane on West Camp Rapid, Rapid City, S.D., June 16. (Photo by Spc. Rebecca Green)



Members of the South Dakota Army National Guard’s 200th Engineer Company guide a raft on the Missouri River during a river crossing operation in Chamberlain, S.D., June 11. The river crossing operation is part of the 32nd Golden Coyote training exercise and provides the engineer unit the opportunity to utilize their skills in deployment scenarios. (Photo by Spc. Kristin Lichius)





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Serving her community, state and nation as state trooper, citizen-Soldier

By 1st Lt. Chad Carlson SDNG Public Affairs Office



State Trooper Khrista Nelson, South Dakota Highway Patrol

Khrista Nelson knew early in life that she wanted to pursue a career in law enforcement. She can remember being inspired by police as early as the age of 12. Growing up in Rapid City, she felt drawn to the men and women serving in the Black Hills area, wanting to be just like them someday.

Her desire to serve remained throughout her teenage years and after graduating from Rapid City Central in 2008, she took her first step towards public service by enrolling in the Law Enforcement Program at Western Dakota Tech in Rapid City.

Having babysat for the family of a National Guard officer throughout high school, Nelson had heard about the incentives and college benefits the military, specifically the National Guard, could provide, but she remained focused on working in law enforcement.

While college was the path she chose to reach her goals, it would be a financial obstacle she would need to overcome.

"When I started college, I was on my own and knew I needed assistance with tuition," Nelson said. "So after a few more conversations regarding college benefits, bonuses and the ability to enlist in military police, I decided to join the National Guard. It was a decision that would allow me to serve my country while still pursuing my dreams and career."

Nelson would attend her initial military

training during the summer months, and college courses the rest of the year. In the summer of 2009 she completed Basic Combat Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. She returned to Fort Leonard Wood the following summer for Advanced Individual Training as a 31B, or military police.

Detainee operations, weapons qualification, battlefield forensics, defensive tactics and techniques and MP law enforcement operations were some of the training highlights from that summer. After completing her second summer of training, Nelson was assigned to the 235th Military Police Company in Rapid City.

It wasn't long after completing the law enforcement program, Nelson would be notified the 235th would deploy to Afghanistan in 2013 where they would provide security for U.S. military personnel, installation and facilities and to guard prisoners of war and civilian prisoners.

The vast array of fulltime law enforcement experience within the 235th, gave Nelson the opportunity to take her time in deciding which agency she would apply with.

"I always admired the professionalism of the highway patrol and saw the state troopers as the "elite" of law enforcement," said Nelson, who decided overseas that the highway patrol was the right fit for her. "I liked the para-military environment they withheld in their academy along with the high standards of the organization."

Nelson took her written and physical

tests overseas and even conducted her first interview with the department from Afghanistan using Skype.

"I was hired right away," Nelson said. "Shortly after returning from Afghanistan, I was training at the Law Enforcement Academy in Pierre."

Nelson achieved her goal to work in civilian law enforcement when she became a state trooper with the S.D. Highway Patrol in 2014.

"The training, discipline, attention to detail, and professionalism that was engraved in me from the military has stuck with me into my law enforcement career," said Nelson, who was recently promoted to sergeant in the 235th. "The tactics I learned, help me on the road when dealing with high stress situations. All the times away from my family and being forced out of my comfort zone, helped me mature at a young age and prepared me to be ready for a career in law enforcement."

A career that has Nelson back in Rapid City, working in the same community she grew up in admiring the men and women of law enforcement.

FEMALE FIGHTER PILOTS

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



Capt. Shanon Davis
175th Fighter Squadron pilot

The decision to try to become an F-16 pilot was an easy one for Capt. Shanon Davis, 175th Fighter Squadron pilot. Both her parents were pilots and she grew up knowing it was what she wanted to do. Not so for Capt. Valerie Van De Rostyne, also 175th Fighter Squadron pilot. She didn't know she wanted to become an F-16 pilot until after enlisting in the South Dakota Air National Guard and majoring in Aviation Management in college.

Although these two women had very different paths which led them to the South Dakota Air National Guard, they both share one distinction and have made history as the first female fighter pilots the unit has had in its 70 year history.

Van De Rostyne, a Parker native, enlisted in the 114th Logistics Readiness Squadron in 2006 as a high school senior. She became a traffic management technician. Her decision to major in Aviation Management at South Dakota State University was an easy one.

"I always knew I wanted to fly, but didn't even experience it until I was able to get help paying for flight school by joining the Guards," said Van De Rostyne.

Before even graduating from SDSU, Van De Rostyne had her first interview to be a pilot with the unit. Both she and Davis were selected to fill vacant pilot positions the unit had in 2011.

"I think it really helped that I was already enlisted with the unit and had my pilot's license from SDSU when I applied," said Van De Rostyne.

The year the women were hired for their positions, there were over 100 applicants. Of those 100, only 10 were interviewed and of those 10, only four selected. Both Van De Rostyne and Davis ranked high in all areas during the selection process.

While Van De Rostyne comes from the community of Parker, Davis is from West Des Moines, Iowa, and loves living in South Dakota now.

"Yes, I think I can say Sioux Falls is now my home," said Davis. "I love to travel and this position has already given me the opportunity to do that, but it's also nice to be back in the midwest and Sioux Falls is really starting to feel like home."

When asked about their distinction as the "first female fighter pilots" with the unit, they both understand why they are getting so much attention, but also look forward to the day when gender will become a non-issue in these types of positions.

PILOTS TAKE FLIGHT

“Growing up, my mother was a tanker pilot in the Air National Guard back when women really didn’t fly, so I got a lot of inspiration from her,” said Davis. “I guess I never really felt I couldn’t do it. Thirty years ago, I guess it was unusual for a woman to say she was a dentist, now it’s not a big deal. Hopefully in the future it will be the same for women pilots.”

The training of these women began with attendance at the Academy of Military Science in January 2012 to become officers in the Air National Guard. From there, they attended their Air Force Initial Flight Screening for one month in Colorado. From there, the pilots began their Undergraduate Pilot Training in June 2012 for 13 months. Their last stop before returning to South Dakota was attendance at “B Course” or Basic Course for F-16’s in Arizona. Since then they have been training with other pilots for their “seasoning training” which will wrap up in September of this year.

Both women are under the age of 29 and they have already accomplished so much.

“I’ve already got 10 years in the military so if I really wanted to I could be done in 10 more years,” said Van De Rostyne. “I don’t see that happening though. I hope to actually combat deploy sometime in my career, but that may or may not happen with the South Dakota Air National Guard.”

So, where do they go from here? They will wrap up their seasoning training in September and will be able to start their civilian careers outside of the Air National Guard.

Like many of the other traditional pilots who fly F-16’s for the Air National Guard, Van De Rostyne can see herself looking for a career as a commercial airline pilot.

For Davis, she’s not so sure. She has her college degree in Engineering and can see herself doing any number of other careers that involve aviation or her other interest, real estate.

“I’ve spent my whole life keeping a lot of doors open; I could go be an engineer designing aircraft, I could go be an astronaut or a test pilot, or I could expand on my small business that I own where I buy, refurbish, and rent houses,” Davis said.

It is apparent from both these women that whatever they decide to do in their civilian careers, they will continue to make successful contributions to the South Dakota Air National Guard for many years to come.



Capt. Valerie Van De Rostyne
175th Fighter Squadron pilot

SOCIETY OF AMERICAN INDIAN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES PRESENTS AWARD TO SD GUARDSMAN

By SDNG Public Affairs Office

CATOOSA, Okla. – The Society of American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE) presented their Military Meritorious Service Award to a South Dakota Army National Guard Soldier, June 9, during the 13th Annual SAIGE National Training Conference in Catoosa, Oklahoma.

Master Sgt. James Dean Bad Wound, of Rapid City, received the Military Meritorious Service Award, which honors military members and Department of Defense civilian employees who have supported the DoD mission, overseas contingency operations, or whose attributes best epitomized the qualities and core values of their respective Military Service or other DoD Component.

Bad Wound, a member of Joint Force Headquarters, has served on the South Dakota National Guard Diversity Council for the past 10 years, spearheading many projects assisting in relationships with the SDNG and Native American communities in South Dakota.

Most recently, Bad Wound served as chairman of the Native American Heritage Month – Oceti Sakowin Code Talker Celebration Subcommittee of the SDNG Diversity Council.

The subcommittee developed the idea of honoring Native American veterans by focusing on the code talker legacy, which was largely unknown in South Dakota, the National Guard and even the nine tribes located within the boundaries of the state.

“He led the committee as it formed, created and put on four ceremonies honoring code talker veterans from the nine Native American tribes located in South Dakota,” said 1st Lt. Carstin Jerzak, SDNG state equal employment manager. “He devoted his personal time and many hours to ensuring the celebrations depicted the history of the code talker legacy and honored veterans.”

The honoring ceremonies, included a traveling exhibit featuring bronze replicas of the gold Congressional Medallions presented to each tribe in honor of the veterans from the tribe that served as code talkers during World War I and World War II.

Additionally, the ceremonies featured guest speakers from the SDNG who spoke on the code talker legacy and tribal affiliation, and family members of code talker veterans who spoke of their family member and their legacy.

In addition to Bad Wound, the SDNG also nominated Chief Warrant Officer 4 William White and Master Sgt. Edith Clemmons for the



Master Sgt. James Dean Badwound receives the 2016 Society of American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE) Military Meritorious Service Award in Catoosa, Oklahoma, June 9, during the 13th Annual SAIGE National Training Conference. (Photo by 1st Lt. Leanna Litsch)

SAIGE Military Meritorious Service Award.

White and Clemmons, who worked alongside Bad Wound on the Code Talker Celebration Subcommittee, were both finalists for the award.

“These three individuals worked countless hours to personally ensure the veterans, tribes and code talker legacy was honored in a manner that was respectful and highlighted the duty, honor and selfless service of the code talker legacy, heritage and language,” said Jerzak. “Their dedication to their heritage and families was evident in the respectful manner they displayed towards all personnel whom attended and they are to be commended for bringing forth awareness of this heroic and important part of heritage, not just for Native American people, but for all Americans.”

In total, six service members and civilians

received the award, and three represented the National Guard from South Dakota, Connecticut and Oklahoma.

“It has been an honor to serve in the South Dakota National Guard for the past 29 years,” said Bad Wound, who retired on April 30. “I have had many proud moments. The South Dakota National Guard helped me succeed in being able to serve my country and my family.

“I look forward to assisting Native American youth in joining the South Dakota National Guard and furthering their education.”

SAIGE is a national non-profit organization advocating for American Indian and Alaska Native people in the government workforce by providing them the necessary tools in their efforts to reach their full potential.



A NEW FISCAL YEAR

As we are soon to begin the fall, we may look at all that is ahead and consider it rather daunting! School is about to get into high gear, with all its events and responsibilities. We can look ahead at the “joyous” APFTs to come and all our many military responsibilities and wonder if we’ll ever get it all done! But I want to suggest a few ideas that might help us to look at all that is ahead in a different light.

Take it just one day at a time

That may sound trite or outdated, but I don’t believe it is. There is wisdom in Matthew 6:34, “Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” As one author said, “We are not to go from today into tomorrow with worry.” And if tomorrow is to do the worrying for us, we are free. God doesn’t want us to not plan ahead for our ‘tomorrows, but He doesn’t want us to worry about them either. There is enough to do today, without worrying about all that there is yet to do in the days ahead.

Take time out to refresh yourself

This upcoming fiscal year the Chaplain Corps is sponsoring four Strong Bond weekends:

Oct. 15–16, Rapid City: 5 Love Languages for Couples

Jan. 14–15, Sioux Falls: 7 Habits for Families and 7 Habits for Singles (two events)

Feb. 25–26, Deadwood: A Ski Weekend for Singles

March 18–19, Sioux Falls: “Active Military Families” (a weekend for families)

We provide lodging and most of the meals. Come and get away from the busyness of your normal routine and enjoy one of our Strong Bonds events this fiscal 2017 year!

Never let the mistakes of the past define you

One nice thing about military life is we start a new year earlier than most – Oct. 1. I mention this because all of us have regrets regarding mistakes we’ve made in the past. But your mistakes don’t define your worth, and they don’t have to determine your future. You can face a new year, either fiscal or calendar, with hope and encouragement. And reach out to someone if your problems seem too insurmountable.

1–800–273–8255 is a good number (Suicide Prevention Lifeline), Psychological Health Coordinator Amy LaBay is a wonderful resource (605–786–2922) or give me a call (605–431–5182) if you need support.

May you have a busy but also blessed fall season! And if it doesn’t sound too unspiritual, may I add, “May God bless the Vikings and the Cornhuskers this year!”

Col. Lynn Wilson

Full-time Support Chaplain



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SNAP SHOTS



Col. Laurie Tidemann, HQ SDANG strategic plans officer, is pinned with her new rank by her siblings, Master Sgt. Eric Tidemann, 114th Fighter Wing recruiting office supervisor, and Maj. Lisa Tidemann, 114th Logistics Readiness Squadron officer, in a ceremony held at Joe Foss Field, S.D., June 4. The Tidemann family has a long line of service in the South Dakota Air National Guard starting with the father, retired Col. Merlyn Tidemann, former 114th Maintenance Group commander. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Luke Olson)



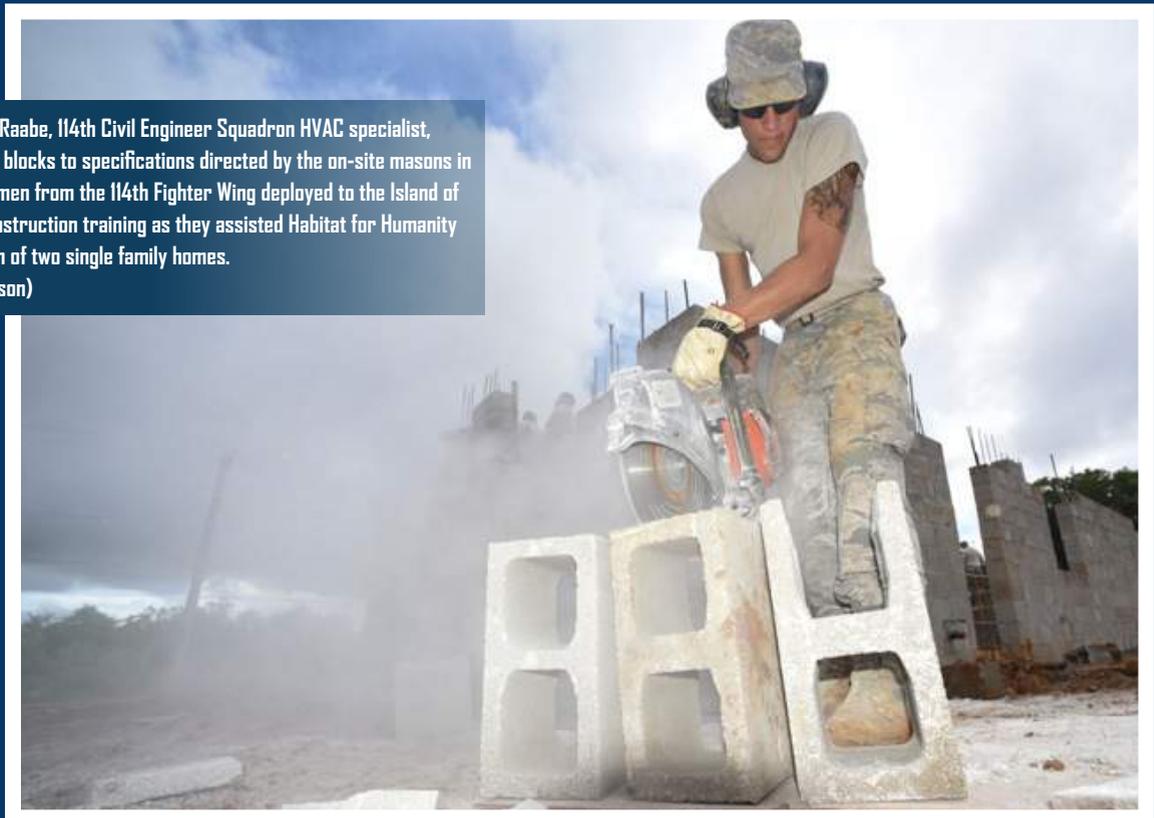
Tech Sgt. Jon Leffring, 114th Maintenance Squadron electronic countermeasures technician, took flight May 25, as part of the Recruiting Incentive Program offered to unit members at Joe Foss Field, S.D. Leffring earned an F-16 ride because he assisted in recruiting two new members into the 114th Fighter Wing. (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Nancy Ausland)

PHOTOS



The Rapid City Area Chamber of Commerce recognized five South Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers, along with five Airmen from Ellsworth Air Force Base, at their 30th Annual Rapid City Chamber Military Appreciation Pig Roast, held in Rapid City, July 26. Representing the SDARNG are: Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, SDNG adjutant general; 1st Lt. Ellen Miller, 155th Engineer Company; Chief Warrant Officer 3 William Preston, Detachment 5, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 641st Aviation Regiment; Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Dufek, 155th Engineer Company; Staff Sgt. Bjorn Henstein, Joint Force Headquarters; and Sgt. Cody Loftin, 235th Military Police Company. (Photo by Airman 1st Class Sadie Colbert)

Airman 1st Class Creighton Raabe, 114th Civil Engineer Squadron HVAC specialist, uses a hand held saw to cut blocks to specifications directed by the on-site masons in Inarajan, Guam, July 13. Airmen from the 114th Fighter Wing deployed to the Island of Guam to gain real world construction training as they assisted Habitat for Humanity of Guam on the construction of two single family homes. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Luke Olson)



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