

# DAKOTA PACK

MAGAZINE OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD • SUMMER 2013



## WELCOME HOME

Two Army Guard units back home after deployment to Kuwait

### » TRAINING

- SD Soldiers train Suriname SF
- 114th FW participates in Red Flag

### » OVERSEAS

- 129th MPAD advises Afghan Army public affairs soldiers

### » ACHIEVEMENT

- Lieutenant and Warrant Officer of the Year announced



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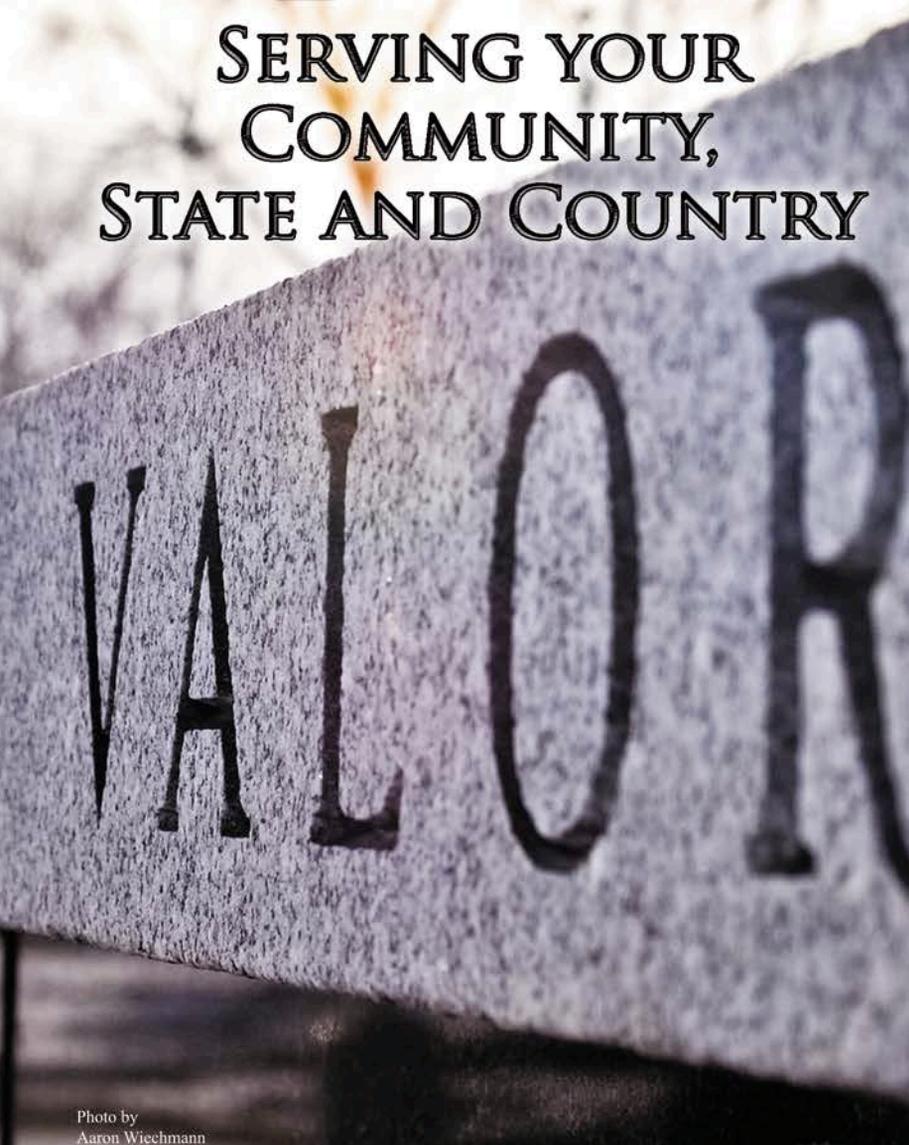
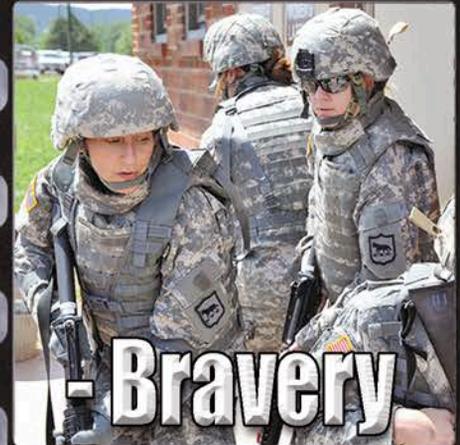


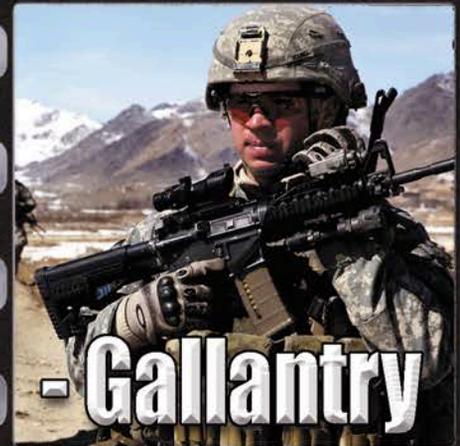
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- Prowess



- Bravery



- Gallantry



- Courage

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**Submissions:** Print and photo submissions of general interest to members of the SDNG, their families, civilian employees, veterans and retirees are invited and encouraged. Please send article and photos with name, phone number, e-mail, complete mailing address and comments to: [ng.sd.sdarng.list.pao@mail.mil](mailto:ng.sd.sdarng.list.pao@mail.mil), 605.737.6721. Submissions are subject to editing. Electronic submissions are preferred and digital photos should be at least 300 dpi.

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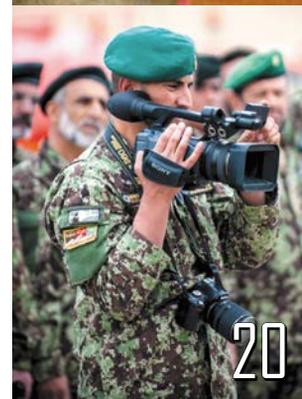
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## On the Cover

Sgt. Christopher Hathcock, Detachment 1, Company B, 935th Support Battalion, South Dakota Army National Guard, holds his 10-day-old son, Trace Dean, as his wife, Sgt. Tara Hathcock, also a member of the 935th, kisses him for the first time in nine months at the airport in Sioux Falls Feb. 15. (Photo by 2nd. Lt. Rebecca Linder)

# Mine was earned in Vietnam. By my dad.

Barbara Q., USAA member



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## Message from the Adjutant General

I want to start out by congratulating Brig. Gen. Wayne Shanks on his retirement from the South Dakota National Guard after nearly 39 years of service. He served admirably as the Assistant Adjutant General - Air since April 10, 2010. He also served as the Air National Guard assistant to the commander, Air Force Material Command, Wright-

Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. Gen. Shanks and his wife Janelle have dedicated a huge portion of their lives in exemplary service to their state and nation, and they will be sorely missed.

I am very pleased to have Brig. Gen. Matt Jamison taking over as the Assistant Adjutant General - Air, and Col. Al Bolton as the Chief of Staff - Air. Both of these officers have demonstrated exceptional leadership in the past as well as potential for the future. The SD Air National Guard is in great hands.

It is great to have the 927th Engineer Detachment and Detachment 1, Company B, 935th Support BN back from their deployments. Both of these units performed their missions in a truly outstanding manner for the nine months they served in theater.

Congratulations to 2nd Lt. Richard Bauman on his selection as the Lt. Col. John J. Steele award winner for being the outstanding lieutenant of the year. Congratulations also the Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ben Smetana for being chosen as the Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael F. O'Connor award recipient as the top warrant officer of the year. You truly represent the best in your respective fields.

I recently traveled across South Dakota and visited 23 of our 24 armories as well as our Air Guard facilities on Joe Foss Field. I very much enjoyed meeting with so many of our outstanding Soldiers and Airmen along the way. I found that the vast majority of our facilities are clean and well-maintained in spite of the fact that many of them are getting quite old. I did come across a few dingy orange and yellow chairs that need to be replaced and quite a few holes in the wall that need filling. I believe we should always be cognizant of how our facilities look to the public. When parents walk through the front door of our facilities with their 17-year-old to see a recruiter,

they instantly form an opinion about our organization. But even more important than that is our duty to maintain clean, modern and efficient facilities for our Soldiers and Airmen to train in. They and their families are our most precious resource.

The summer months will usher in our Golden Coyote Exercise and numerous other training events. I urge leaders at all levels to make certain we are training safely throughout this period. There has never been a training event that was so important as to jeopardize the safety of a Soldier or an Airman.

The big news from Washington, D.C., recently has been how the cuts imposed by sequestration will play out across the Department of Defense. It is extremely disappointing that our full-time federal technicians are being targeted for furloughs along with the more than 700,000 civilians employed by the Department of Defense. If these furloughs are allowed to take effect, it will have a truly monumental impact on our readiness. Cuts to the National Guard and Reserve should be the last thing under consideration right now because reserve component units cost a third as much as like units in the active component. Regardless of what the final decision will be, the South Dakota National Guard will continue to perform with great distinction in the years ahead.

The upcoming mobilizations of the 114th Fighter Wing and the 152nd CSSB will push our deployed numbers back up over 400, and I ask you all to keep our deployed Airmen and Soldiers in your prayers. We should also make an effort to offer assistance to the family members of our deployed troops if needed.

Thank you for everything that you do to make the South Dakota National Guard the best organization it can possibly be!

Sincerely,

Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch  
The Adjutant General



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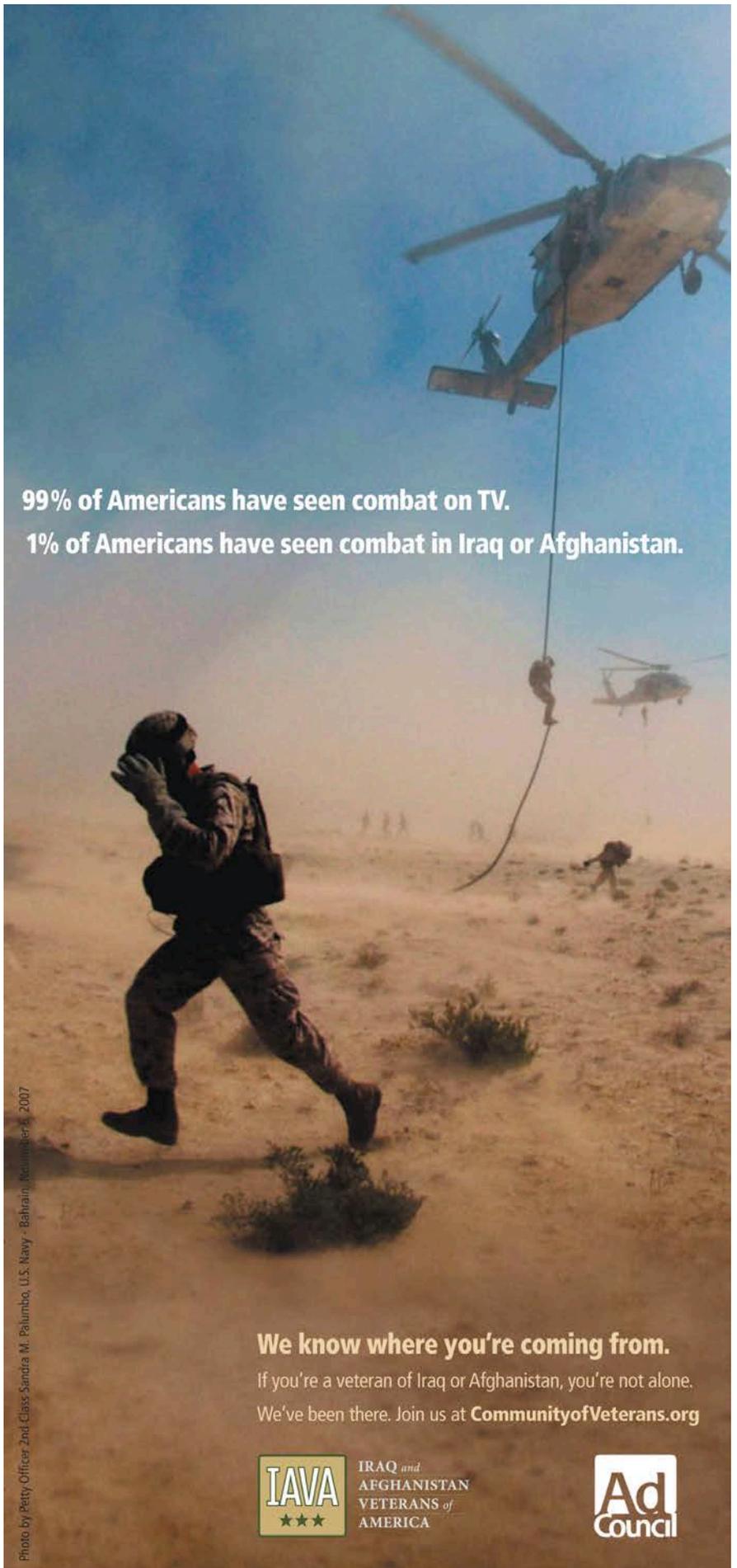


Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Sandra M. Palumbo, U.S. Navy - Bahrain, November 6, 2007

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## CSMS #2 receives 2012 Efficiency in Maintenance Award

RAPID CITY - The Combined Support Maintenance Shop #2 facility and personnel in Rapid City were the state recipients of the Efficiency in Maintenance Award for training year 2012.

The Efficiency in Maintenance Award program was established in 1996 by the Chief of National Guard Bureau to recognize excellence in shop maintenance. The timeline for this annual award is from Oct. 1 - Sept. 30. One maintenance shop is selected each year by the state maintenance manager after compiling data on all four field maintenance shops, both combined support maintenance shops, and the UTES.

"Over the past year, CSMS #2 did an outstanding job ensuring all supported units met their readiness standards," said Lt. Col. Barry Whitney, SDARNG surface maintenance manager.

Criteria to meet the highest degree of efficiency in maintenance each training year includes maintenance of material and equipment, performance measures, innovations, evaluations, personnel responsibilities, readiness, safety of personnel, environmental and HAZMAT responsibilities, physical security, overall shop operations, CSDP, quarterly backlog reports and continuous improvements.

"This award is a testament to hard work and attention to detail the maintenance team at the CSMS #2 has exhibited," said Col. James Webster, SDARNG deputy chief of staff logistics.

Webster said he was extremely proud to present the Efficiency in Maintenance Award to the CSMS #2 for the second time in three years.

## Month of the Military Child celebrated throughout SD

RAPID CITY - April marked the nation's "Month of the Military Child," a time to honor all military children in our communities, especially those who have been impacted by a deployment of a loved one. Gov. Dennis Daugaard signed an executive proclamation proclaiming April as the Month of the Military Child here in the state.

South Dakota communities were encouraged to wear purple on that date, as a tangible way to show their support and thanks to all military children for their strength and sacrifices. Additionally, many South Dakota communities, businesses and organizations celebrated throughout the month with a variety of activities and promotional events to support the 7,400 military kids across the state.

Operation Military Kids is an ongoing, dynamic program to support and promote the children of deployed military service professionals. OMK is a collaborative effort between the U.S. Army, South Dakota 4-H, American Legion, and Boys and Girls Clubs of America. Its purpose is to provide local community support for the children of service women and men from South Dakota.

## University Center dedicates new Veteran's Resource Center

RAPID CITY - A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held for a new Veterans Resource Center March 15 at the South Dakota University Center in Rapid City. The new center will serve as an informational hub designed for military veterans and active military or National Guard service members who are pursuing post-secondary education.

Currently, about 130 students, or a little more than 12 percent of the students at the University Center are veterans. The Veterans Resource Center will help military members and veterans understand their educational benefits, opportunities and resources. The Vets Center also provides a designated area for veterans to socialize and quiet area to study.

"It is a resource center for student veterans for all of their individual needs," said Gov. Daugaard. "It isn't the physical space that is needed; it is the knowledge that all those who work or volunteer in the center can impart."

The UCRC represents a partnership between South Dakota's six public universities working together to deliver curriculum from all of the universities in one convenient location. Military students at the University Center now have one place to turn to for support services.

"The Center is more than just the space, it is about the environment," said S.D. Board of Regents President Dr. Kathryn Johnson.

"The Veterans Center in the UCRC gives veterans a place to come," said Dwight Holt, of Veterans Upward Bound, the coordinator for the Veterans Resource Center. "Many of our veterans are non-traditional students, and this gives them a quiet place to do homework and a place to relate with other veterans."

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# Jamison named new Air Guard assistant adjutant general



Photo by Master Sgt. Christopher Stewart

The new assistant adjutant general for the South Dakota Air National Guard, Brig. Gen. Matthew P. Jamison, right, receives the unit guidon from Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general of the South Dakota National Guard, during a change of authority ceremony May 4 at Joe Foss Field in Sioux Falls. Jamison is now responsible for strategic planning, strength management, Airman readiness and mobilization support of the state's nearly 1,100 Air National Guard members.

SDNG Public Affairs Office

SIoux FALLS - Brig. Gen. Matthew P. Jamison is the new assistant adjutant general for the South Dakota Air National Guard. A change of authority ceremony took place May 4 at Joe Foss Field in Sioux Falls between Jamison and the outgoing assistant adjutant general, Brig. Gen. Wayne M. Shanks.

As the assistant adjutant general, Jamison is now responsible to the South Dakota National Guard's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, for strategic planning, strength management, Airman readiness and mobilization support of the state's nearly 1,100 Air National Guard members.

Jamison, of Sioux Falls, replaces Shanks, who served in the position since April of 2010. Shanks, a Sioux Falls native and current resident of rural Colton, will retire from the Guard after nearly 39 years of service to the state and nation.

"Brig. Gen. Jamison has clearly demonstrated the potential to serve in this very important position. I am confident he will add to the legacy of great leadership the South Dakota Air National Guard has been blessed with since its inception in 1946," said Reisch. "Brig. Gen. Shanks has performed brilliantly throughout his career, which has spanned almost 39 years. I wish him the very best as he enters retirement."



**Brig. Gen. Matthew P. Jamison**  
Assistant Adjutant General for the South Dakota Air National Guard

"I am excited and looking forward to the challenge of this position," said Jamison. "The Air Guard will continue to excel at our federal and state missions by doing well on inspections, deployments and being ready when the governor needs us for state emergencies."

When asked what he hopes to accomplish during his tenure as the assistant adjutant general, Jamison said, "To pick up where Gen. Shanks left off. He did a great job of leading during a difficult fiscal environment. We will continue to work our way through sequestration and future budget years while performing our mission with excellence."

"Gen. Shanks leaves behind a great legacy. As he worked his way through the ranks, he developed many friendships and influenced and mentored the career paths of those he touched along the way," continued Jamison. "At the national level, he has done remarkable work in the maintenance and logistics area. His knowledge and expertise will be sorely missed."

"It's been an honor to be a member of the South Dakota Air National Guard, but most of all, I cherish the years I've had to work with our exceptional military men and women that sacrifice every day for this great country," said Shanks.

Jamison is the second generation of his family to serve in the South Dakota Air National Guard. He began his Air Force career by enlisting as a crew chief in 1979. Commissioned in 1983, he completed his under-graduate pilot training in 1985 at Vance Air Force Base. After returning from pilot training, Jamison progressed in the 114th Operations Group, becoming the 175th Fighter Squadron commander in 2002.

He assumed command of the 114th Operations Group in 2005, vice wing commander in 2009 and chief of staff for the South Dakota Air National Guard in 2012. A command pilot with more than 3,800 fighter hours in the A-7D and F-16C aircraft, Jamison has more than 125 combat hours in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Northern Watch and Operation Southern Watch.

As a civilian pilot, Jamison is a captain with Delta Airlines with 23 years of experience. He is currently flying the MD-88/90 aircraft. Jamison is married to Dawn Jamison, and they have three children; Ashley, Tyler and Caleb.



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# 842nd Family Readiness Group receives national award

SDNG Public Affairs Office

WASHINGTON – Sept. 27, 2011, was the day members of the 842nd Engineer Company were called to deploy. The Soldiers would start their yearlong journey in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, leaving hundreds of family members, friends and community members behind.

However, loved ones were not in fact left behind as the 842nd Family Readiness Group stepped in to help those temporarily without their loved ones. Volunteers quickly kicked off the program so families could participate in activities and different events that would take place throughout the year.

“The commander called me and asked if I would be interested in taking the position,” said David Burr, 842nd FRG lead volunteer during the deployment. “I was a member of the 842nd for 18 years. I have a lot of strong ties with the unit, and I care about the Soldiers and their families and believe that by being the lead volunteer, I was able to help all of them through a very difficult time in their lives.”

For the exceptional efforts of the program, the 842nd FRG received the 2012 Department of Defense Reserve Family Readiness Award for the National Guard March 1 at the Pentagon Hall of Heroes in Washington, D.C. Representatives received a commemorative plaque and framed certificate, along with a cash award from the Military Officers Association of America, which is to be used to further enhance the unit’s family support programs.

“This award is really about how the families and the Soldiers handled the deployment,” said David Burr. “There were so many individuals who stepped up at different times through the deployment to help with different things. There is no one individual that made this award possible; but a combined effort of the families and the Soldiers.”

The RFRA recognizes one National Guard and Reserve unit from each of the seven Reserve components with the best programs to support their families. The program was established in 2000 to recognize the top unit Family Readiness program in each Reserve component that demonstrated outstanding family readiness while maintaining superior mission readiness.

The award nomination was composed of numerous objectives that the FRG exceeded in order to receive the award. Communication was one of these main objectives, especially since family members of the 842nd were spread throughout the state. Some family members were more than 400 miles from the company headquarters in Spearfish.

“One of the ways the 842nd FRG helped develop family readiness was through the Family Readiness Group’s phone tree,” said Lynn Wright, senior family readiness support assistant and nominator for the award. “The effectiveness of the phone tree was proven during monthly wellness check calls to family members, helping to ensure their well being, answer questions, identify issues and make referrals to family assistance or other resources.”

The phone tree was organized by locations and averaged 12 families per caller. Other ways the FRG communicated to family members was through Facebook and publishing monthly newsletters, which were mailed and emailed to more than 250 families.

Not only did the FRG keep contact electronically and through snail mail, but also provided numerous events throughout the year to increase



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jen Soucy

**Capt. Matthew Sadler, commander of the South Dakota Army National Guard’s 842nd Engineer Company, shakes hands with John Hastings, principal deputy, assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs, while accepting the Department of Defense Reserve Family Readiness Award on behalf of his unit during a ceremony at the Pentagon March 1. The 842nd Eng. Co. Family Readiness Group was recognized as the best in the Army National Guard for its work providing support to families of the unit during the unit’s deployment to Afghanistan.**

quality of life and attract family members to activities to learn about programs and services.

Some of the activities included movie night, pizza and pool parties, Halloween, Valentine’s Day and other holiday parties, resiliency training, potlucks, sending care packages, and creating welcome home signs for their deployed loved ones.

“These activities increased attendance, bringing families together and giving them the opportunity to network and share with other families who were experiencing the same hardships as themselves,” said Wright.

Family members of the 842nd were not the only ones who supported the unit throughout their deployment. During the year, the FRG built several relationships with local community organizations such as the American Legion, the local Veterans of Foreign Wars, Spearfish Lions Club, local Girl Scouts and church groups.

“The local community was unbelievable, and they did so much to support the Soldiers and the family members,” said Burr. “One event that sticks in my mind is when we sent more than 200 care packages for the Soldiers during the holidays. All the goods in those boxes were donated from community members and businesses from around the area.”

Working together with community members and other family members helped build relationships that still exist even after the 842nd returned home from Afghanistan.

“I saw families and community members working together to help one another. Families that didn’t know each other at the start are very close friends now,” said Burr. “I really believe that this is wonderful that we have won this award, but I also know the sacrifices that the families and Soldiers made during the last year, and I believe that they have truly earned this award.”

# 935th Support Battalion Soldiers welcomed home



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Beck

Gov. Dennis Daugaard shakes the hand of Spc. Cole Bailey, a member of Detachment 1, Company B, 935th Support Battalion, South Dakota Army National Guard, during the unit's welcome home ceremony April 30 at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Rapid City. The 935th returned from a nine-month deployment to Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

SDNG Public Affairs Office

RAPID CITY - A welcome home ceremony for 19 Soldiers of Detachment 1, Company B, 935th Support Battalion, South Dakota Army National Guard, was held April 30 at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Rapid City, following a nine-month deployment to Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Rapid City-based 935th's mission was to provide aviation maintenance and repair support to the 35th Combat Aviation Brigade. The unit specializes in maintenance and repair of rotary-wing aircraft including the UH-60 Black Hawk, OH-58 Kiowa and other U.S. Army rotary aircraft.

"You all should be proud of your Soldiers. I'm very proud of them and the mission they accomplished," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 John Wurtz, 935th commander. "To the families and loved ones of these Soldiers - thank you for lending us your Soldiers."

Gov. Dennis Daugaard and Maj. Gen. Tim

Reisch, the adjutant general of the SDNG, were featured speakers at the ceremony.

Reisch echoed the sentiment made by Wurtz and reminded the unit members and guests of the sacrifices the families make while their Soldiers are deployed.

"We don't realize what the families have to contend with as their service members are deployed," said Reisch. "The sacrifices they make and the support they give to their Soldiers help to ensure they remain focused on their mission, and they did an impeccable job."

As the 935th transitions from their federal mission back to their role as part of the state militia, Daugaard expressed his relief in having the Soldiers back in the state.

"You have been serving our nation and not our state, and I thank each of you for your service to our nation," said Daugaard. "The state has experienced the benefits of having you here, and we are very thankful you are home."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Beck

Staff Sgt. Shawn Jensen holds his children's hands, Mara, 5, and Kierik, 2, during the 935th's welcome home ceremony April 30 in Rapid City.



Staff Sgt. Bradley Limbo, a member of the 927th Survey and Design Team, South Dakota Army National Guard, holds his 2-year-old daughter, Torin, during a welcome home ceremony for the unit April 21 in Sioux Falls. The 927th deployed to Kuwait and Afghanistan for a nine-month deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Photo by 2nd Lt. Rebecca Linder

# 927th Survey & Design Team returns home

SDNG Public Affairs Office

SIoux FALLS - A welcome home ceremony was held for 14 Soldiers of the 927th Engineer Detachment (Survey and Design Team), South Dakota Army National Guard, April 21 in Sioux Falls, after completing a nine-month deployment to Kuwait and Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"We are so thankful to be home," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Kenneth Shoenfelder, 927th commander. "We have made a lot of contributions in Kuwait and Afghanistan. I am very proud of what our Soldiers did, and we appreciate everyone's support."

The Sioux Falls-based 927th planned, conducted, prepared and provided planning studies and tests for identified engineer work projects for U.S. forces in the region. They also provided guidance, legal descriptions, certification and surveys for engineer projects.

Lt. Gov. Matt Michels, Sen. John Thune and Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch were featured speakers at the ceremony.

"To members of the 927th, welcome home. All these Soldiers have made many sacrifices and Gov. Daugaard and I want to thank each

and every one of you," said Lt. Gov. Michels. "You went above and beyond, and you didn't have to, but you did. Thank you for your hard work and dedication."

"Thank you for your service, determination, professionalism, courage and sacrifice, and thank you to the families and community who support these Soldiers while they were gone," said Sen. Thune. "We live in a dangerous world. There are people who want to kill and harm Americans because of who we are, and we have to protect and defend this country. You have all helped to protect this country."

"You performed a critical mission, and the



Photo by 2nd Lt. Rebecca Linder

Lt. Gov. Matt Michels welcomes home, Sgt. Andrew Kennedy, a member of the 927th Survey and Design Team, during a welcome home ceremony for the unit on April 21 in Sioux Falls, after a nine-month deployment to Kuwait and Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

job you did overseas was outstanding," said Reisch. "The South Dakota National Guard has a tremendous legacy, and the performance of this unit has without a question added to the great legacy of this state."



Courtesy photo

Army Staff Sgt. David Goodwin, South Dakota National Guard frequency coordinator and trainer, shows members of Suriname's Special Forces different features on the Harris radio system during a State Partnership Program subject matter expert exchange in the Republic of Suriname April 16.

## South Dakota Soldiers train Suriname Special Forces

Story by Staff Sgt. Michael Beck  
SDNG Public Affairs Office

REPUBLIC OF SURINAME - Three South Dakota National Guard Soldiers traveled to the Republic of Suriname April 16 - 18 to provide refresher and instructor training on the Harris radio system to Surinamese Special Forces soldiers.

The training was conducted through the National Guard's State Partnership Program, which provides unique partnership capacity-building capabilities to combatant commanders through partnerships between U.S. states, territories, and the District of Columbia and foreign countries.

This is the third subject matter expert exchange between the SDNG and the Suriname military that focused on modernizing and expanding communications capabilities. The first two exchanges consisted of an assessment of the Surinamese communications capabilities and limitations, presenting that assessment and formulating a plan to enhance their communications.

"The goal in this exchange was for the Suriname forces to develop a training plan for their own soldiers," said Lt. Col. John Weber,

Suriname Partnership Program coordinator for the SDNG. "The KST (Suriname Special Forces) was originally trained by United States Special Forces on the use of the Harris radios. We provided them with refresher training, at a slightly higher level, in order to develop better methods to transfer those skills to their people."

The South Dakota and Suriname partnership was formally established in August of 2006. Since then, numerous exchanges have taken place where South Dakota service members travel to Suriname and vice versa to complete various military training.

This exchange provided more detailed information on the range and capabilities of the Harris radios and included a field training exercise that allowed the Suriname soldiers to employ the radio in the inland regions of the country, where reception and interference can become an issue.

"Prior to fielding the Harris radios to them, their primary means of communication was cell phones. That only worked where there was reception, which is not good in the interior of the country," said Weber.

The field exercise was a great success according to Staff Sgt. David Goodwin,

SDNG's frequency coordinator and trainer on this mission.

"The field exercise ended with one group proceeding 20 miles south of the city, and another group 20 miles east," said Goodwin. "We were able to establish secure communications between the two groups and the base much more easily than they had previously."

Weber said the exchange of ideas and training was a success and continues to reinforce the importance of the overall State Partnership Program, which supports U.S. national interests and security cooperation goals by engaging partner nations through military, social, political and economic conduits at the local, state and national level.

"It was a very successful event, and it was an opportunity to engage at the soldier level with folks who were interested and committed to using the (Harris) system during operations, said Weber. "It's these types of exchanges that not only provide a benefit for the Suriname military, but also our own Soldiers, as we able to use our training and knowledge in a real-world environment with a partner nation."

# Former South Dakota Air National Guard pilot to join Air Force Thunderbirds

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

NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. – The commander of Air Combat Command, Gen. Gilmory M. Hostage III, has officially selected the officers who will be joining the United States Air Force Thunderbirds for the 2014 demonstration season.

Among those chosen is a former pilot with the South Dakota Air National Guard, Maj. Scott Petz, an F-16 pilot stationed at Nellis AFB, Nev., Petz will become Thunderbird No. 3, the team's right wing pilot. He will fly as close as 18 inches from the No. 1 jet during flight formations, demonstrating the teamwork and precision of America's Air Force. Petz will replace Maj. Caroline Jensen.

Originally from Faith, S.D., Petz was commissioned into the South Dakota Air National Guard in August 2002 and served with the 175th Fighter Squadron as an F-16 pilot until going active duty Air Force in May 2011. Prior to his commission, he was an enlisted member of the unit as a crew chief for five years.

"I'm ecstatic about the opportunity to represent the SDANG as a USAF Thunderbird. Having been both enlisted and officer, I have a unique opportunity to understand a large spectrum of serving Airmen. My vast experiences and personal connections made in my 14 years with South Dakota have set me on a path that I'd always thought was just a dream," said Petz.

He went on to add, "My military endeavors had great mentorship from outstanding peers along the way. I'm grateful to all the people that spent countless hours attempting to make me a better crew chief, pilot and officer. In the end the fact remains, the South Dakota Air National Guard is a model professional and family organization!"

The 12 officer positions on the team are two-year tours of duty. By design, the position openings are staggered, allowing the squadron to maintain continuity of experience and leadership.

The year 2014 will mark the Thunderbirds' 61st season as the Air Force's premier jet demonstration team. From mid-March till mid-November, the team travels around the country and abroad, showcasing the integrity, selfless service and excellence embodied by American Airmen everywhere.



**Maj. Scott Petz**  
Former SD Air National Guard F-16 pilot and member  
of the 2014 United States Air Force Thunderbirds.



# PURPLE UP! for military kids

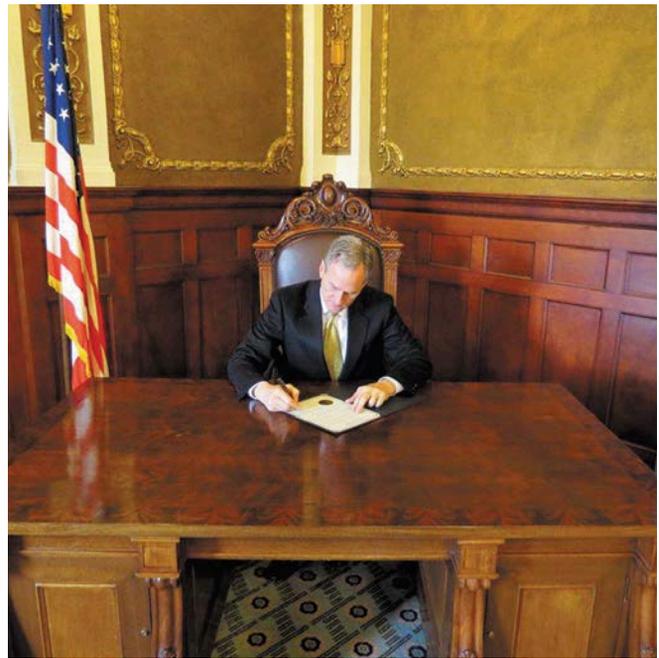
Story by Senior Master Sgt. Nancy Ausland  
114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

April marked the nation's "Month of the Military Child," a time to honor all military children in our communities, especially those who have been impacted by a deployment of a loved one. Gov. Dennis Daugaard signed an executive proclamation proclaiming April as the Month of the Military Child here in our state and Mayor Mike Huether also honored military kids by proclaiming April 12 to be "Purple Up! For Military Kids Day" in Sioux Falls.

The presentation of the official proclamation for Purple Up! For Military Kids Day took place in Mayor Huether's office on April 9 with Operation Military Kids team members, community partners and military members and families. Members of the South Dakota Air National Guard started their activities for Purple Up! For Military Kids Week on April 7 by hosting their annual Easter egg hunt at Joe Foss Field.

Unit members and their families gathered for this widely popular event to celebrate the military child and kick off a week of events held in Sioux Falls which included the Mayor's Proclamation, OMK members' visits to local schools and radio stations, and military youth nights at sporting events.

All across the state, the week of April 7-12 was celebrated with support and programs for our military youth and South Dakota communities were encouraged to wear purple, as a tangible way to show their support and thanks to all military children for their strength and sacrifices.



Gov. Dennis Daugaard signs an executive proclamation proclaiming April as the Month of the Military Child here in South Dakota. All across the state, the week of April 7-12 was celebrated with support and programs for our military youth. South Dakota communities were encouraged to wear purple as a tangible way to show their support and thanks to all military children for their strength and sacrifices.



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Master Sgt. Thomas Dummermuth, 114th Maintenance Squadron Phase Inspection Element technician, inspects the main landing gear on an F-16 aircraft of the South Dakota Air National Guard. Photo by Senior Airman Amanda Bradshaw

## First Phase on block 40 fleet almost complete

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

SIoux FALLS - The 114th Maintenance Squadron phase maintenance personnel are three aircraft away from completing the first round of scheduled inspections on the new fleet of Block 40 F-16 fighter aircraft.

“It was a big deal, because when the Block 30 F-16s were retired, we didn’t know where our mission was going to take us,” said Master Sgt. Thomas Dummermuth, phase maintenance technician. “Obviously, as a unit we didn’t want to pick up a mission where we would have to let people go.”

Dummermuth went on to explain the pros and cons of working on the new fleet. The aircraft arrived at the unit from an active duty base. Upon arrival at Joe Foss Field, the primary areas of interest for immediate repair were hydraulic lines, fractured critical bulkheads, and replacing the main landing gear. The maintenance squadron works diligently day after day to fully transition the aircraft to the 114th Fighter Wing standards.

“Our maintenance personnel benefit from the new aircraft. Since our Block 30s were so well maintained, our traditional Guard members would come to our unit training assemblies, and it was just the ‘same ol,’ same ol.’ Now with the Block 40s, our younger Airmen get to tear into a lot more stuff,” said Dummermuth.

Guard members are exposed to a lot more maintenance than they have been in the past. The 114th Fighter Wing maintenance shops have pulled together to make the transition as smooth and effective as possible. Leaders have directed the operation with charisma and optimism.

At the end of 2012, Senior Master Sgt. David Rogness, 114th Maintenance Squadron supervisor, generated a document providing the

statistics for phase maintenance. This information includes data about how many sets of landing gear were swapped out, how many accessory drive gear boxes were done, and how many man-hours were spent on these inspections.

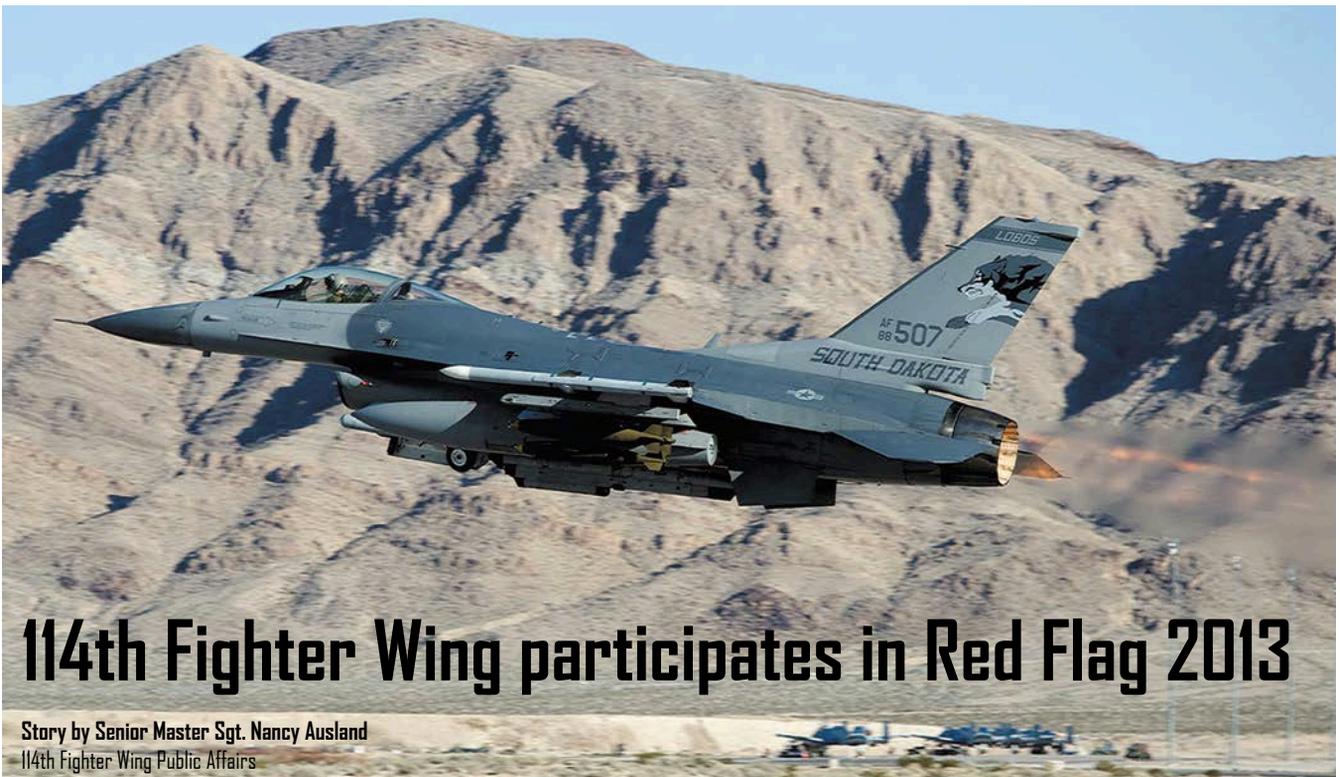
“When you sit down and you reflect on it, it was quite an amazing feat,” Dummermuth said about the report. “You don’t see it on a day to day basis, but when you look at it over the course of the year, you can say, ‘Wow, that was incredible. We accomplished that.’”

The maintenance required for the first phase cycle of the Block 40s has significantly increased the number of man-hours required to finish an inspection on each aircraft. Dummermuth does not consider this a problem.

“As the jets go through the phase cycle for a second and even third time, we will have identified and remedied problems. We will have the phase flow going as quickly as it once was on the Block 30s,” he said. “We want to make sure we are putting out the best product that we can for our pilots and our community. If an aircraft goes down, we know the pilot, we know their family, and we live in the community that could be affected by a downed aircraft.”

An intrinsic sense of ownership and responsibility underlies the reasons why the 114th Fighter Wings’ maintenance personnel put forward the extra time and effort to reach above and beyond the set standards.

Maintenance personnel keep the South Dakota Air National Guard combat capable, but as Dummermuth sums up, “It’s not just a job that we come to, these are our friends, and this is our community.”



Courtesy photo

# 114th Fighter Wing participates in Red Flag 2013

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

NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. – Red Flag is the Air Force’s premier air-to-air combat training exercise. Participants often include both U.S. and allied nations’ combat air forces. The exercise gives pilots the experience of multiple, intensive air combat sorties in the safety of a training environment.

The 114th Fighter Wing of the South Dakota Air National Guard once again participated in this exercise when they deployed 168 members of the unit to Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., in March.

First sergeant for the deployment was Chief Master Sgt. Randy Wingen.

“I learned a lot serving as the first sergeant for this deployment. Not just about my own unit members, but other Air Force and coalition forces as well,” said Wingen.

The F-16 unit from South Dakota was one of more than 20 different units participating in this Red Flag exercise. Air Force, Air National Guard, United States Navy, and United States Marine Corps., as well as units from Australia and the United Kingdom came together for this intense exercise.

“Most of these participants have never done a deployment like this before, but you would have never known that by the way everyone performed. The professionalism, dedication, and attention to detail were amazing. It was like watching a well-oiled machine, and I was proud to be a part of it,” said Wingen.

An F-16 from the South Dakota Air National Guard launches during the Red Flag exercise at Nellis AFB Feb. 27.



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# Bauman named Lieutenant of the Year

SDNG Public Affairs Office

The South Dakota National Guard is pleased to announce 2nd Lt. Richard Bauman, of Pierre, is this year's recipient of the Lieutenant Colonel John J. Steele award, naming him the SDNG's Lieutenant of the Year.

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

Bauman, who serves as a tactical intelligence officer for the 109th Regional Support Group in Rapid City, was selected as the most exceptional lieutenant within the 109th Group, and competed against lieutenants from each of the SDNG's major commands.

"Second Lt. Bauman has clearly demonstrated himself to be an exceptional officer," said Col. Bill Freidel, 109th Group commander. "He has been inspirational in his pride and professionalism as a junior officer and has been a distinguished example of leadership within the South Dakota National Guard and is very deserving of this award."

"His desires, interests and enthusiasm mirror the leadership, loyalty and initiative categories on which this award is based," said Capt. Andrew Thimgan, 109th Group Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment commander. "Second Lt. Bauman is an inspiring and committed leader who is fully qualified and supports the goals of his leadership and subordinates alike."

**"It's very humbling. To be named along with the other quality officers who have won this award in the past is an honor – I feel lucky to be included in that group."**

**— 2nd Lt. Richard Bauman —**

"It's very humbling," said Bauman of receiving the award. "To be named along with the other quality officers who have won this award in the past is an honor – I feel lucky to be included in that group."

As a tactical intelligence officer, Bauman provides detailed intelligence reports and weather information for the 109th Group, and has served with the unit for more than a year. With more than 21 years of total service in the military, Bauman has spent nearly 20 of those years as an enlisted Soldier in the communications, intelligence and civil affairs fields. In 2003 and 2007, he deployed in support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom, and also served in Bosnia in 1997 as a part of Operation Joint Endeavor.

In addition to his responsibilities in the National Guard, Bauman also serves as a police officer for the Pierre Police Department. He said



**2nd Lt. Richard Bauman  
Lieutenant Colonel John J. Steele Award winner  
SDNG's Lieutenant of the Year**

the support of his employer has made a positive impact on him and his family.

"The Pierre Police Department has been very supportive of me and my family during my deployments and military career," said Bauman, who has served seven years on the force. "They are great about giving me time off work and have chipped in to help install windows or shovel snow from the sidewalk at my home."

Bauman said his family – wife, Kari, and son, Izaak, 3 – have also been a big supporter of him during his career and deployments.

"I couldn't ask for a better wife and family," he said. "She is such a strong supporter and partner, I wouldn't be where I am today without her."

Bauman also commented that any one of the candidates for the Steele award were just as worthy to receive it.

"I know the quality of lieutenants in the South Dakota National Guard," he said. "They are all worthy of this award and it's a great feeling to be recognized among them."

Other officers representing their major command for this year's award competition were 1st Lt. William Domagall, Joint Force Headquarters; 1st Lt. Paul Vaughan, 114th Fighter Wing; and 1st Lt. Melody Howell, 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade.

# Smetana named Warrant Officer of the Year

SDNG Public Affairs Office

The South Dakota Army National Guard is pleased to announce Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ben Smetana, of Sioux Falls, is this year's recipient of the CW4 Michael F. O'Connor award, naming him the SDARNG's Warrant Officer of the Year.

The CW4 Michael F. O'Connor award was established to recognize the most outstanding warrant officer in the South Dakota Army National Guard. Selection is based on exceptional qualities of technical knowledge, leadership, dedication and initiative.

Smetana, who serves as a military personnel technician for the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade of Sioux Falls, was selected as the most exceptional warrant officer within the entire 196th Brigade and competed against warrant officers from each of the SDARNG's major commands.

"Chief Warrant Officer 2 Smetana always performs his duties and accomplishes all assigned missions with the utmost professionalism," said Col. Kevin Griese, brigade commander, 196th MEB. "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 Warrant Officer of the Year."

"I have had the privilege to work with CW2 Smetana...and have found him nothing short of exceptional as a leader and technical expert in his field," said Capt. Shannon Machmiller, 196th MEB Headquarters and Headquarters Company detachment commander. "He is a dynamic leader with attributes that far exceed the normal warrant officer."

**"I am extremely honored to be presented with this award. I didn't expect to receive the award with such a great field of warrant officers in this year's competition."**

**— Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ben Smetana —**

"I am extremely honored to be presented with this award," said Smetana. "I didn't expect to receive the award with such a great field of warrant officers in this year's competition."

Smetana has served in the 196th for the past four years, where he is responsible for the personnel readiness of the brigade with emphasis on units that are preparing for deployment in support of overseas



**Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ben Smetana  
CW4 Michael F. O'Connor Award winner  
SDARNG's Warrant Officer of the Year**

contingency operations. Smetana knows the importance of preparing units for war first hand, having deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2007. He also has more than 13 years of total service in the SDARNG.

Smetana is the son of Lisa Collins, of Centerville, and Allen Smetana from Pennsylvania.

Smetana commented that any one of the warrant officer candidates for the O'Connor award were just as deserving to receive it.

"I competed against outstanding individuals that were equally deserving of this award," said Smetana.

Other warrant officers candidates representing their major command for this year's award competition were CW4 Shawn Bambas, 109th Regional Support Group; CW4 Wanda Akers, Joint Force Headquarters; and CW4 James (BJ) McGuire, 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute).



Photo courtesy of "Snowmobile" Steven Willis

Participants in a Project Sanctuary winter retreat stop for a photo during a snowmobiling tour that took them to the top of the continental divide near Granby, Colo.

# A SAFE PLACE TO COME HOME

## Project Sanctuary reconnects veterans, families after deployment

SONG Public Affairs Office

**A** stunning mountain vista greets participants of Project Sanctuary when they rise in the heart of the Rocky Mountains. The day promises fun and relaxation for military members, veterans and their families, devoid of the worries and stress of daily life.

For six days and five nights, participants can let go of their worries and focus on two things: enjoying life and reconnecting with family.

Project Sanctuary provides a week of exciting outdoor activities located in and around Granby, Colo., designed to help military families reconnect after deployments. The program is all-inclusive; lodging, meals and activities are planned, conducted and paid for through the generosity of sponsors, donors and volunteers - all in the spirit of thanking our service members for their service to the country.

"We were free to do what we wanted as a family, never needing to worry about anything," said Staff Sgt. Michael Beck, an Iraq veteran and



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Beck

**Nordic skiing is one of the many activities families may choose to participate in during Project Sanctuary retreats.**

a member of the South Dakota National Guard. "All the trip's logistics were taken care of: meals, group activities and even personal needs. Travel expenses were even reimbursed."

Project Sanctuary's vision statement is simple: assist military service members returning from our nation's wars and conflicts with reintegration into the family unit through a holistic approach healing the effects of war and treating all members of the family at their level of need; enabling the service members to reintegrate into their families and communities in a healthy and sustainable manner resulting in the preservation of the family unit and strengthening of the community, the military and the country.

Project Sanctuary accomplishes this vision through therapeutic, curative, supportive and recreational activities to veterans, active military personnel, their spouses and children in a leisure environment. Additionally, follow on services are provided to the families for two years to continue to offer the support required.

"The staff and volunteers call and write after the retreat, always asking if there is any way they can help our family," said Beck.

Two types of retreats are offered, one for families and one for couples only. The



Photos by Staff Sgt. Michael Beck

**An array of activities await participants of Project Sanctuary at the recreation center at the YMCA of the Rockies, where participants stay and can recreate with snowmobiling, ice fishing, snow tubing, hiking, horseback riding, hay rides, bowling, ATV rides, archery, whitewater rafting, sleigh rides and much more.**



family retreat is a six-day event, while the couples retreat is slightly shorter. All Project Sanctuary retreats include voluntary marriage and financial workshops, youth programs, recreational activities and licensed counselors. Counselors remain on-site and available 24 hours a day for the entirety of the retreat. The counselors travel with the participants to all group activities, so a moment never passes where a service member or family member is alone or isolated from help.

Project Sanctuary has received national recognition for their efforts to assist and sustain veterans and their families. The program is run by two full-time employees and one part-time, and is supported by a corps of hundreds of volunteers. The program is funded entirely through donations of money, resources, and time. The success of Project Sanctuary speaks for itself.

"Of the families being served by Project Sanctuary, 80 percent are 'wounded warriors' with PTSD and/or TBI, physical wounds and/or amputations," said Heather Ehle, director of Project Sanctuary. "Of all families we have served, more than 90 percent remain intact.

Our model is proven to work, and the impact is tremendous for the entire family."

The program has provided 31 retreats thus far, since its inception in September 2007, which have served 245 families. More than 90 percent of these families are still married, and more importantly, none of these families have experienced a Soldier or family member suicide after participating in a retreat.

Families are treated to activities in and around the Granby, Colo., area, which may include: snowmobiling, ice fishing, snow tubing, hiking, horseback riding, hay rides, bowling, ATV rides, archery, whitewater rafting, sleigh rides and many more. All of the activities are family-focused, designed to keep families together as much as possible. For activities and classes that are designed for the adults only, Project Sanctuary employs a recreational therapist, who keeps the kids entertained while helping them to heal also.

"The best (activity) was snow-tubing," said one of Beck's children. "Going down the hill so fast was so much fun."

"The kids all loved the tubing hill. Heather rented the whole hill so we could all relax and enjoy just having fun," said Beck.

The entire community is given the chance to pitch in; from providing, cooking and serving meals at the retreat center to tagging along on activities to allow parents and kids the opportunity to more thoroughly enjoy their time. Some local businesses provide their goods and services at greatly reduced rates as activities for Project Sanctuary retreats, sometimes

called upon by the staff to serve one family or individual as needed.

"One of the rules the staff has is that participants are not allowed to thank them during the retreat. They remind us that this retreat is their way of thanking us for our service," said Beck. "At the end of the retreat, participants are given the opportunity to write thank-you cards to sponsors, donors, volunteers and staff. It is a very gratifying experience, to finally thank everyone that has made this perfect week possible."

Currently, the limiting factor to the number of available retreats is funding. Being 100 percent privately funded, Project Sanctuary has been able to average one retreat a month, serving an average of 12 families per retreat.

Assuming an increase in sponsorship, the program will be able to work through the long waiting list of families much quicker, and provide timelier and thus more relevant services to veterans and their families.

The continuing hope of the Project Sanctuary staff and volunteers is to make the retreats available to more military members, veterans and their families. Giving those families a chance to enjoy the little things in life – after they have given and sacrificed so much in service of their country – is the real mission in this small Colorado community.

**For more information or to apply for a retreat, contact Project Sanctuary at: P.O. Box 1563, Granby, CO 80446, 720-561-9193 or by [info@projectsanctuary.us](mailto:info@projectsanctuary.us), or visit them on the web at [www.ProjectSanctuary.us](http://www.ProjectSanctuary.us)**

# GOING BEYOND COMBAT ROLES

## SD Guardsmen train, advise Afghan Army public affairs soldiers



Photo by Sgt. Joshua Edwards  
 Afghanistan National Army Sgt. 1st Class Abdul Karim, a camera team noncommissioned officer with the 203rd Corps Public Affairs Office, records a change-of-command ceremony April 7 at Forward Operating Base Thunder in Paktya Province, Afghanistan.

Story by Sgt. Joshua Edwards  
 129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**W**hile many of the stories that make headlines today concerning the conflict in Afghanistan focus on the Afghan National Security Forces taking the lead in the fight against insurgent forces for the future of the nation, a small group of Afghan National Army Soldiers are taking the lead on a different and equally important front: telling their own story to the Afghan people and the world.

In a tiny, crowded and cluttered office on Forward Operating Base Thunder, in Paktya Province, Afghanistan, ANA Sgt. 1st Class Abdul Karim is sorting through photos on a laptop.

Karim, a nine-year veteran of the ANA and a camera team noncommissioned officer with 203rd “Thunder” Corps Public Affairs Office explains, “We want the people of Afghanistan to hear what we are doing, it is important that we send out the message to every part of the country.”

The 203rd Corps public affairs NCOs are being advised by Soldiers

**“We are not here to tell them how we do things, but show them how to use the tools they do have to get the job done.”**

**— Sgt. Jacqueline Fitzgerald —**

from the South Dakota Army National Guard’s 129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment to better understand the process of editing photos and video for release to local media outlets as a means of telling the ANA’s story.

Spc. Ryan Scott, a public affairs specialist, 129th MPAD, is one of two public affairs Soldiers advising the ANA public affairs NCOs.

“Our mission is to ensure the 203rd Corps PAOs are able to get their message out through video, photographs and their storytelling skills,” said Scott, a native of Gilroy, Calif.

The Guardsmen are helping the 203rd Corps PAO get their message out in different ways.

“We are not here to tell them how we do things, but show them how to use the tools they do have to get the job done,” said Sgt. Jacqueline Fitzgerald, a broadcast NCO, 129th MPAD.



Photo by Sgt. Joshua Edwards

**Afghan National Army Sgt. 1st Class Abdul Karim, left, a camera team noncommissioned officer with the 203rd “Thunder” Corps; local Afghan linguist Zahar Jan, center left, U.S. Sgt. Jacqueline Fitzgerald, center, and Spc. Ryan Scott, center right, public affairs specialists with the 129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, and ANA Staff Sgt. Sakhi Muhammed, a camera team NCO with the 203rd Corps review the Afghan NCO’s photo and video products on Forward Operating Base Thunder April 7. Coalition forces have taken on an advisory role assisting the ANA, who have taken on the primary responsibility for security operations in the country.**

With a five-year-old digital camera and a pair of video cameras, the ANA public affairs NCOs submit their products to a local civilian media center for release to the public.

“The information that they take to the media center now is all raw and unedited video and photos,” said Scott. “Our goal is to show them how to put that information into packages so they can put their voice in it.”

To Karim and others in the PAO shop, having the Afghan people hear their voice is what is important.

“In the past, it has been the U.S. Army and other PAOs telling the Afghan Army’s story,” said Fitzgerald, a native of Hermosa, S.D. “Now, we’re teaching them how to tell their story. I think it’s better coming from your neighbor instead of an outsider.”

In addition to advising the ANA NCOs on how to better prepare their own products, the Guardsmen are also ensuring the ANA soldiers are able to pass along their knowledge to their counterparts across Afghanistan.

With International Security Assistance Forces scaling back operations to meet the 2014 withdrawal deadline, the ANA public affairs soldiers are stepping into the void.

“Everyday we are getting better,” said Shir “GQ” Muhammed. “It is important to show the Afghan people that we are doing it right.”



Photo by Sgt. Joshua Edwards

**U.S. Army Spc. Ryan Scott, left, a native of Gilroy, Calif., and a public affairs specialist with the 129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, and Afghan National Army Staff Sgt. Sakhi Muhammed, a camera team noncommissioned officer with the 203rd “Thunder” Corps, review Sakhi’s photo products at Forward Operating Base Thunder April 7. Coalition Forces have taken on an advisory role assisting the ANA, who have taken on the primary responsibility for security operations in the country.**



**HERO  
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A PROGRAM BY:



**Yellow Ribbon  
Reintegration Program**

*For Those Who Serve and Those Who Support*

## Hero2Hired helps connect service members, employers

**Story by Lisa Gendry**

Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve volunteer

There are many challenges surrounding today's National Guard and Reserve members, including balancing monthly training, family, expenses and frequent deployments. Add to that the stress of not having employment and the situation can quickly become frustrating and overwhelming for service members and their families. But one program has made it their mission to help fight the unemployment battle among the Reserve Component.

The Hero2Hired program was created through the collaboration of the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program and the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense. The program provides Reserve Component service members requiring employment assistance everything they need to find a job including job listings, career exploration tools and education and training resources. In addition, H2H offers virtual career fairs and applications for mobile phones and Facebook.

The program is also a powerful tool for employers. At no cost, H2H connects employers with service members seeking jobs and offers unlimited job postings, marketing tools, internal messaging and invitations as well as social networking options. Employers also receive free, direct access to qualified candidates who already have background checks and security clearances, which can help reduce recruiting and hiring costs.

"H2H really offers a comprehensive package of both high-tech and high-touch," said Dan Popowski, H2H employment transition coordinator for the South Dakota. "It allows the job seeker to virtually start from scratch in their job search process and work their way up to having all the tools on their side to be successful."

Popowski recalled his experience coming off active duty.

"I was in the same place as a lot of these job seekers. What should I do? What can I do? How does my experience in field artillery even translate?"

That's where H2H comes in with the technology and tools assisting with the

**"H2H really offers a comprehensive package of both high-tech and high-touch. It allows the job seeker to virtually start from scratch in their job search process and work their way up to having all the tools on their side to be successful."**

**— Dan Popowski —**

translation while still offering the one-on-one, individualized assistance from the ETC.

H2H also works continuously to build their network with employers. Popowski said this allows them to create an effective bridge between those searching for a job, and the military-friendly employer looking for someone with the skills that members of the military possess.

"Our military members and their spouses have already sacrificed so much to serve this country," said Popowski. "Now, it's our turn to help them out."

Randy Kramer, general manager and owner of Deadwood Biofuels in Rapid City, said H2H has helped him to find quality employees, including five National Guard service members who were all unemployed when they redeployed from Afghanistan.

"You are always going to take chances no matter who you hire," said Kramer. "But I believe you greatly reduce those chances when you hire individuals from an organization that has had some discipline."

Kramer, a retired U.S. Army major who served 22 years, also understands the challenges of military to civilian transition. Upon retirement, Kramer went into the ethanol business and saw hiring veterans as a way to give back.

"We have filled every position that we have had to fill with quality people," said Kramer. "With military, there is almost always that built in discipline...that something in common that you can rely on. Most of the time, when someone has that built in discipline, I find that they can do just about anything."

Using H2H also helped Kramer employ a retired Navy veteran for a position that required very specific knowledge and training.

"He saw the management position and within two weeks was hired," said Kramer. "Those skill sets are hard to find in many cases."

Kramer said the veteran used the search by region option H2H's website to help him find the job where he was residing in Colorado.

While he appreciates employing service members and veterans, Kramer stressed that he understands if they need to move on to another opportunity.

"Some may find another job and we may be a stepping stone for others, but I always let them know that when they leave, the door is always open."

**For more information about H2H, visit [www.H2H.jobs](http://www.H2H.jobs) or call Dan Popowski at 605-357-2913.**



# Community coalition comes together for Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Beck  
Members of the Rapid City community gather at a press conference hosted by Working Against Violence, Inc. April 2. The event was held in honor of April being dedicated as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Rapid City. Each member represented a demographic that is affected by sexual assault.

**Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Michael Beck**  
SDNG Public Affairs Office

RAPID CITY - Working Against Violence, Inc. hosted a press conference at their headquarters in downtown Rapid City April 2 to recognize April as national Sexual Assault Awareness Month and to proclaim it in the community.

The goal of SAAM is to raise public awareness about sexual violence and to educate communities and individuals on how to prevent sexual violence. The press conference included a coalition of organizations that have come together to help combat sexual assaults by educating the community and providing resources for victims.

Several speakers at the event included Rapid City Mayor, Sam Kookier, Karl Jegeris, assistant chief of police for Rapid City, and Teresa Forbes, South Dakota National Guard Sexual Assault Prevention and Response coordinator. The event was also attended by representatives from South Dakota's congressional delegates, members of the South Dakota National Guard and Ellsworth Air Force Base.

Kookier read a proclamation declaring April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Rapid City.

"One out of every three girls and one out of every six boys is sexually abused before the age of 18," said Kookier. "WAVI promotes services for survivors of sexual violence, advocacy, training, counseling and education."

"Like WAVI, our efforts are stepped up during this recognition month, but the work goes on every day through the advocacy and support of survivors and the very challenging work of shifting attitudes to fully embrace victim support and offender accountability," said Forbes.

The coalition of resources exists in the Rapid City area to meet the

needs of the community. According to Kookier, rape is the most under-reported crime.

Jegeris said during his speech, "Unfortunately, (the Rapid City Police Department) responded to 102 reports of sexual assault last year."

The South Dakota National Guard maintains connections with WAVI in Rapid City as a resource for members of the National Guard who become victims of violence.

"We maintain a connection with victim resources in every community in the state in order to be a bridge for our service members to reach those resources," said Forbes.

The coalition is a partnership between WAVI, the city of Rapid City, local law enforcement agencies, the South Dakota National Guard, Ellsworth Air Force Base, Rapid City Regional Hospital and other organizations.

Forbes is also a member of the Rapid City area Sexual Assault Response Team. The primary functions of a SART are to improve victim care by connecting them to resources and providing a sense of safety, as well as helping to assure the accountability of offenders. The team includes members of the WAVI staff as well as local medical and mental health providers and forensic professionals.

WAVI is the coordinating entity of the area SART. The staff of WAVI also tends to take the lead promoting awareness and coordinating outreach events in the greater Rapid City area.

"This month provides an opportunity for us to speak with one voice, loud and clear in saying, "No More," said Forbes. "Today, we'll remind this community, our state, and nation that each and every one of us has value, and no one deserves to be stripped of their dignity by any form of sexual violence."

# SNAPSHOTS



Master Sgt. Kenneth Grunewaldt, 114th Mission Support Group first sergeant, and his son, Benjamin, 4, wait patiently during the unit's Easter egg hunt to hear if he's won a prize. The S.D. Air Guard kicked off "Purple Up! For Military Kids" week in Sioux Falls on April 7 with the activity at Joe Foss Field.

Photo by Sgt. Julieanne Morse

Sgt. Joshua Edwards of Summerville, S.C., receives a South Dakota Army National Guard coyote patch from Brig. Gen. Craig Johnson, assistant adjutant general of the SDARNG, at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst March 9. Edwards volunteered to deploy to Afghanistan with the SDARNG's 129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment. Coyote patches were presented to six out-of-state Soldiers to help unify them with the unit.



Photo by Master Sgt. Christopher Stewart

A chief induction ceremony was held on March 2 for the two newest chief master sergeants of the South Dakota Air National Guard during the March Unit Training Assembly. Pictured are the two new female chief master sergeants, left to right, Chief Master Sgt. Jeanne Gacke, 114th Security Police Squadron superintendent and Chief Master Sgt. Jennifer Reecy, HQ SDANG personnel superintendent. Presenting their plaques is Command Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Uthe.



Courtesy Photo

Members of the South Dakota Air National Guard gather for a photo in front of their F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft March 15 at the Red Flag exercise at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

# 2013 South Dakota Military Youth Camps

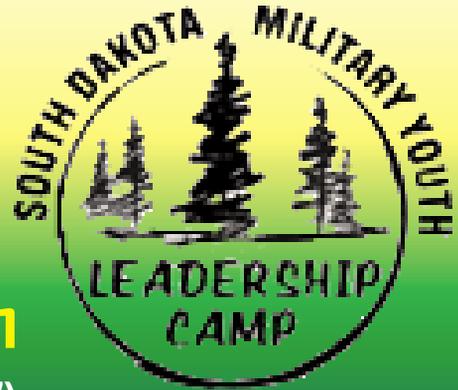
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### Explore! at Camp Rapid

(Campers ages 12-14)

### Get Wild! at Storm Mountain

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



Stay tuned for camp registrations. For further information about camp and opportunities to volunteer, please contact Taryn Broomfield, Lead Child & Youth Program coordinator, at 605-737-6919 or [taryn.m.broomfield.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:taryn.m.broomfield.ctr@mail.mil)

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