

# DAKOTA PACK

A full-page background image showing a military aviator in a flight suit kneeling on the tarmac, working on the engine of a fighter jet. The aviator is wearing a flight suit with a USAF patch on the sleeve and is focused on the task. The jet is a dark grey color with various components visible, including the engine intake and exhaust. The scene is set outdoors on a clear day.

MAGAZINE OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD • SUMMER 2014

## SORTIE SURGE

### AIR GUARD PARTICIPATES IN LARGE FORCE EMPLOYMENT

#### » SUPPORT

- Engineers break ground on Habitat for Humanity facility

#### » TRAINING

- MEB participate in war fighter exercise
- OCS & ROTC consolidate training

#### » ACHIEVEMENT

- Airman & NCO of the Quarter named
- Lieutenant & Warrant Officer of the Year

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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.

# DAKOTA PACK

Magazine of the South Dakota Army and Air National Guard



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## MESSAGE FROM THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

**I**t seems as though almost every day at least a portion of my time is spent reading about and/or reacting to the current budget battles being waged in Washington, D.C. It seems only appropriate then to dedicate at least a portion of this column to sharing some of those details with the members and supporters of the South Dakota National Guard.

The Air National Guard will definitely be impacted by the 2015-2019 Future Years Defense Plan. In fiscal year 2015, a total of 400 spaces will be cut from ANG units nationwide. Another 1,300 spaces would be shed between fiscal years 2016 and 2019 unless Congress provides additional relief from the Budget Control Act starting in FY 2016. The precise impact on the S.D. Air Guard will be very minimal in FY 2015, but the impact to us in the years that follow is yet to be determined.

The 2015-2019 FYDP levies much deeper cuts to the force structure of the Army National Guard. The ARNG currently has approximately 346,000 spaces of assigned force structure nationwide, and an authorized manning level (end strength) of 354,200. Unless Congress provides relief from the Budget Control Act, the ARNG's force structure would drop to 335,000 in FY 2017 and all the way down to 315,000 in FY 2019! The estimated impact to the S.D. National Guard would be a loss of 40 spaces of force structure in FY 2017 and 163 more in FY 2019 for a total of 203 unit spaces lost. Also at risk are the 206 extra spaces (end strength) that we've been authorized over the last several years. (Our current force structure authorization is 3,024 but our authorized end strength is 3,230). Said another way, the SDARNG can expect to lose between 203 and 409 funded positions by fiscal year 2019 unless Congress intervenes.

South Dakota's congressional delegation has been extremely supportive of our National Guard over the years, but they are only three of the 535 members of the Senate and House. Our world continues to be a dangerous place and history has shown that cutting defense spending too deeply, even during peace time can result in catastrophe. I will continue to work with the other adjutants general to try to influence what is best for the defense of our great nation.

I recently returned from the TAGs State Partnership Program Conference at SOUTHCOM Headquarters in Miami. It was interesting to hear about the different events that have been undertaken

throughout Southern Command's geographical region. A few states have been limited or completely prevented from engaging with their partner countries due to a variety of reasons (normally political). We continue to enjoy a tremendous partnership with the country of Suriname, and this is due in large part to the efforts of Lt. Col. John Weber, who served admirably as deputy J-5 for several years. I want to publicly thank John for all of the great work he did to make our partnership a model for other states to follow, and wish him the best in his new position of deputy G-1.

June is a huge month for the South Dakota National Guard. The 114th Fighter Wing will undergo their Unit Effectiveness Inspection with upwards of 50 inspectors converging on Joe Foss Field 19-24 June. The 30th annual Golden Coyote exercise will descend on the Black Hills of South Dakota and Camp Guernsey, Wyo., on 7-21 June. We are expecting over 4,000 service members from the Army National Guard, Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, active-duty Air Force and four allied countries. We will also be working on the Pine Ridge, Cheyenne River, Crow Creek and Rosebud Indian Reservations. I am also excited about the first ever reservation food drive that will seek to harness the generosity and volunteerism that burns inside every member of the National Guard.

In addition to annual training, summer is the time that our Soldiers and Airman participate in so many other outdoor activities. Motorcycles, boats, jet skis and ATVs will be out in full force. I want to urge everyone to keep safety in mind when participating in these and other seasonal activities. Remember to use safety equipment and to refrain from the use of alcoholic beverages. Let's make the summer of 2014 the safest summer on record!

Finally, I ask for your continued prayers for the safety of all of our deployed Soldiers and Airmen. The 1742nd Transportation Company continues to do great work in Afghanistan and individual Air Guard volunteers in the Middle East as well. If you ever hear of a situation involving a family member of one of our deployed Guardsmen who needs assistance, please notify the chain of command so we can help out. Taking care of our Soldiers and Airmen and their families is my top priority!

Sincerely,

Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch  
The Adjutant General



## MESSAGE FROM THE STATE COMMAND SGT. MAJ.

**W**e are all part of an awesome organization that provides us with incredible opportunities, benefits and experiences, which help us grow and become better people and leaders. Show your community what a great leader you are by volunteering. We have been promoting the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal in recent months, so if you volunteer, ensure your chain of command knows you are eligible for this award.

I encourage you to volunteer with your community organizations, or take advantage of the opportunities with our South Dakota National Guard Honor Guard, which conducts funerals. There are also local color guard teams that support numerous events throughout the year. We need resurgence in the color guard program, so I encourage leaders to place an emphasis on developing teams in order to strengthen community relations. Soldiers, be proud of your uniform and continue with the legacy of military traditions by volunteering to participate in these honorable events.

The updated AR 670-1 and DA PAM 670-1 have caused great concern for Soldiers across the nation. These publications were effective 31 March 2014 with the first revisions published a few short weeks later. Ensure you understand changes to the appearance and grooming policies (Chapter 3).

Command selections for our 11-14 September state Best Warrior Competition will be happening in the months to come, so I wish all the competitors luck and look forward to seeing you in September.

A "Hunting the Good Stuff" story I would like to share is the first Comprehensive Soldier Fitness Course (CSF2) held at the RTI on Fort Meade in March. There were 48 Soldiers who graduated with a positive outlook on health and fitness, and I want to personally thank them for believing in themselves and sticking with the two-week program (and beyond). I thank their leaders for believing in them as well. I continue to hear about those original 48, many have passed their APFT, their HT/WT and have a renewed self appreciation for being the best they can be. Very proud of you all for sticking with the program!

Don't forget the annual Black Hills Veteran March and Marathon on 20 September this year. Please register your team at <http://www.sdngca.com/>. This is an excellent opportunity to foster camaraderie and esprit de corps with your fellow Soldiers and families.

Thank you all for who you are and what you do. Remember to Hunt the Good Stuff!

One team – one fight.

Sincerely,

State Command Sgt. Maj.  
Susan Shoe



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## MESSAGE FROM

## SERVICE MEMBER &amp; FAMILY SUPPORT

**D**uring this past year, our volunteers have spent numerous hours in support of National Guard service and family members throughout our state by leading Family Readiness Groups, supporting Yellow Ribbon events, providing education, youth camp support, mediation for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and honoring those who have served our nation with military funeral honors.

The volunteers collectively create a network that is crucial to sustaining military and family readiness throughout the state. Family Readiness volunteers logged 6,200 hours of volunteer service last year supporting unit Family Readiness Groups, service members and families, while ESGR volunteers logged 5,500 hours supporting our service members and employers. Teen and adult volunteers for the Youth Program logged 2,900 hours supporting camps, Yellow Ribbon events and other Youth Program functions. If wages were to be paid, these volunteers would cost \$323,244.00. (Note: A volunteer hour is worth \$22.14 as of 2012).

Service Member & Family Support wants to publically recognize and thank our volunteers for the extraordinary things they accomplish through their service. Our team would like to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude for our volunteer's dedication, commitment and tireless efforts in supporting our service members and families. Their time and talent are invaluable gifts that make a difference to many on a daily basis.

Sincerely,

Lt. Col. Bryan Jacobson  
Service Member & Family Support Director

**While you're fighting  
for *our* freedom,  
don't forget your *own*.**

Doctors say tobacco users are 2 times more likely to quit if they use a quit coach.



**Tobacco. There's no freedom in it.**



# PARKSTON UNIT COMPETING FOR NATIONAL MAINTENANCE AWARD

By SDNG Public Affairs Office

PARKSTON – Parkston’s Forward Support Company, 153rd Engineer Battalion, is competing for the 2013-2014 Army Award for Maintenance Excellence and underwent an inspection in April to validate the unit as having one of the best maintenance programs in the National Guard.

Two inspectors from National Guard Bureau completed an on-site evaluation, April 3, of the South Dakota Army National Guard unit’s maintenance program; the results of which will be assessed against a dozen other National Guard units from across the nation to receive the award.

The Army Award for Maintenance Excellence, or AAME, was established in 1982 by the Department of the Army to annually recognize units for demonstrated excellence in the areas of maintenance operations. The primary objectives of the award program are to assess the maintenance component of unit readiness, improve efficiency, recognize outstanding unit maintenance accomplishments and improve field maintenance readiness.

The FSC qualified as a semifinalist for the national award by being selected as the NGB Region VI runner-up during the first stage of the competition.

During the first stage, the unit prepared documentation that summarized the maintenance activities of the unit and highlighted all of its accomplishments and praiseworthy activities over the last fiscal year. The documentation was then submitted as a nomination packet to Headquarters, Department of the Army, which then selects units for an onsite evaluation.

During the second stage, an onsite evaluation is completed. The NGB evaluation team conducted an in-depth inspection of all maintenance-related activities conducted by the unit. Some of the areas covered during this month’s inspection included dispatching procedures, vehicle and equipment services, weapons maintenance, hazardous-materials handling and motor pool operations.

“We were truly impressed with the level of knowledge all the way down to the lower levels within the unit,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jason Goddard, NGB evaluation team member.

The onsite inspection is the final stage of the inspection process, which accounts for 70 percent of their final score. Results of the 2013-2014

AAME competition will be released in May.

“The unit personnel did such an outstanding job that the NGB evaluators presented three coins of excellence,” said State Command Sgt. Maj. Susan Shoe, SDARNG senior logistics NCO. “Staff

Sgt. Kenneth Maas received a coin in recognition of his outstanding supply procedures and knowledge, and 1st Sgt. John Dornbusch received two coins on behalf of the unit in recognition of their level of competence and performance in the maintenance and sustainment fields.”

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<b>Cruiser Car Show</b>	<b>July 13</b>
<b>Autumn Nights (Thursdays)</b>	<b>Sept. 4-25</b>
<b>Dueling Pianos</b>	<b>Sept. 6</b>
<b>Great Downtown Pumpkin Festival</b>	<b>Sept. 27</b>
<b>Bierbörse</b>	<b>Oct. 4</b>
<b>Taste of South Dakota</b>	<b>Oct. 11</b>
<b>...And More!</b>	

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# ESGR CONGRATULATES SOUTH DAKOTA'S NOMINEES FOR 2014 SECRETARY OF DEFENSE EMPLOYER SUPPORT FREEDOM AWARD 18 SERVICE MEMBERS NOMINATE EMPLOYERS



ARLINGTON, Va.– Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a Department of Defense office, announced 18 South Dakota National Guard and Reserve members nominated their employers for the 2014 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award.

The Freedom Award is the Department of Defense's highest recognition for employers supporting employees serving in the Guard and Reserve. Up to 15 award recipients will be announced this summer and honored at the Pentagon in September at the 19th annual Freedom Award ceremony. Last year, recipients met with President Obama, who praised them for the exceptional support provided to their Guard and Reserve employees.

Freedom Award recipients are recognized for going above and beyond to support their Guard and Reserve members by not only safeguarding their positions, but establishing exceptional and generous initiatives that accommodate and care for employees and their families. This year's nominees represent employers large and small from nearly every industry, including airlines, grocery store chains, national retail brands and IT companies, as well as small businesses, and state and local governments. ESGR received nominations from Guard and Reserve members in all 50 states, Guam-CNMI, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia. Semifinalists will be announced later this spring. To see the complete list of nominees, please visit [www.FreedomAward.mil](http://www.FreedomAward.mil).

About ESGR and the Freedom Award:

The Freedom Award was instituted in 1996 under the auspices of ESGR to recognize exceptional support from the employer community. In the years since, 190 employers have been honored with the award. ESGR develops and maintains employer support for Guard and Reserve service. ESGR advocates relevant initiatives, recognizes outstanding support, increases awareness of applicable laws, and resolves conflict between service members and employers. Paramount to ESGR's mission is encouraging employment of Guardsmen and Reservists who bring integrity, global perspective and proven leadership to the civilian workforce.

2014 Freedom Award Nominations from South Dakota:

Employer	City
Baltic School District	Baltic
Bel Brands USA	Brookings
Sterling Computers	Dakota Dunes
Two Rivers Certified Tender	Dakota Dunes
Sanford Underground Research Facility	Lead
City of Lemmon	Lemmon
NorthWestern Energy	Mitchell
Pizza Ranch	Rapid City
DocuTAP	Sioux Falls
Lutheran Social Services Refugee & Immigration Center	Sioux Falls
Malloy Electric	Sioux Falls
Sammons Financial Group	Sioux Falls
SGT Inc.	Sioux Falls
Wells Fargo	Sioux Falls
Black Hills State University Student Success Center	Spearfish
City of Spearfish	Spearfish
Sanford Vermillion Medical Center	Vermillion
National American University-Watertown Campus	Watertown

Recipients also met with senior Defense Department leaders as part of the award recognition.

ESGR received 2,864 nominations nationwide during the nomination season. Even with troop drawdowns, service members continue to answer the call to duty, responding to ongoing national security demands and humanitarian relief missions. Nearly one-half of the U.S. military is comprised of Guard and Reserve members. Service members rely on civilian employment to provide reassurance and stability for these citizen-warriors and their loved ones.

“These employers exemplify the true spirit of patriotism,” said ESGR National Chair Paul E. Mock. “By supporting their National Guard and Reserve employees, the 2014 Freedom Award nominees demonstrate what it means to serve our nation’s citizen-warriors.”



## ENGINEERS BREAK GROUND ON HABITAT FOR HUMANITY FACILITY



South Dakota Army National Guard Spc. Zachery Heesch, a member of the 842nd Engineer Company, operates a hydraulic excavator to demolish a section of the Black Hills Area Habitat for Humanity's ReStore Outlet, making room for a new 5,000-square-foot volunteer training and administration facility in Rapid City, March 25.

(Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen)

### By SDNG Public Affairs Office

RAPID CITY – South Dakota Army National Guard engineers are assisting the Black Hills Area Habitat for Humanity build a new volunteer training and administration facility next to the ReStore Outlet at 610 East Omaha St. in Rapid City.

Soldiers from the National Guard began the project in late March by breaking ground at the site and demolishing an unsafe, two-story office section connected to the center. Over the next few weeks, Guardsmen continued to demo the site and remove debris. Once complete, area construction companies began prepping the site for the new facility, which includes ground work and foundation construction.

Black Hills Area HFH Executive Director Scott Engmann said the new volunteer training facility will become the hub for training volunteers and staff who work every day to build homes, communities and hope for vulnerable, hardworking families.

“The partnership with the National Guard is very important to the Black Hills Area Habitat for Humanity,” said Engmann. “The Guard is making this project possible with their expertise. We are able to get this project completed sooner than we expected due to the Guard helping us make it feasible. After working with the professionalism of Capt. Nachtigall and his team, we would be interested in moving forward with more projects in the future.”

Habitat for Humanity is able to partner with the National Guard because of their Innovative Readiness Training and Community Projects Program. The program is built upon the long-standing tradition of the National Guard, acting as good neighbors at the local level in applying military personnel to assist worthy civic and community needs.

Nonprofits such as HFH are not the only ones benefitting from such a project; the Guardsmen also gain valuable, real-world



Spc. Mark Sharn, 200th Engineer Company (left) and Spc. Jeremy Eccleston, 842nd Engineer Company, remove an old flag pole during the demolition of a section of the Black Hills Area Habitat for Humanity's ReStore Outlet. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen)

experience as engineers.

“We get a lot of value out of doing this because it is a real-world mission versus a training project,” said Capt. Mitch Nachtigall, SDNG community projects program manager.

F-16's of the South Dakota Air National Guard are lined up on the flightline at Joe Foss Field waiting for aircrew members to take their places to launch for a Large Force Employment exercise, April 11. (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Nancy Ausland)



## SOUTH DAKOTA AIR NATIONAL GUARD PARTICIPATES

By Senior Master Sgt. Nancy Ausland  
SD Air National Guard

SIOUX FALLS - Members of the South Dakota Air National Guard held both a large force employment exercise and a sortie surge exercise, April 11-12.

“These two days are really going to test our ability to coordinate, plan and fly,” said Lt. Col. Eric Knutson, 175th Fighter Squadron pilot and safety officer.

The Large Force Employment, or LFE as it is called, was a four hour flying mission for the pilots who launched aircraft that day.

“We will fly to a remote location, in this case a test (training) range in Utah, and test our ability to drop bombs on targets. It is also a chance for us to practice our coordination skills with other units since we use refueling aircraft for the LFE,” Knutson said prior to the LFE.

This exercise proved to test this ability

since just prior to launch, the unit found out the original refueling aircraft that would support them were cancelled for maintenance issues. This is when the connections that the unit has with other Air National Guard and Air Force units come into play.

The unit was able to quickly adjust and re-coordinate the refueling support aircraft from the 155th Air Refueling Wing out of Lincoln, Nebraska.

“This was a great exercise with outstanding results,” said Knutson. “Daily missions flown from Joe Foss Field are normally only an hour to two, so to be able to participate in a long range exercise like this is a great benefit to us all.”

Not only was the two days a great benefit for the pilots of the unit, the maintenance and support personnel benefited as well.

As the Air Force shifts its focus in terms of inspections, Airmen of the 114th Fighter Wing can expect more short-notice reviews and a constant focus on readiness under the new Unit Effectiveness Inspection program which these exercises were an introduction to.

The program shifts the responsibility for oversight of inspections to wing commanders and lessens the reliance on outside inspectors visiting the base. This means Airmen will no longer have to cram in advance of an inspection team arriving; instead, they will constantly be under the watchful eye of their commanders.

Now, Inspector General teams will evaluate wings with “capstone” visits every two years, according to the Air Force. The 114th Fighter Wing’s capstone visit will be in June and the unit is already underway as with the LFE and



**Senior Airman Alyssa Heyn, 114th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron weapons loader, does a check on the F-16 aircraft she is preparing to load during a Concurrent Servicing Operation exercise.**

*(Photo by Tech. Sgt. Christopher Stewart)*

**Capt. Casey Minor, 175th Fighter Squadron pilot, completes his pre-flight check of the F-16 aircraft prior to the Large Force Employment exercise.**

*(Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Nancy Ausland)*



## IN LARGE FORCE EMPLOYMENT AND SORTIE SURGE

sortie surge exercises in April.

Along with the 114th Fighter Wing Inspection team, seven other “visiting” inspectors were on base to assist the maintenance personnel evaluate their processes and procedures to ensure things are being done by the book, or in this case, by the technical order.

Part of the sortie surge exercise April 12 included a Concurrent Servicing Operation. The flightline was busy with members from several areas of maintenance to include crew chiefs, weapon loaders, and petroleum, oils and lubricants flight members. Their goal was to work closely together to recover, reload, and refuel the F-16 aircraft during the CSO

portion of the sortie surge. Efficiency and safety are stressed throughout the exercise.

“Our maintenance personnel performed outstanding during the CSO,” said Col. Joel DeGroot, 114th Maintenance Group commander. “There is a lot going on all at once out there and when you’re launching 32 aircraft in one day and can do it without fail - that is quite an accomplishment.”

The unit completed 32 successful sortie generations on April 12, which is more than double what a normal day would include. The CSO is an annual requirement the unit has to test these abilities and inspectors were on hand to evaluate its completion.

The wing commander’s inspectors will report to the inspector general at the major command. Part of the inspection is virtual, with commanders using a database called the “management internal control tool set” to keep track of compliance.

Additionally, Airmen can have their say. They take a confidential survey evaluating wing leadership and how their leaders manage resources. They are able to grade leaders on how considerate they are of airmen’s time. Additional results are in under the new system across the Air Force, with mostly positive results.

“This was a great exercise with outstanding results,” said Knutson.



Sgt. 1st Class Burle Christopherson and Sgt. 1st Class Randy Pryok, instructors for the South Dakota Army National Guard Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness Program, motivate Soldiers during a run at Fort Meade, March 13, during a two-week course is designed to provide Soldiers with the tools and education to live a healthy lifestyle.

(Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen)

**New**

# FITNESS PROGRAM

*helps Guardsmen lead healthier lives*



Marni Whalen, Veteran Affairs Black Hills Health Care System registered dietician, instructs 49 Soldiers about the importance of setting realistic goals toward weight. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen)

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

FORT MEADE – Maintaining physical fitness after basic training is expected of Soldiers in the South Dakota Army National Guard, but life-changing events or civilian careers can sometimes make it difficult to sustain physical and mental wellness.

Instructors from the SDARNG's 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute), along with professionals from the Veterans Affairs Black Hills Health Care System, located at Fort Meade, provided the tools and education necessary for Soldiers to live a healthy lifestyle through a new two-week Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness Program.

The course is targeted toward Soldiers who need to improve their Army Physical Fitness Test score or meet the Army's weight standards. The first course was held March 8-22 and included 49 students, with a second course planned for August.

"These Soldiers, who are having problems meeting the standard, are stuck," said Maj. Wyatt Hansen, RTI administrative officer. "They are [prohibited] from attending career advancement schools, and if they don't improve their situation come ETS (Expiration Term of Service) time, they can't re-enlist."

There is a lot of time and money invested into training Soldiers, and the experiences the organization has given them through training or deployments is priceless, said Hansen.

In addition to the Soldiers' physical fitness and weight loss goals, the course also offers a variety of classes designed to enhance their spiritual, emotional and social well-being.

Hansen says a Soldier's overall mental wellness is a key component to ensuring their weight loss and fitness goals are achieved and develops a more resilient Soldier.

"It is in our best interest to influence a positive lifestyle change to get these Soldiers over this hump so they can continue their career," said Hansen.

To help influence that change, the RTI partnered with the VA's MOVE! Program, a national weight management program for veterans focusing on healthy lifestyle changes rather than dieting.

This was the first time the VA (Move! Program) partnered with the (South Dakota) National Guard, said Marni Whalen, VA registered dietician.

"I think it is great that they invited us to collaborate," said Whalen. "Together, we can help these Soldiers get healthier. We have a lot to offer by giving evidence-based information from our expert dieticians, psychologists and physician assistants."

Whalen offers her dietician expertise by presenting classes on how not to diet, how to set realistic weight-loss goals and a hands-on class preparing healthy foods in a kitchen setting. Psychologist Michael Huxford offers tips on tobacco cessation and Physician Assistant Dave Cohen talks about medical concerns related to weight issues.

"We have a lot of veterans who attend this course, so it is beneficial to have the VA's registered dietician and physician assistant here to instruct and answer questions in the nutrition classes," said Hansen.

In addition to the VA MOVE! Program, the course consists of a daily three-hour Army Physical Readiness Training session; tailored to instruct the Soldiers on the proper movements and drills. The Soldiers also learn resiliency skills to give them the mental skills to deal with life's challenges, said Hansen.

Spc. John Vikiner lost

eight pounds within the first five days of the course.

"I recommend this course to anyone who is having motivation problems or disbelief in themselves," said Vikiner. "The dedication and motivation the cadre demand from us, to meet the standard, instills confidence in us so we can stay in the Army and become better Soldiers."

Sgt. 1st Class Burle Christopherson, SDARNG master fitness trainer, explains how the cadre will ensure the students stay on track to meet their goals long after the course.

"We are going to have a 60-day workout schedule on our website," said Christopherson. "If they follow our schedule they are going to meet their goals from a physical perspective. We are also going to communicate with them on a regular basis on our Facebook page providing work-out tips and motivation."

The cadre will also find out the results of the Soldier's 90-day and 180-day Army Physical Fitness Test conducted at their unit.

"We will get the results back and at that point will see if the course met our objective of changing the lives of these Soldiers," said Christopherson.

The course has inspired Vikiner to change his lifestyle.

"My goal is to lose 30 pounds, and I believe I can do that with what I have learned and the resources given," said Vikiner.

"Within three months, I want the instructors to be able to use a photo of me as an example of what this course is capable of doing for Soldiers."

**Spc. Robert Bearsheart, of Aberdeen, a member of the South Dakota Army National Guard 842nd Engineer Company, cuts zucchini with the assistance of Sara Meyer, Veteran Affairs Black Hills Health Care System intern.**

(Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen)



# 196TH MEB PARTICIPATES IN WAR FIGHTER EXERCISE

By Sgt. Charlie Jacobson  
196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade Public Affairs

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. – Soldiers of the South Dakota Army National Guard’s 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade participated in a war fighter exercise for their annual training March 1-14 at the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence Digital Training Facility in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

The DTF, which is an Army training site for the battle-tracking software program known as Command Post of the Future, or CPOF, provided the Sioux Falls-based 196th with required training on the digital battlefield management platform.

“We had a specific training plan that we needed to validate here, and the staff at the DTF has done a phenomenal job of helping facilitate the training required to meet that validation,” said Lt. Col. Joe Eining, deputy commander of the 196th MEB.

The 196th spent four days familiarizing with digital-communication systems, including CPOF, prior to engaging in a five-day war fighter exercise, facilitated by a team of contractors assigned to the DTF.

The exercise provided the MEB a simulation of all facets of brigade-level operations in a battlefield environment, allowing the unit to fully integrate and hone their skills on the CPOF battle-tracking software.

“This war fighter exercise has introduced me to some features of CPOF I was previously unaware of,” said Spc. Peter Lemons, an intelligence analyst for the 196th. “For example, we are able to toggle between various kinds of digital maps, which allows us to analyze terrain in a more effective manner. Therefore, we are able to make more informed decisions.”

The software in CPOF enables users to create a common operating picture of the battlefield and use that picture to accomplish critical tasks throughout the mission.

“The CPOF allows Soldiers to communicate and share real-time plans, intelligence, schedules, notes, maps, battle-update briefings and any other battlefield-related information over a secure network,” said Lt. Col. John Breyer, operation officer of the 196th



Soldiers from the civil affairs section of the South Dakota Army National Guard’s 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade monitor battlefield operations via the Command Post of the Future system at the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence Digital Training Facility at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., March 13. The 196th trained on digital battlefield communication systems and put their skills to the test during a war fighter exercise administered by personnel from the DTF. (Photo by Sgt. Charlie Jacobson)

MEB. “In the past, we were only able to create and share information manually within the tactical operations center. Now, we are truly a digital-brigade headquarters.”

Soldiers of the 196th also received a visit from Brig. Gen. Kevin Griese, assistant adjutant general of the SDARNG, during the exercise. Griese emphasized the importance digital-communication systems like CPOF have in today’s Army.

“We must remain current and knowledgeable on the use of the digital-communication systems because they are the way of the future for the United States Army,” Griese said. “We need to make sure that we remain [current] on the training requirements of these systems so that we can communicate with all of our assets throughout the mission.”

The MEB will continue to enhance their digital-communication operations over the next several months as they prepare for a training evaluation at Camp Grayling, Michigan, in 2015.



Brig. Gen. Kevin Griese, left, assistant adjutant general of the South Dakota Army National Guard, presents Sgt. 1st Class Joe Williams, of the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, with a coin during the 196th MEB’s annual training event at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. (Photo by Sgt. Charlie Jacobson)

**Soldiers from the fire support section of the South Dakota Army National Guard’s 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade monitor battlefield operations via the Command Post of the Future.**

(Photo by Sgt. Charlie Jacobson)



# SD NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIERS TRAIN IN AFRICA

By Maj. Anthony Deiss  
SDNG Public Affairs Office

DOUALA, Cameroon – Five South Dakota Army National Guard members participated in a multinational exercise in Cameroon, Africa, in March to train and build relationships with U.S. military forces and African partner nations.

As members of the 881st Movement Control Team, the Soldiers provided logistics support to the exercise Central Accord 14, March 7 – 21, and were responsible for the management and preparation of cargo and personnel transported aboard aircraft throughout the country.

The two-week exercise included more than 1,500 troops from Cameroon, Chad, Burundi, Nigeria, the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon and the Netherlands, as well units from all branches of the U.S. military.

“It is important for the National Guard to participate in these international exercises in order to interact with active-duty components and partner nations,” said Lt. Col. Renel Hall-Beck, 881st officer in charge. “It allows us to sustain deployment skills, showcase our talent, stay viable and open a broader focus to sustainment operations.”

The Central Accord exercise allows African militaries that participate in the Multinational Force of Central Africa, or FOMAC, to practice working with U.S. forces in an effort to strengthen defense capabilities and develop crisis response and peacekeeping forces. The goal of the U.S. Africa

Command annual exercise is to improve FOMAC’s regional ability to command, control and support forward deployed forces and improve the interoperability of a coalition task force. Exercise participants run through a number of training scenarios which develop their ability to work together.

“It is important to learn from others and other cultures which, in turn, improves and validates our processes and skills,” said Hall-Beck.

The 881st team was assigned to the New York Army National Guard’s 369th Sustainment Brigade and were located in the port city of Douala, which served as a staging area for troops entering the exercise. The 369th, which served as the command element of Combine Joint Task Force Douala, coordinated the movement of troops participating in the exercise and also oversaw the shipment delivery of food, fuel, ammunition and other supplies.

To support the 369th’s mission, the SDNG Soldiers provided their expertise in logistics and aviation operations to help prepare and move troops and supplies to different operating bases. The Soldiers were chosen from several SDNG units for their ability to properly build cargo and prepare it for air transportation, accomplish load plans and to manifest passengers and create passenger listings.

“We successfully moved over 356,000 pounds of cargo and 432 passengers via Air Force C-130 and C-17 aircraft efficiently and effectively with no safety issues or loss to property,” said Hall-Beck, who also serves in



Members of the South Dakota Army National Guard’s 881st Movement Control Team – backrow: Sgt. Ron Diekman, Company D, 1-112th Aviation Regiment; Staff Sgt. Matthew Day, Detachment 3, Company A, 641st Aviation Regiment; front row: Master Sgt. Kelley Moore, Joint Force Headquarters; Lt. Col. Renel Hall-Beck, JFHQ; and Sgt. Dion Brown, Detachment 1, Company B, 1-112th Aviation Regiment. (Courtesy photo)

the SDNG’s Joint Force Headquarters.

“It was a good opportunity for some training and to network with people that do the same thing you do somewhere else – to see different ways of doing things in different countries,” said Staff Sgt. Matthew Day, of Detachment 3, Company A, 641st Aviation Regiment. “It was a worthwhile experience.”

“As a former flight engineer, I never had the opportunity to see how a command team supports mission requests – I just loaded whatever needed to be transported. It was interesting to see how things operate in the larger picture,” said Sgt. Ron Diekman, of Company D, 1-112th Aviation Regiment. “I got to see how missions originate, how things change and how our customer’s make requests.”

Other 881st MCT members included Master Sgt. Kelley Moore of Joint Force Headquarters and Sgt. Dion Brown of Detachment 1, Company B, 1-112th Aviation Regiment.

Hall-Beck said the 881st Soldiers came together from different units to mold into a great team and received accolades from their customers and superiors.

“The members of the team received the admiration of the 173rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne) command sergeant major and the chief warrant officer of the parachute riggers team,” said Hall-Beck. “Each member was also personally given a coin for excellence from the deputy brigade commander of the 369th Sustainment Brigade.”



Master Sgt. Kelley Moore, of the South Dakota Army National Guard’s 881st Movement Control Team, offloads a container from a C-130 aircraft at Douala Airport in Cameroon, Africa, during the Central Accord 14 exercise, March 11. The 881st provided logistics support to the exercise Central Accord 14, March 7 – 21, and were responsible for the management and preparation of cargo and personnel that need to be transported aboard aircraft throughout the country. (Courtesy photo)

**OCS**

The National Guard depends on strong leaders: its commissioned officers. Rising through the ranks, commissioned officers become managers and problem-solvers. They maintain a commitment to excellence, make critical decisions, lead every mission and guide Army Soldiers by the thousands. They take responsibility for the safety and freedom of Americans all over the world. And the place where they're made is Officer Candidate School.

OCS is an intense leadership training ground. It's physically and mentally challenging, and not everyone's cut out for it. But those who are accepted, and make it through, agree it's one of the most rewarding experiences of their lives. Whether you're a first-time Soldier or have prior military experience, OCS will transform you into an effective leader.

**REQUIREMENTS**

To attend OCS, you must be a U.S. citizen who has completed Basic Combat Training, completed 90 credit hours towards a college degree, scored a 110 GT or higher on the ASVAB and has no permanent profile. Applicants must complete their degree before commissioning. Commissioning must occur before the officer candidate's 42nd birthday.

**STATE OCS (TRADITIONAL) PROGRAM**

Conducted at the 196th Regional Training Institute at Fort Meade, S.D., over the course of 16-18 months of one weekend a month, plus two two-week periods.

**NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU ACCELERATED OCS**

School locations vary by state and season. The 196th Regional Training Institute at Fort Meade conducts the accelerated program over the course of eight weeks straight in the summer session.

**FEDERAL OCS**

Conducted at Fort Benning, Ga., over the course of 14 weeks with the course offered year-round.

For more details about each of these OCS options and to discuss your eligibility, contact your Officer Strength Manager.

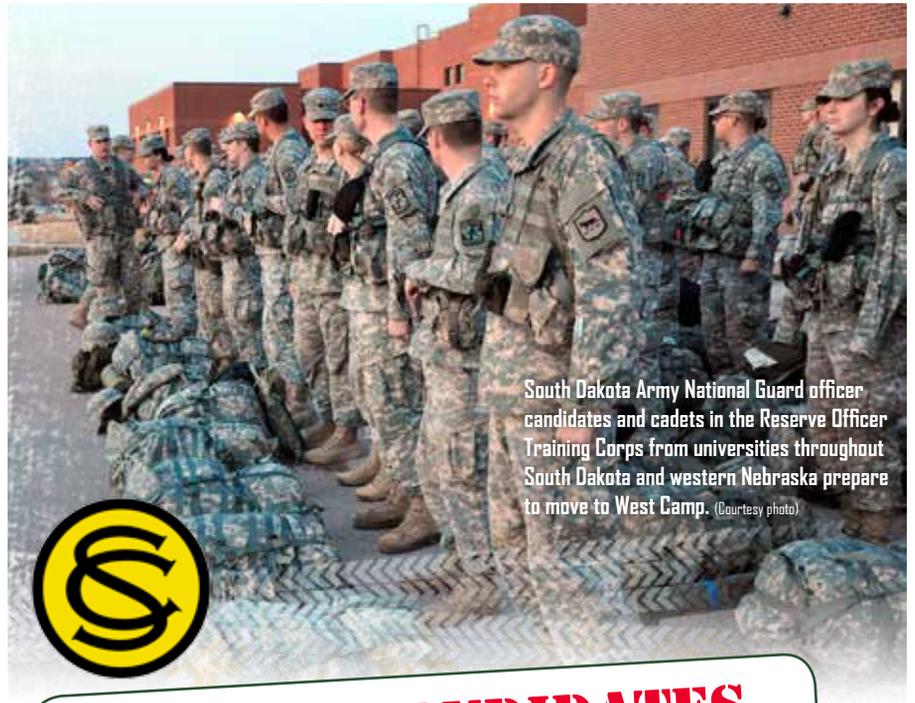
**TRAINING**

Phase 0. Traditional OCS programs typically conduct a three-Inactive Duty Training (IDT) period Phase 0 program. This phase consists of instruction in basic soldier skills, drill and ceremony, physical training and administrative preparation. The goal is to prepare prospective candidates to succeed in OCS.

Phase I. Here, candidates continue to perfect the skills learned in Phase I and strive for tactical and small unit leadership skills and confidence.

Phase II. In the traditional program, Phase II occurs during IDT weekends, between the first and second annual training periods; in the accelerated program, Phase II is a four week Active Duty Training (ADT) period. Here candidates continue to perfect the skills learned in Phase I and strive for tactical and small unit leadership skills and confidence. Candidates will assume additional responsibilities designed to refine their leadership skills through additional challenges of maintaining a completely functional student chain of command.

**PHASE III.** (Both traditional and accelerated) Consists of one 16-day annual training period. Training occurs at individual, squad, and platoon level; with the focus on tactical operations and field leadership. Officer Candidates focus on polishing leadership skills. This phase is the final refining of the candidate conducted by the cadre to ultimately prepare the candidate for the officer profession.



South Dakota Army National Guard officer candidates and cadets in the Reserve Officer Training Corps from universities throughout South Dakota and western Nebraska prepare to move to West Camp. (Courtesy photo)



**OFFICER CANDIDATES, CADETS CONDUCT JOINT EXERCISE AS TRAINING NEARS COMPLETION**

By 1st Lt Chad Carlson SDNG Public Affairs Office

RAPID CITY – Soldiers in the South Dakota Army National Guard's Officer Candidate School and cadets in the Reserve Officer Training Corps from universities throughout South Dakota and western Nebraska consolidated training for a joint exercise, April 10-13 on West Camp Rapid. The programs are in the final months of preparing senior level candidates and cadets to commission as second lieutenants in the U.S. Army or S.D. Army National Guard.

Between the two programs, 113 officer candidates and cadets participated in the annual training event, which focused on leader development, negotiating obstacles as a team, tactical patrolling and land navigation – areas they will be evaluated on in the coming months, prior to becoming lieutenants.

“This exercise is their last rehearsal before that evaluation period towards commissioning,” said Lt. Col. Lynna Speier, professor of military science at the S.D. School of Mines & Technology.

ROTC, the college elective for undergrad-

uate and graduate students, sends students to a five-week capstone event, the summer between their junior and senior year, called Leader Development and Assessment Course, at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

“LDAC is the culminating validation exercise towards commissioning,” Speier said. “Cadets will be tested on everything from Army physical fitness to land navigation to their leadership performance. Once cadets complete LDAC, and become seniors in their academic discipline, they become trainers for the underclassmen in preparation for commissioning.”

OCS, which provides the opportunity for college graduates to earn their commission through annual training periods and drill weekends, will conduct their final phase of training in the Black Hills in July through the 196th Regional Training Institute at Fort Meade. The 16-day training period, known as Phase III, will test candidates on troop leading procedures, a leadership reaction course, a field leadership exercise, infantry squad



**Soldiers in the South Dakota Army National Guard's Officer Candidate School and cadets in the Reserve Officer Training Corps from universities throughout South Dakota and western Nebraska train on foot patrols, April 12, at West Camp Rapid in Rapid City.**

(Courtesy photo)



**DC Harley Lynch (left), of Sioux Falls, with the South Dakota Army National Guard's Officer Candidate School, pulls security alongside cadets in the Reserve Officer Training Corps from universities throughout South Dakota and western Nebraska during a patrol training lane.** (Courtesy photo)



tactics, combat water survival training and a tactical exercise without troops.

“The officer candidates out here training are in Phase II, primarily an academic phase,” said Capt. Jared Bloomgren, OCS senior platoon trainer. “They’re going through areas they will be tested on this summer like the field leadership reaction course, the obstacle course and various patrol operations that are going to make them better-rounded for Phase III.”

The large number of trainees allows trainers to put their candidates/cadets into teams with varying backgrounds, experience and leadership styles.

“Right now the officer candidates act as a class. They know how to work together, they know everything about each other, but when they hit Phase III this summer they will be split into different platoons, with an element they will not know,” said Bloomgren. “So here, we split them up among the ROTC groups preparing them for what they’ll experience.”

That familiarization and comfort is something ROTC trainers also try to eliminate during the four days.

“On campus the cadets know each other well, they’re in class together, they train

together every weekend, some of them live together, so they’re pretty forgiving to each other and it’s not as stressful of an environment,” said Lt. Col. Ross Nelson, professor of military science at the University of South Dakota.

“When you put them here with new people it kind of ups the stress level a bit.”

Breaking up the familiarity of the groups also allowed trainers to mix up the varying degrees of military experience.

“OCS typically brings noncommissioned officers into the formation, as most of the officer candidates are former NCOs,” said Speier. “So it gives the ROTC cadets an opportunity to learn from NCOs and provides a depth of experience.”

The ROTC senior class is scheduled to hold their commissioning ceremonies in May at Mount Rushmore where 11 cadets will commission as second lieutenants, eight of which will join the SDARNG.

The nine officer candidates are scheduled to finish their training with Phase III, a 16-day training period held in the Black Hills in July and commission into the SDARNG in August.

## ROTC

The Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps is a college elective for undergraduate and graduate students that allows you to earn a commission straight out of college as a second lieutenant in the Army, Army National Guard or Army Reserve through ROTC.

### HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

If you're a high school junior or senior and are interested in enrolling into Army ROTC, you can find more than 1,100 colleges and universities that carry an Army ROTC program or talk to your academic advisor.

### COLLEGE STUDENTS

If you are interested in enrolling in Army ROTC and you are in college, you can start by talking to the Army ROTC Enrollment Officer on your campus about taking the Army ROTC basic elective course and about the incentives available, including opportunities to compete for two-, three-, or four-year scholarships.

### JUNIOR COLLEGE AND GRADUATE STUDENTS

If you have two years remaining in junior college or graduate school, you are still eligible to enroll in Army ROTC.

### ENLISTED SOLDIERS

If you are an enlisted Soldier in the South Dakota Army National Guard and interested in becoming an officer, find out more about opportunities by talking to the Officer Strength Manager.

### SIMULTANEOUS MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM (SMP)

The Simultaneous Membership Program allows you to attend Army ROTC and serve in the Army National Guard or Army Reserve at the same time. It gives you an opportunity for additional training and experience. Cadets serve as officer trainees in the Army Reserve or National Guard while completing college. You can earn Army Reserve/National Guard pay and benefits in addition to your Army ROTC allowances.

### TRAINING AND CURRICULUM

The four-year Army ROTC program is divided into two parts: the Basic Course and the Advanced Course. While participating in the entire four-year program, you can major in nearly any field and graduate from college as a second lieutenant in the Army, Army National Guard or Army Reserve.

The Basic Course is usually taken during the first two years of college. Unless you receive scholarship funds, you can take the Basic Course and incur no military obligation. In addition to regular physical training, you'll learn basic leadership skills and military fundamentals.

The Advanced Course is offered during the final two years of college to students who demonstrate the interest and potential to become Army officers, and who meet the physical, mental and scholastic standards. In order to take the Advanced Course, you must have completed the Basic Course or have attended the Leader's Training Course. You will also be required to commit to serve as an officer in the Army, Army National Guard or Army Reserve following graduation.

### LEADER'S TRAINING COURSE

This course is for college students who want to complete Army ROTC training in two years. To qualify, you must complete a challenging and motivating 28-day training program at Fort Knox, Ky. Upon completion of the Leader's Training Course, graduates return to campus prepared to enter the advanced course.

### LEADER DEVELOPMENT AND ASSESSMENT COURSE

In addition to your campus participation with the ROTC Advanced Course, you will be required to attend the five-week Leader Development and Assessment Course at Fort Knox the summer between your junior and senior years. During this course, cadets will be evaluated on their military and leadership skills and be assessed during field exercises.



# Female Soldiers encourage women to seek **LEADERSHIP ROLES**

South Dakota Army National Guard State Command Chief Warrant Officer 5 Darla Crown, keynote speaker for the National Women’s History Month event, addresses the audience with her speech “We are all women of character, courage and commitment” at a National Women’s History Month event in Rapid City, March 17. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen)

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

Five women serving in the South Dakota National Guard spoke during Rapid City’s first National Women’s History Month event at the University Center on March 17.

The event featured three keynote speakers and 14 additional presenters for breakout sessions designed to celebrate and honor women in leadership positions who have demonstrated character, courage and commitment as military personnel, health care professionals, educators, business and community leaders.

“Every one of the women who speak today have all trail blazed a path for women regardless of where they are at in their career,” said Helen Nesson-Merriman, South Dakota Center for Enterprise Opportunity director. “Our goal from this event is to inspire women to seek leadership positions and encourage everyone to respect the

diversity and depth of women’s experiences.”

This year’s theme, Celebrating Women of Character, Courage and Commitment, honors the extraordinary and often unrecognized determination and tenacity of women, said Nesson-Merriman.

Keynote speaker SDARNG State Command Chief Warrant Officer 5 Darla Crown echoed the theme of the event.

“We are all women of character, courage and commitment,” said Crown. “To me, a woman of character is someone who is not necessarily famous but people who work every day to take care of their family or an elderly parent, it is people who are making a difference in their community by volunteering or simply being available to help their neighbor in need.”

Crown recognized the limited opportunities women have endured throughout history to today’s endless possibilities.

“Nowadays, it’s not about what you’re allowed to do, it’s about what you want to do,” said Crown. “Whether wearing high heels or combat boots, in the right pair of

shoes a woman can do anything.”

In addition to Crown’s keynote address, other contributors to the event were Maj. Kathy Dirk and 1st Sgt. Lorissa Wetzler, who discussed “Empowerment of Women around the World” which included the State Partnership Program between the SDNG and Suriname, along with Wetzler’s experience as the senior enlisted Soldier who deployed to Afghanistan with the 129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment; 1st Lt. Karla M. MacArthur Harris presented “Women in the Law” and shared her experience as the only female judge advocate in the SDARNG and Master Sgt. Kristi Palmer used group activities to illustrate the effectiveness of resiliency with her topic “The Power of Resiliency” as the SDNG suicide prevention coordinator.

“Whether wearing high heels or combat boots, in the right pair of shoes a woman can do anything.”



## SD NATIONAL GUARD PILOT TAKES FINAL FLIGHT

Lt. Col. Todd Bartunek, 881st Troop Command commander, left, congratulates Chief Warrant Officer 5 Ken East for completing his final flight as a South Dakota Army National Guard pilot at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Rapid City, March 19. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Beck)

By SDNG Public Affair Office

RAPID CITY – A South Dakota Army National Guard pilot took his final flight March 19, finishing a career of more than 30 years of service to the state and nation as a military aviator.

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Ken East flew a C-12 King Air fixed-wing aircraft for the last time as a National Guard pilot at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Rapid City. East, of Rapid City, will retire July 31.

“I’ve been in the military most of my adult life and there were good and bad times, but when I look back on it, I wouldn’t change a thing,” said East. “As I continue to create new chapters in my life, none of it would be complete without the continued love and support of my family.”

Following his flight, East also relinquished command of his unit, Detachment 48, Operational Support Airlift Command, to



A Detachment 48, Operational Support Airlift Command change of command ceremony was held for outgoing commander, Chief Warrant Officer 5 Ken East, right, and incoming commander, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Wayne Walker, center left, along with Lt. Col. Todd Bartunek, 881st Troop Command commander, center right, and Sgt. 1st Class Randall McCann, detachment sergeant. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Beck)

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Wayne Walker, a position he held since September 2010.

East’s military career includes active-duty service in the U.S. Air Force and Army, as well as service in the Montana National Guard. He has flown both fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft to include the UH-1 Huey, OH-58 Kiowa and UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters.

East has flown countless missions over the years, which includes wildland fire suppression missions, drug-trafficking surveillance missions for state and federal law enforcement agencies and U.S.-Mexico border-patrol operations. He also flew aerial support and security for former President Bill Clinton’s visit to South Dakota. East also served as the commander of the SDNG’s Counterdrug Rapid Assessment and Interdiction Detachment and Company A, 1-112th Aviation Regiment.

East is a veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and served during peace-keeping operations in Kosovo. While deployed to Afghanistan from August 2011-July 2012, East flew the KA-300 King Air aircraft – performing combat-surveillance missions supporting coalition ground forces. From August 2003 – August 2004, he deployed to Kosovo and flew UH-60 Black Hawks in support of medical evacuation operations throughout the country.

East also served a decade as a civilian aviator, flying as an emergency medical helicopter pilot in Rapid City, Aberdeen and Minot, N.D.

East said he is looking forward to spending more time with his wife, Deb, and children, Eric and Shannon.



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Dakota Pack 0614



Col. Russ Walz, 114th Fighter Wing commander, congratulates Tech. Sgt. Trish Heng, 114th Force Support Squadron, and Senior Airman Austin Feenstra on their selection as the Noncommissioned Officer and Airman of the Quarter for the 114th Fighter Wing April 13. (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Nancy Ausland)

AIRMAN  
AND  
NCO  
OF THE  
QUARTER  
NAMED

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

The South Dakota Air National Guard has a history of recognizing their outstanding members with several annual awards, but the process for this selection is now being made easier. The new 114th Fighter Wing Airman and NCO of the Quarter program made its debut in April this year.

“The goal of the program is to recognize our most outstanding Airmen each quarter,” said Command Chief Master Sgt. Dean Hillberg. “We needed to consolidate this effort and make it a more efficient selection process.”

The unit’s First Sergeant Council took the lead on this change. The council decided to revise the program into two distinct categories, E-1 — E-4 and E-5 — E-6. This matches the categories the unit has for the Airman of the Year program so that those

who are selected each quarter will then be forwarded to the yearly competition.

Recommendations from commanders and supervisors are consolidated each quarter and a board is set up to make the selection.

The first two of these outstanding Airmen met with Col. Russ Walz, 114th Fighter Wing commander on April 13 to receive their awards and be congratulated.

Second quarter winners for fiscal year 2014 are: NCO of the Quarter, Tech. Sgt. Trish Heng, 114th Force Support Squadron, and Airman of the Quarter, Senior Airman Austin Feenstra, 114th Security Forces Squadron.

Heng is a customer service technician from Sioux Falls, S.D. and is married with three children. Feenstra is a Security Response Team member and lives in Utica, S.D., originally from Le Mars, Iowa.



South Dakota Air National Guard Capt. Nilofar Meyer, of Sioux Falls, receives the Lt. Col. John J. Steele Award, naming her the SDNG's Lieutenant of the Year, April 25, at the National Guard Association for South Dakota's annual conference held in Watertown, S.D. Pictured with Meyer is Brig. Gen. Matthew Jamison, SDNG Air assistant adjutant general (left) and CW4 Howard Dressler, president of the National Guard Association for South Dakota. (Courtesy photo)

## S.D. NATIONAL GUARD ANNOUNCES LIEUTENANT OF THE YEAR

By SDNG Public Affairs Office

The South Dakota National Guard is pleased to announce Capt. Nilofar Meyer, of Sioux Falls, as the 2014 recipient of the Lt. Col. John J. Steele Award, naming her the SDNG's Lieutenant of the Year.

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

Meyer, who was recently promoted to captain, serves as the director of equal opportunity for the South Dakota Air National Guard's 114th Fighter Wing in Sioux Falls, was selected as the most exceptional lieutenant within the Wing, and competed against lieutenants from each of the SDNG's major commands.

"Capt. Meyer is a stellar example of a positive attitude and her drive and energy get things done," said Col. Steven Warren, 114th Fighter Wing vice commander. "These traits, combined with her poise and integrity, make her a great leader and are going to take her far in her military career."

Meyer has been a member of the SDANG for 16 years. She spent 12 of those years as an enlisted member of the 114th Medical Group

where she served as functional manager and noncommissioned officer in charge of medical technicians, human relations council member and liaison, and exercise evaluation team member.

In addition to her responsibilities in the Air National Guard, she also serves as a manager of clinical operations at the Good Samaritan Society. She is involved with a new program known as LivingWell@Home, which helps seniors stay in their own homes longer by using a proactive healthcare approach.

Meyer was born in Kabul, Afghanistan. From there, her family moved to Pakistan to escape the war with Russia, among other civil disruptions. When she was 11 years old her family moved to the U.S. She says that education has always been a goal of hers and she strives to be an example for her five siblings to follow.

"It's an honor to receive an award amongst the best," said Meyer. "Knowing I was competing against the best on the Army side – I felt really honored to represent the Wing."

Other officers representing their major command for this year's award competition were 1st Lt. Jason Kimura, 109th Regional Support Group; 1st Lt. Christopher Olsen, 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade; and 1st Lt. Daniel Williams, 196th Regional Training Institute.



# S.D. NATIONAL GUARD ANNOUNCES WARRANT OFFICER OF THE YEAR

By SDNG Public Affairs Office

The South Dakota Army National Guard is pleased to announce CW4 Todd Dressler, of Rapid City, as the 2014 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 SDANG. Selection is based on exceptional qualities of technical knowledge, leadership, dedication and initiative.

Dressler, who serves as the force integration/readiness officer in Joint Force Headquarters in Rapid City, was selected as the most exceptional warrant officer within JFHQ and competed against warrant officers from each of the SDARNG's major commands.

"Having known Mike (Michael F. O'Connor, the warrant officer the annual award is named after), made winning the award really special," said Dressler. "As a warrant officer, Mike was the epitome of the quiet professional."

Dressler, who has served more than 30 years in the SDARNG, has worked as the state's officer personnel manager and as the deputy director of human resources during his deployment to Afghanistan.

"Through CW4 Dressler's hard work and technical expertise he has increased operational and administrative effectiveness resulting in the South Dakota National Guard ranking number one in personnel readiness in fiscal year 2013," said Maj. Clint Sheppard, JFHQ commander. "He is deserving of this award and will represent it well."

Dressler also dedicates his time serving on the National Guard Association for South Dakota, where he most recently served as the organization's president.

"He is exceptionally involved in his local community through volunteer work and youth mentorship," said Shepherd. "As a member of South Canyon Lutheran Church, he volunteers as a confirmation guide and assists the church with their "Meals for the Hungry" program. He devotes time to assist youth hockey and baseball and is an active member of the Pinedale PTA."

"CW4 Dressler is an exceptional role model

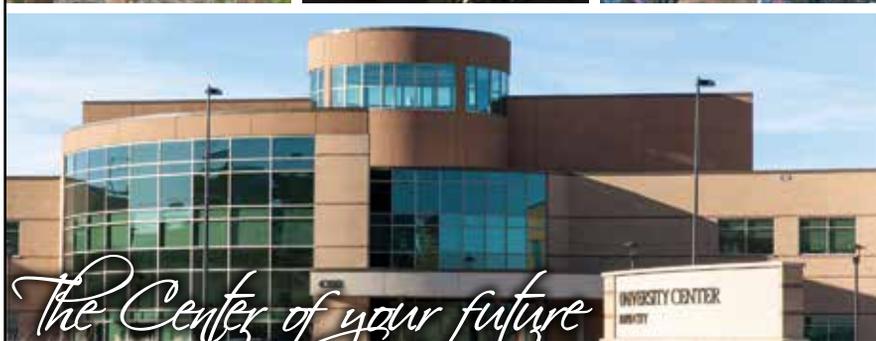


South Dakota Army National Guard CW4 Todd Dressler, of Rapid City, S.D., receives the CW4 Michael F. O'Connor Award, naming him the SDARNG's Warrant Officer of the Year, April 25, at the National Guard Association for South Dakota's annual conference held in Watertown. Pictured with Dressler is Brig. Gen. Matthew Jamison, SDNG Air assistant adjutant general (left) and Maj. Steve Siemonsma, vice president of the National Guard Association for South Dakota. (Courtesy photo)

and mentor for not only other warrant officers, but others in our organization and in our community," said CW5 Darla Crown, SDNG state command chief warrant officer."

Other warrant officers representing their

major command for this year's award competition were CW2 Travis Jorgenson, 109th Regional Support Group; CW2 Eric Borah, 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade; and CW2 Ryan Mattfield, 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute).



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# MITCHELL NATIONAL GUARD UNIT WINS STATEWIDE SAFETY AWARD

BY SDNG Public Affairs Office

RAPID CITY – The South Dakota Army National Guard’s Company B, 139th Brigade Support Battalion, of Mitchell, was awarded The Adjutant General’s Unit Safety Award for fiscal year 2013 on April 26 at the Mitchell armory. The award recognizes outstanding effort and achievement in establishing and maintaining a viable unit safety and accident prevention within the South Dakota National Guard.

“The unit’s leadership, including their appointed safety officer and noncommissioned officers, has established a safety program that promotes awareness and accident prevention,” said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Lonny Hofer, the SDNG state safety officer. “This is done through training, monthly safety briefs and controls emplaced during their risk assessment for performing mission tasks down to the individual Soldier level.”

Company B, 139th BSB, performs field maintenance for modular brigade combat teams and supporting brigades. They provide recovery, automotive/armament, ground support and electronic maintenance, and maintenance management to brigade base elements.

“With the unit’s particular mission and tasks, including recovering and repairing equipment, they have a higher potential risk,” said Hofer.

Even with the higher potential risk, in fiscal year 2013, Company B had no accidents, no hazards, 100 percent compliance from a safety inspection, and a 92 percent average completion for their required safety related training.

“They emphasize the adjutant general’s safety philosophy,” said Hofer. “Their leadership recognizes that they have a responsibility to remain vigilant in engaging all stakeholders in their unit safety program. And their training, discipline and standards are manifested in the South Dakota Army National Guard safety slogan, ‘Be safe; Know what’s right; Do what’s right.’”



South Dakota Army National Guard Lt. Col. Jeffrey Norris, 139th Brigade Support Battalion commander (left) presents Capt. Marvin Miller, commander, and Sgt. 1st Class Wade Heilman, both of Company B, 139th Brigade Support Battalion, The Adjutant General’s Unit Safety Award, April 6, at the armory in Mitchell. The unit received the SDARNG’s annual award for outstanding effort and achievement in establishing and maintaining a viable unit safety and accident prevention program. (Courtesy photo)

## Black Hills Veterans Job Fair

Wednesday, June 18  
1-5 p.m.

Western Dakota Tech  
800 Mickelson Dr.  
Rapid City

Resume classes available  
June 9  
RSVP at (605) 394-2326

# 2014 South Dakota **MILITARY YOUTH CAMPS**

## Star Search!

**July 21-25**

Storm Mountain Center  
Rapid City, SD

- Outdoor activities
- Low rope obstacle course
- Swimming
- See Mt. Rushmore
- Visit the SD Veterans' Home
- Learn the Military Values

Campers  
Ages 9-11  
Apply by June 27

**Questions? Contact:**  
Taryn Broomfield  
taryn.m.broomfield.ctr@mail.mil  
(605) 737-6919

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(605) 737-6919

# EXPLORE!

**August 11-15**

Cedar Canyon Camp  
Rapid City, SD

Campers  
Ages 12-14  
Apply by July 18

High rope obstacle course • Swimming  
Climbing Wall • Veteran interviews

# APPLICATION

## 2014 South Dakota Military Youth Camps

### Star Search! at Storm Mountain

July 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>

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

### Explore! at Cedar Canyon Camp

August 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>

(Campers ages 12-14)



**For Camp use only**

Date Received \_\_\_\_\_  
 Check # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Application Complete \_\_\_\_\_  
 Information letter sent \_\_\_\_\_  
 Liability Waiver(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Medical Info \_\_\_\_\_

- \*\*\* Star Search Camper applications (page 1) to be submitted by June 27, 2014
- \*\*\* Star Search Junior Counselor applications (page 1 and 2) to be submitted by June 13, 2014
- \*\*\* Explore Camper Applications (page 1) to be submitted by July 18, 2014

- Camp Attending:  Star Search!  Camper  Junior Camper Applicant  
 Explore! Area of interest (list 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> choice):  Aviation  Law Enforcement  
 Medical  Survival
- Transportation needed for eastern SD along I-90:  Yes  No

**YOUTH NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Male  Female  Age (as of July 1<sup>st</sup>) \_\_\_\_\_

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

**PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: Daytime: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Evening: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Cell #: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**MILITARY MEMBER INFORMATION:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Branch of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Camper: \_\_\_\_\_ Currently Deployed: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Application packet: Star Search! due June 27<sup>th</sup> and Explore! due July 18<sup>th</sup>:**

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_ (Child's name) \_\_\_\_\_ (Parent / Guardian) **Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ Date

# SNAPSHOTS



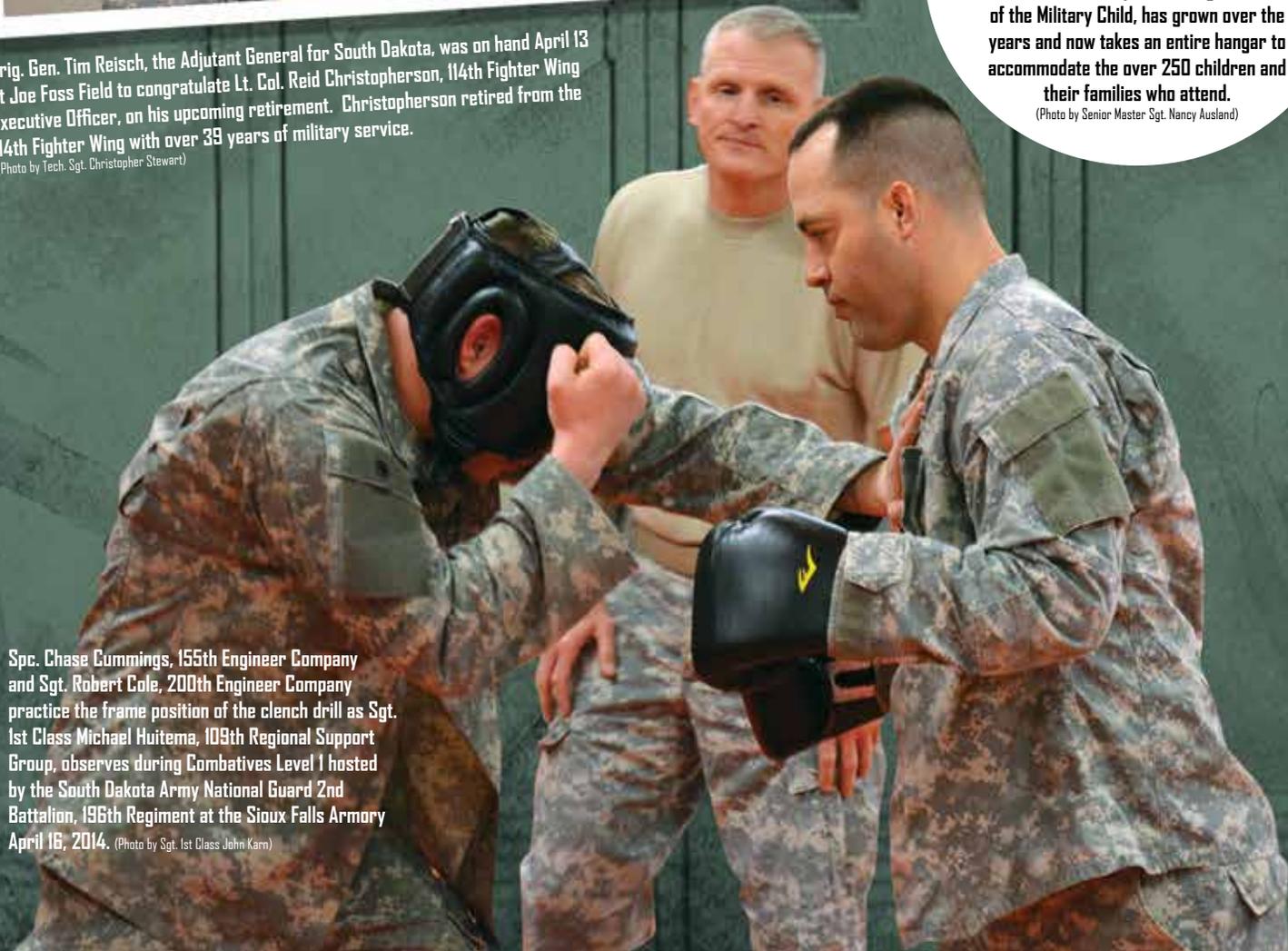
Brig. Gen. Tim Reisch, the Adjutant General for South Dakota, was on hand April 13 at Joe Foss Field to congratulate Lt. Col. Reid Christopherson, 114th Fighter Wing Executive Officer, on his upcoming retirement. Christopherson retired from the 114th Fighter Wing with over 39 years of military service.  
(Photo by Tech. Sgt. Christopher Stewart)



Tech. Sgt. Nicole Ryan, 114th Medical Group Logistics technician, helps her daughter, Chamberlynn, take a shot at a plastic turkey during activities at the 114th Fighter Wing's Annual Easter Egg Hunt, April 13. The annual event, which takes place during the Month of the Military Child, has grown over the years and now takes an entire hangar to accommodate the over 250 children and their families who attend.

(Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Nancy Ausland)

Spc. Chase Cummings, 155th Engineer Company and Sgt. Robert Cole, 200th Engineer Company practice the frame position of the clench drill as Sgt. 1st Class Michael Huitema, 109th Regional Support Group, observes during Combatives Level I hosted by the South Dakota Army National Guard 2nd Battalion, 196th Regiment at the Sioux Falls Army April 16, 2014. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class John Kern)



**EMPLOYERS  
ENCOURAGED TO**

**ATTEND BLACK HILLS  
VETERANS JOB FAIR**

Area employers are encouraged to attend the upcoming Black Hills Veterans Job Fair in Rapid City at Western Dakota Technical Institute from 1-5 p.m., June 18.

Focused on National Guardsmen, Reservists, active-duty military, veterans and their work-ready families, the job fair will offer employers the opportunity to connect with current and former military members who are seeking employment.

The fair is free to attend and will feature employers from a wide range of professions, including manufacturing, administration, security, law enforcement, information technology and the oil industry.

Interested employers should RSVP to Kara Palmer at kara.palmer@state.sd.us, or call (605) 394-4066.

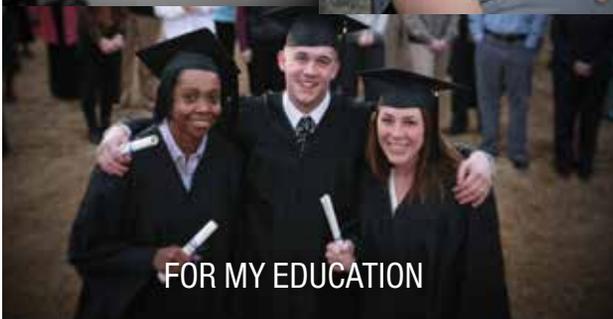
The deadline to RSVP is June 11.

“Employers will benefit by getting to see firsthand the amount and quality of military candidates in South Dakota,” said Dan Popowski, Hero2Hired employment transition coordinator for South Dakota. “Employers already know the value that individuals in the military bring to the table; this will be a great opportunity for them to find and hire more.”

A complimentary lunch will be provided for those who attend a brief from Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve of South Dakota. The brief is scheduled from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

The Black Hills Veterans’ Job Fair is hosted by Hero2Hired of South Dakota, South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation, Ellsworth Air Force Base and Western Dakota Technical Institute.

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# HELP BUILD YOUR TEAM!



The Gold Card Recruiting Challenge rewards Soldiers for helping recruiters find leads for new members of the SDARNG. Pass along contact information for a recruit that goes to MEPS and you receive an Under Armour® Shirt. If your contact enlists you get to choose between an ACU cooler with folding seat, 6 piece BBQ set or an Upland Game Vest. Talk to your unit recruiter!



ACU cooler  
with  
folding seat



6 piece BBQ set



Upland Game Vest



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