

South Dakota National Guard

Public Affairs Office

Phone: 605-737-6721 Email: ng.sd.sdarnng.list.pao@mail.mil

Web: sd.ng.mil

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Engineer and aviation Soldiers train to save lives

By Sgt. Austin Slaughter
211th Engineer Company

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

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

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

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

“The nature of this training gave me the ability to assess, critique and teach necessary triage, assessment, treatment and evacuation methods to a greater number of 211th Soldiers,” said Olson.

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

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

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

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



150912-Z-ZZ999-100: Members of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 211th Engineer Company participate in a medical evacuation training scenario designed to test the skills of the medics providing medical care to a wounded Soldier at the airport in Madison, S.D., Sept. 12, 2015. (U.S. Army National Guard file photo/Released)



150912-Z-ZZ999-101: Members of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 211th Engineer Company and Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, participate in a medical evacuation training scenario designed to test the Soldiers' ability to evacuate a wounded Soldier at the airport in Madison, S.D., Sept. 12, 2015. (U.S. Army National Guard file photo/Released)

FOR MORE INFORMATION contact Maj. Anthony Deiss at (605) 737-6721 or cell (605) 431-8753, or e-mail ng.sd.sdarnng.list.pao@mail.mil