

South Dakota National Guard

Public Affairs Office

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

Web: sd.ng.mil

www.facebook.com/SouthDakotaNationalGuard

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SD Guard participates in mock crash scene to educate teens

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

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Members of the South Dakota Army National Guard, along with local emergency responders, participated in a mock crash scene to educate high school freshman on the impacts of making bad decisions, at Camp Rapid, Sept. 30.

The mock crash is a part of a one-day prevention program called Freshman Impact: Caught in the Moment, coordinated by the non-profit organization C.O.R.E. (Community Organized Resources for Educating our youth), which provides hands-on activities for students to learn the consequences of destructive teenage behaviors.

To leave a lasting impression, a realistic crash scene unfolds in front of the students.

“The atmosphere for this is very somber,” said Staff Sgt. Lyn Waldie, SDARNG recruiter. “You feel it. It feels real. The scenario has actors from the Stevens High School’s drama club while Rapid City police officers, paramedics, firefighters and a funeral director all respond to the scene as if it were real.”

The scenario involves a vehicle full of students who leave a party while under the influence of alcohol and drugs. The driver of the vehicle crashes into a parked military dump truck and skid loader, leaving Soldiers injured, one of the students dead, and the rest with physical and emotional trauma.

The scenario continued to unfold with a funeral and court case.

“After the court case, we showed the students how a bad decision continues to follow them through life,” said Waldie.

During the scene, one of the students walks into the recruiter’s office a few years after the accident and wants to join the military but because he was given a distribution charge for methamphetamine the night of the accident, he is not eligible.

“I learned a lot,” said Spencer Flory, a freshman at Stevens High School. “Be safe, don’t impair yourself with alcohol, drugs or texting while driving or operating any motor vehicle. A bad decision just doesn’t affect one person it can ruin your life and someone else’s.”



150930-Z-CW157-002: U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Randi Brickey, a member of the South Dakota Army National Guard, plays an injured Soldier, while local emergency responders respond to a mock crash scene to educate high school freshman on the impacts of making bad decisions, at Camp Rapid, Rapid City, S.D., Sept. 30, 2015. The mock crash is a part of a one-day prevention program called Freshman Impact: Caught in the Moment, coordinated by the non-profit organization C.O.R.E. (Community Organized Resources for Educating our youth), which provides hands-on activities for students to learn the consequences of destructive teenage behaviors. (U.S. Army National Guard by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Herrmann/Released)



150930-Z-CW157-003: U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Lyn Waldie, a recruiter with the South Dakota Army National Guard, role plays with a Stevens High School student during a scene where the student is ineligible as a candidate to join the military due to distributing drugs in his past, at Camp Rapid, Rapid City, S.D., Sept. 30, 2015. The skit is a part of a one-day prevention program called Freshman Impact: Caught in the Moment, coordinated by the non-profit organization C.O.R.E. (Community Organized Resources for Educating our youth), which provides hands-on activities for students to learn the consequences of destructive teenage behaviors. (U.S. Army National Guard by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Herrmann/Released)

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