

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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SD Guard, Suriname military conduct infectious disease prevention exchange

PARAMARIBO, Suriname – Three members of the South Dakota National Guard visited the Republic of Suriname to participate in a series of subject matter expert exchanges focused on infectious disease prevention and field sanitation, Feb. 22-24.

Exchanges between South Dakota and Suriname are part of a security cooperation relationship formed in 2006 under the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program.

Numerous exchanges have taken place between South Dakota and Suriname to share experiences and best practices in a variety of military training and topics.

"This event provided the National Coordination Center for Disaster Response and Suriname Defense Force the opportunity to engage with subject matter experts on infectious disease mitigation and field sanitation," said Lt. Col. Orson Ward, State Partnership Program director for the SDNG.

Lt. Col. Murray Thompson, a dentist with the South Dakota Army National Guard's Medical Command and full-time dentist in Pierre, said there was great interaction between the South Dakota and Suriname participants.

"It was fantastic and provided an excellent two-way knowledge exchange about practices and prevention techniques and common challenges with combating current diseases," said Murray, who was joined by fellow Guardsmen Sgt. 1st Class Justin Schiferl, medic, and Master Sgt. Brent Garner, public health technician.

In addition to the sessions focused on field sanitation and infectious disease prevention, participants discussed the Suriname Defense Force prevention techniques and equipment, toured the SDF Hospital, the Military Hospital, and received a presentation on pandemic procedures and personal protective equipment from the National Coordination Center for Disaster Response.

"This exchange helped develop my communication and teaching skills by utilizing unique techniques of explaining and further understanding concepts in an uncommon environment using different spoken languages," Murray said. "Further, as big and different as the world may seem, we found commonalities in much of what we do and how we operate. These commonalities helped develop friendships and trust."

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High resolution photos are available at www.flickr.com/photos/southdakotationalguard



160224-Z-ZZ999-003: U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Brent Garner, a public health technician in the South Dakota Air National Guard, takes part in a presentation on pandemic procedures and personal protective equipment from the National Coordination Center for Disaster Response in Paramaribo, Suriname, Feb., 24, 2016. Garner and two other Guardsmen from South Dakota were participating in a series of subject matter expert exchanges focused on infectious disease prevention and field sanitation. (U.S. Army National Guard courtesy photo/Released)



160224-Z-ZZ999-007: U.S. Army Lt. Col. Murray Thompson, right, a dentist with the South Dakota Army National Guard's Medical Command, takes part in a series of subject matter expert exchanges focused on infectious disease prevention and field sanitation in Paramaribo, Suriname, Feb. 22-24, 2016. Exchanges between South Dakota and Suriname are part of a security cooperation relationship formed in 2006 under the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program. (U.S. Army National Guard courtesy photo/Released)



160224-Z-ZZ999-010: Members of the South Dakota National Guard, the National Coordination Center for Disaster Response, and Suriname Defense Force take part in a series of subject matter expert exchanges focused on infectious disease prevention and field sanitation in Paramaribo, Suriname, Feb. 22-24, 2016. Exchanges between South Dakota and Suriname are part of a security cooperation relationship formed in 2006 under the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program. (U.S. Army National Guard courtesy 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