

South Dakota National Guard

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SD National Guard public affairs unit gets new first sergeant

By Spc. Carl Johnson – 129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

RAPID CITY, S.D. - First Sgt. Gregg Brower assumed senior noncommissioned officer responsibilities for the South Dakota Army National Guard's 129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment during a change of responsibility ceremony at Duke Corning Armory on Camp Rapid, March 6.

Brower assumed the role of first sergeant from 1st Sgt. Lorissa Wetzler.

"My goal is to help our Soldiers get the qualifications they need," said Brower. "I want to mentor future leaders and help my Soldiers get promoted. I will continue to ensure that this unit is one of the best in the South Dakota National Guard."

As the first sergeant, Brower will be responsible for advising Capt. Eric Tobin, the commander, in day-to-day operations for enlisted personnel in support of the unit's mission - telling the military's story through print and broadcast journalism and embedded civilian media.

Wetzler, who deployed to Afghanistan with the 129th in 2013, received the Meritorious Service Medal during the ceremony for her efforts with the unit over the last four years.

"It's been a privilege and honor to serve as the first sergeant of the 129th MPAD," said Wetzler. "I look forward to my new role as a member of the 109th Regional Support Group."

"First Sgt. Wetzler was exceptional at taking care of Soldiers, ensuring mission readiness and helping to bring new Soldiers to the unit," said Tobin. "At this time, we have a lot of Soldiers who are inexperienced in this career field. We will look to 1st Sgt. Brower to help us get them up to speed, and I have no doubt he will continue this unit's tradition of excellence in leading and developing Soldiers."

Brower, grew up in Mitchell and enlisted into the SDARNG in 1983. He held many different positions in several units throughout the state before moving to the 881st Troop Command as the operations noncommissioned officer for logistics.

Brower deployed to Iraq with Company A, 139th Brigade Support Battalion in 2011 and has served 14 years with the Military Funeral Honors Team. He works full time as a management analyst for the SDARNG's surface maintenance office.

Brower gives credit for his success to his wife, Jody, daughter Jayme, and son, Austin.

"Without them, none of what I have accomplished in the Guard would have been possible," said Brower.

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



160306-Z-ZZ999-017: U.S. Army 1st Sgt. Gregg Brower, South Dakota Army National Guard, receives first sergeant rank with the help of his wife, Jody, during a change of responsibility and promotion ceremony, March 5, 2016 at Duke Corning Armory on Camp Rapid, Rapid City, S.D. Brower assumed senior noncommissioned officer responsibilities of the 129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Carl Johnson/Released)



160306-Z-ZZ999-048: U.S. Army Capt. Eric Tobin, left, commander of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, passes the noncommissioned officer sword to 1st Sgt. Gregg Brower during a change of responsibility ceremony, March 5, 2016 at Duke Corning Armory on Camp Rapid, Rapid City, S.D. The sword symbolizes the transition of responsibility to the new first sergeant. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Carl Johnson/Released)



160306-Z-ZZ999-061: U.S. Army Capt. Eric Tobin, commander of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, shakes hands with outgoing 1st Sgt. Lorissa Wetzler after presenting her with the Meritorious Service Award during a change of responsibility ceremony at Duke Corning Armory on Camp Rapid, Rapid City, S.D., March 5, 2016. Wetzler served as first sergeant of the 129th MPAD for nearly four years. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Carl Johnson/Released)

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