

# South Dakota National Guard

## Public Affairs Office

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## Watertown armory receives LEED “Silver” certification

WATERTOWN, S.D. – The South Dakota Army National Guard’s Watertown Readiness Center has received a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, “Silver” certification for the building’s energy efficiency and environmentally friendly design.

Completed in September 2013, the state-of-the-art \$25 million, 85,000 square-foot training facility includes a number of environmentally responsible and resource efficient features in its design, operation and construction.

“After much effort and diligence, it’s my pleasure to announce that the Watertown Readiness Center was officially recognized for achieving a LEED Silver certification by the U.S. Green Building Council,” said Col. Scott Petrik, chief of the Facilities Management Office for the SDARNG. “This announcement caps off the design and construction efforts that began many years ago.”

Developed by the non-profit USGBC, the LEED rating system evaluates the environmental performance of a building and encourages market transformation toward sustainable design. The system is credit based, allowing projects to earn points for environmentally friendly actions taken during construction and use of a building.

Petrik said obtaining the LEED certification for the facility, which is home to about 400 Soldiers from three units, will save money for the SDARNG and enhance the training and productivity of its Soldiers.

“Using many ‘green’ building practices results in energy and costs savings over the life of the structure,” he said. “Other advantages include better indoor air quality and plenty of daylight. Studies have shown that workers in these environments have increased labor productivity, job retention and days worked.”

Achieving the certification required many efforts by the building’s designer, contractors and project management team. This included using more regional materials during the building’s construction, as well as weighing, recycling and diverting on-site generated construction waste from the local landfill.

“To improve the air quality in the building, we used low VOC (volatile organic compounds) emitting carpets, paints, glues and woods,” said Petrik. “It also has a geothermal well field, which in effect allows the facility to be heated and cooled by the Earth.”

Other green features of the building include minimization of water runoff to improve water quality, indigenous drought-tolerant landscaping, low-flow water fixtures, LED lighting with occupancy sensors, and high-efficiency HVAC equipment, which includes an automation system for better remote controllability and scheduling.

“This is a facility the state, the SDNG and the Watertown community can be proud of,” said Petrik. “This building stands out from the multitudes of other buildings that are built in the U.S. annually.

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Achieving this certification demonstrates we are committed to a sustainable design and we are serious about doing what it takes to build a greener facility that uses less energy and creates a smaller footprint with respect to the environment.”

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High resolution photos are available at [www.flickr.com/photos/southdakotationalguard](http://www.flickr.com/photos/southdakotationalguard)



**130907-A-6297J-001:** Watertown Readiness Center. (U.S. Army National Guard file photo/Released)



**160406-A-TL267-001:** U.S. Army Col. Scott Petrik, center, chief of the Facilities Management Office for the South Dakota Army National Guard, is presented with the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, “Silver” certification for the Watertown Readiness Center, April 6, 2016, in Rapid City, S.D. Also pictured is Ron Mielke, left and Chris Guy. (U.S. Army National Guard photo/Released)

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