

South Dakota National Guard

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Rapid City woman named SD Guard Warrant Officer of the Year

RAPID CITY, S.D. – The South Dakota National Guard named a Rapid City woman as the 2016 recipient of the Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael F. O’Connor Award, naming her the SDNG’s Warrant Officer of the Year.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Sandra Norris, who currently serves as G1 mobilization officer for Joint Force Headquarters in Rapid City, was selected as the most exceptional warrant officer after competing against warrant officers from several of the SDARNG’s major commands.

The award was presented by the National Guard Association of South Dakota during its annual officers’ conference in Rapid City, April 23.

“It is a great honor to be considered and selected among such an outstanding group of warrant officers throughout the state,” said Norris.

Norris, who has 31 years of military service, is the senior human resources officer in the headquarters’ personnel section and responsible for coordinating and facilitating all personnel requirements related to mobilizing and demobilizing Soldiers in the state.

“CW4 Norris is a true professional and has been an invaluable member of this organization for over 30 years,” said Maj. Clint Shepherd, detachment commander for Joint Force Headquarters. “She is an extremely proficient and versatile leader with the ability to manage multiple tasks.”

In addition to her full-time responsibilities, Norris also volunteers much of her free time to local organizations. She serves as the supervisory committee chair for Minuteman Federal Credit Union, member of the Southwest and Stevens Parent/Teacher Association, and volunteers for the Rushmore Thunder Hockey and the Black Hills Rapids Soccer Club.

“Norris is a caring and compassionate leader who willingly gives of her time,” said Col. John Weber, deputy chief of staff for personnel, JFHQ. “She is active in her community and fosters positive relationships between the community and the SDARNG.”

“What I love most about serving in the National Guard is the ability to help people,” said Norris. “There is nothing quite as rewarding as taking care of Soldiers.”

Other warrant officers representing their major command for this year’s award competition were Warrant Officer Jason Bestgen, 109th Regional Support Group, and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Brent Simon, 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade.

The CW4 Michael F. O’Connor Award was established in 2000 to recognize the most outstanding South Dakota Army National Guard Warrant Officer of the past year. Criterion for the award is based on exceptional qualities of technical knowledge, leadership, dedication and initiative.

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



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Sandra Norris: Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael F. O'Connor Award recipient and South Dakota National Guard 2016 Warrant Officer of the Year. (U.S. Army National Guard file photo/Released)

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