

South Dakota National Guard

Public Affairs Office

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Wyoming National Guard engineers renovate West Camp Rapid

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RAPID CITY, S.D. – Soldiers in the 133rd Engineer Company, Wyoming National Guard, Laramie, Wyo., are scheduled to complete three construction projects at West Camp Rapid as part of the 32nd Golden Coyote training exercise, June 13-20.

The exercise provides the engineers an opportunity to work with Canadian and Danish engineers while gaining experience with their heavy equipment. The completed projects will provide better access to the training sites at West Camp Rapid.

“It’s amazing for the Soldiers,” said Sgt. Glenn Negretti, platoon leader of the 133rd’s 1st platoon. “I think they’re pretty happy to have this opportunity to use the equipment they were trained on and do the job they joined the Army to do.”

The projects include constructing a parking lot for the obstacle course, building a new road for civilian use and clearing a gulch to provide better vehicle access to training sites.

“We had to do a lot of problem solving for our project,” said Negretti. “I think it’s a good experience because you deal with unforeseen challenges when you’re on a job site down range.”

Each of the three platoons from the 133rd was in charge of completing a project and coordinating with engineers from the Danish Homeguard and the Canadian Army. The allied units helped the 133rd by clearing brush and trees from each construction site.

“I think it’s awesome to work with the allied units,” said 2nd Lt. Madison Hambler, platoon leader of the 133rd’s 3rd platoon. “It’s great to see so many different people working together to accomplish these projects and it gives us great training.”

The engineers used heavy equipment such as bulldozers, scrapers, front-end loaders, skid steers and dump trucks to accomplish their projects.

“When I deployed, we were deconstructing operating bases in Afghanistan and we were using a lot of the same equipment,” said Negretti

This is the first year Soldiers from the 133rd participated in the Golden Coyote training exercise.

“Everyone was excited to see the Danes’ and Canadians’ equipment,” said Negretti. “We taught them how to use some of our equipment and it was interesting to see how they do things.”

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In addition to working with allied units, the 133rd worked with Soldiers from the 200th Engineer Company of the South Dakota Army National Guard, which supplied additional equipment to finish the projects.

“It was nice to come out and help on a bigger project like this,” said Spc. Adam Zemlicka, a heavy equipment operator with the 200th. “It’s different than the training we usually do.”

All three projects are scheduled to be completed by June 20th, and the areas will be used throughout the year during training on West Camp Rapid.

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



160615-Z-BP728-027: U.S. Army Spc. Casey Wagner, heavy equipment operator with the 133rd Engineer Company of the Wyoming National Guard, operates a front-end loader during the Red Dale Drive project on West Camp Rapid, Rapid City, S.D., June 15, 2016. The engineers widened the culvert along the road and created a parking lot near the obstacle course as part of the 32nd Golden Coyote training exercise. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Kristin Lichius/Released)



160615-Z-BP728-066: Soldiers from the 133rd Engineer Company of the Wyoming National Guard, operate heavy equipment to clear a road on West Camp Rapid, Rapid City, S.D., June 15, 2016. The engineers removed grass and trees to level the ground to complete the Soldier Road project during the 32nd Golden Coyote training exercise. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Kristin Lichius/Released)



160615-Z-BP728-070: U.S. Army Spc. Ian Staley, heavy equipment operator with the 133rd Engineer Company of the Wyoming National Guard, operates a scraper to prepare the road site for further construction. The Soldier Road project was part of the 32nd Golden Coyote training exercise and provided the engineers with the opportunity to gain experience operating heavy equipment. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Kristin Lichius/Released)



160611-Z-BP728-062: U.S. Army Spc. Brett Roan Horse, heavy equipment operator with the 133rd Engineer Company of the Wyoming National Guard, operates a front-end loader to remove excess dirt from the construction site. The dirt was being moved to clear a path for other engineers to continue leveling the road surface as part of a project during the 32nd Golden Coyote training exercise. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Kristin Lichius/Released)



160611-Z-BP728-011: U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Eric Johnson, a squad leader with the 133rd Engineer Company of the Wyoming National Guard, instructs Spc. Casey Wagner, heavy equipment operator, also from the 133rd, on how to operate a front-end loader during the Red Dale Drive project. The project was part of the 32nd Golden Coyote training exercise and provided the engineers and opportunity to gain experience operating equipment. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Kristin Lichius/Released)

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