

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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Soldiers supply timber to local tribal communities

By Spc. Kristin Lichius
129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

EAGLE BUTTE, S.D. – Soldiers from the 1487th Transportation Company, Ohio Army National Guard, transported timber during the 32nd Golden Coyote training exercise to the Cheyenne River Reservation, June 17.

The timber haul has been an important part of the Golden Coyote training exercise for many years. The mission provides the opportunity for the South Dakota National Guard and other participating units to gain valuable training and build relations with tribal communities throughout the state.

“The wood from the timber haul is used for sun dances, powwows, to heat homes during the winter and for any other needs the community has,” said Doug Dupris, maintenance director of the Cheyenne River Housing Authority.

For Soldiers of the 1487th, the timber haul required them to drive on unfamiliar routes in a convoy to complete the mission. The unit primarily transports heavy equipment and hauling timber provided them an opportunity to gain experience in their jobs.

“We have a lot of new drivers,” said Sgt. Jonathan Crum, a convoy commander of the 1487th. “We’re teaching them how to drive in a convoy, and safely secure the straps and chains on the trucks to make sure the loads don’t shift along the way.”

The 152nd CSSB coordinated with local tribal communities to determine how many loads of wood would be delivered to each drop site. Then, the transportation companies hauled the timber to each community.

“The convoy commanders were in constant communication with each other, as well as with coordinators at the drop sites,” said 1st Lt. Carla Mentele, liaison officer from the 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion.

One hundred and fifty loads of timber was taken from the Black Hills and transported to Pierre, S.D. where it was distributed throughout tribal communities.

“Being a former Soldier myself it is nice to work with the National Guard,” said Dupris. “You can tell the Soldiers thoroughly enjoy what they’re doing. It’s a good training exercise for them and the timber is appreciated.”

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



160617-Z-BP728-039: Soldiers from the 1487th Transportation Company, Ohio Army National Guard, conducted a convoy operation to haul timber to a drop site near Eagle Butte on the Cheyenne River Reservation, S.D., June 17, 2016. The convoy transported timber from Pierre to several tribal community drop sites for the annual timber haul during the 32nd Golden Coyote training exercise. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Kristin Lichius/Released)



160617-Z-BP728-076: Soldiers of the 1487th Transportation Company, Ohio Army National Guard, work with local members of the Cheyenne River Sioux Nation to unload timber near Eagle Butte S.D., June 17, 2016. The timber was transported as part of the timber haul mission during the 32nd Golden Coyote training exercise. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Kristin Lichius/Released)



160617-Z-BP728-133: Soldiers of the 1487th Transportation Company, Ohio Army National Guard, haul six loads of timber from Pierre, S.D. to a site near Eagle Butte S.D., June 17, 2016. The timber was transported as part of the timber haul mission during the 32nd Golden Coyote training exercise. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Kristin Lichius/Released)



160617-Z-BP728-220: U.S. Army Sgt. Alexander Duam and Sgt. Brandon Mann, truck drivers with the 1487th Transportation Company, Ohio Army National Guard, work with local members from the Cheyenne River Sioux Nation to sweep debris off of trailers used to haul timber to Eagle Butte, S.D., June 17, 2016. The timber haul provides an opportunity for Soldiers to work with local communities to provide timber to use throughout the year. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Kristin Lichius/Released)



160617-Z-BP728-087: U.S. Army Sgt. Nathan Tufts, a truck driver with the 1487th Transportation Company, Ohio Army National Guard speaks with Doug Dupris, maintenance director, Cheyenne River Housing Authority about unloading timber from the 1487th's trailers near Eagle Butte, S.D., June 17, 2016. The timber haul mission provides an opportunity for the South Dakota Army National Guard and other units participating in the 32nd Golden Coyote training exercise to work with local communities. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Kristin Lichius/Released)



160617-Z-BP728-067: U.S. Army Cpl. Jacob Bowman and Sgt. Jason Ruby, truck drivers with the 1487th Transportation Company, Ohio Army National Guard prepare to unload timber by removing straps, which secured the load during transport to a site near Eagle Butte, S.D., June 17, 2016. The timber was transported to the tribal communities during the 32nd Golden Coyote training exercise and will be used for various purposes by the tribal community. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Kristin Lichius/Released)

FOR MORE INFORMATION contact Capt. Amber Symonds at (605) 737-6969 or cell (605) 639-5147, e-mail amber.a.symonds.mil@mail.mil.