

South Dakota National Guard

Public Affairs Office

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109th Group wins Eisenhower Trophy, named state's top superior unit

RAPID CITY, S.D. – The South Dakota Army National Guard's 109th Regional Support Group of Rapid City was awarded the coveted Eisenhower Trophy, June 22, for superior performance during training year 2015.

The 109th was selected as the top ranked unit in the state in a field of 15 units who received the National Guard Bureau's Superior Unit Award. The SUA is awarded annually to units who meet highly-enforced military standards in the areas of personnel, training and readiness.

The award was presented by Brig. Gen. Kevin Griese, SDARNG assistant adjutant general, who applauded the unit for their outstanding performance.

"About one-third of our units in the state won a Superior Unit Award, and that's quite an accomplishment for our organization," said Griese. "But if you look at all the units that qualified for the award, the Eisenhower Trophy is given to the most outstanding unit of all of them. This is a tremendous accomplishment for your unit and for all of you to be proud of."

"We were very pleased to achieve the SUA, because the HHD (Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment) 109th worked very hard to accomplish all of the requirements for the award," said Col. Marshall Michels, 109th commander. "When we found out that we received the Eisenhower Trophy the team was ecstatic. Being the best of the best is truly and honor."

In order to earn the award, units must achieve 95 percent in: assigned personnel strength, monthly drill and annual training attendance, and weapons qualification. Units must also attain 90 percent in Soldiers passing the Army Physical Fitness Test and being fully qualified in their occupational specialty. Unit inspections also factor into award requirements.

"Each member of the HHD, 109th RSG, has made a commitment to this unit and made it a priority to do their best," said Capt. Marie Strang, 109th detachment commander. "They put drill attendance above numerous personal activities, made weapons qualification a priority, worked hard on their physical fitness and personal readiness and made a lot of sacrifices over the last training year to be here for the unit."

This is the first time the 109th RSG has received a SUA since converting from its legacy unit, the 109th Engineer Group.

"I'm very proud and honored to be a member of this unit at a time when everyone came together to earn this award," said Strang. "It really exemplifies each member coming together to work as a team."

The 109th joins the other 14 SDARNG units in continuing a third straight year of training excellence – with three units receiving the SUA award for the second time in a row and five units for a third straight year. The 211th Engineer Company has earned the SUA four years consecutively and 1742nd has received it four out of the last five years.

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This year's recipients of the Superior Unit Award include:

- HHC, 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion Watertown
- Battery A, 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion** Aberdeen
- Battery B, 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion Yankton
- HHC, 153rd Engineer Battalion** Huron
- Forward Support Company, 153rd Engineer Battalion** Huron and Parkston
- 155th Engineer Company** Rapid City and Wagner
- 200th Engineer Company** Pierre, Mobridge and Chamberlain
- 211th Engineer Company*** Madison and De Smet
- 842nd Engineer Company Spearfish, Sturgis & Belle Fourche
- Training Center Command* Rapid City
- Medical Command* Rapid City
- 82nd Civil Support Team* Rapid City
- 730th Area Support Medical Company Vermillion
- 740th Transportation Company Milbank and Aberdeen

* Denotes second straight year for receiving the award.

** Denotes third straight year for receiving the award.

*** Denotes fourth straight year for receiving the award.

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



160622-Z-RO774-734: Soldiers of the South Dakota Army National Guard's Headquarters Detachment, 109th Regional Support Group, were recognized for excellence with the Superior Unit Award and the Eisenhower Trophy at Camp Rapid, Rapid City, S.D., June 22, 2016. Only one unit in the state can receive both awards in the same year, making the 109th RSG the most outstanding unit during the 2015 training year. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Rebecca Green/Released)



160622-Z-WF991-046: The South Dakota Army National Guard's Headquarters Detachment, 109th Regional Support Group, received the Eisenhower Trophy at the end of the Golden Coyote training exercise at Camp Rapid, Rapid City, S.D., June 22, 2016. The 109th RSG is one of 15 units that qualified for the Superior Unit Award, which allowed them to compete for the Eisenhower Trophy. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Pfc. Alexis Stevens/Released)



160622-Z-WF991-009: Brig. Gen. Kevin Griese, South Dakota Army National Guard assistant adjutant general, visits with Soldiers of the 109th Regional Support Group, before the presentation of the Superior Unit Award and Eisenhower Trophy at Camp Rapid, Rapid City, S.D., June 22, 2016. The 109th was selected as the top ranked unit in the state in a field of 15 units who received the National Guard Bureau's Superior Unit Award and eligible for the Eisenhower Trophy. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Pfc. Alexis Stevens/Released)



160622-Z-WF991-040: Brig. Gen. Kevin Griese, South Dakota Army National Guard assistant adjutant general, shakes hands with Capt. Marie Strang, detachment commander of the Headquarters Detachment, 109th Regional Support Group, as he presents the 2015 Superior Unit Award and the Eisenhower Trophy at Camp Rapid, Rapid City, S.D., June 22, 2016. The Eisenhower Trophy is awarded to the top SDARNG unit with the most outstanding training year. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Pfc. Alexis Stevens/Released)

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