

South Dakota National Guard

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SD Army National Guard awards first instructor badge

By 1st Lt. Rebecca Linder
2nd Battalion, 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute)

FORT MCCOY, Wis. – The 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute), South Dakota Army National Guard, awarded its first Basic Army Instructor Badge to Sgt. 1st Class Neal Stratman, June 21, at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.

The badge was awarded by 196th Regiment leadership during a 13M30 or Multiple Launch Rocket Specialist and High Mobility Artillery Rocket System Advanced Leader Course taking place here as part of a Mobile Training Team.

“As the first National Guard instructor in South Dakota to receive the badge, it brings a sense of pride and accomplishment,” said Stratman, a Sioux Falls native. “I am humbled that leadership came all this way to award the badge to me in front of my students. Wearing this badge means that one has taken not only the instruction, but the institution to a higher level of excellence, and I look forward to others in the unit also receiving it.”

Stratman has been teaching courses at Sioux Falls’ 2nd Battalion, 196th Regiment (RTI) since 2013. He is a certified 13M instructor for Senior Leader, Advanced Leader and Military Occupational Specialty Qualification courses at the institution.

The BAIB is the first of three tiers of badges that an instructor can receive as part of the Instructor Development and Recognition Program. In order to receive the BAIB, instructors must meet a checklist of requirements found in Training and Doctrine (TRADOC) Regulation 600-21, but most importantly they must successfully teach at least 80 hours of instruction as the primary instructor and are evaluated twice against the Instructor Observation Rubric.

“We are an Institute of Excellence,” said Lt. Col. Ted Bartunek, 2-196th commander. “Our instructors must be the best of the best. Having instructors with the badge reinforces that we have professional, knowledgeable and dedicated instructors. The badge, when worn, displays that you are a member of a select group of instructors.”

Instructors may also earn the Senior Army Instructor Badge, which is an additional 400 hours to the BAIB for Active, Guard and Reserve instructors and 200 more hours for traditional weekend drilling instructors. The Master Army Instructor Badge is the top badge, which requires another 400 hours after being awarded the SAIB for AGR Soldiers and 200 more for traditional Soldiers.

To maintain qualification for this voluntary program, the instructor must continue to meet all requirements of the badge previously awarded, including physical fitness and the Army height and weight standards. They must also attend various facilitation and instructor development courses, and again be evaluated twice per badge.

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“The importance of this program is to demonstrate how critical non-commissioned officer instructors are to the Army,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Todd Grabow, 196th Regiment (RTI) commandant. “It validates and solidifies instructor positions as true broadening assignments in the career track of NCOs and when Soldiers go back out into traditional units, their leadership will know they have a professional Soldier in their toolbox who is well versed in both the art and science of conducting quality training.”

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



160621-Z-GY802-001: Sgt. 1st Class Neal Stratman, instructor for 2nd Battalion, 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute), South Dakota Army National Guard, receives a coin of excellence from Col. Scott Petrik, 196th Regiment commander, after being awarded the Basic Army Instructor Badge, June 21, 2016, at Fort McCoy, Wis. Stratman is the first instructor in the SDARNG to receive the badge. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by 1st Lt. Rebecca Linder/Released)



160621-Z-GY802-002: Sgt. 1st Class Neal Stratman, instructor for 2nd Battalion, 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute), South Dakota Army National Guard, receives a certificate of excellence from Col. Scott Petrik, 196th Regiment commander, after being awarded the Basic Army Instructor Badge, June 21, 2016, at Fort McCoy, Wis. The BAIB is the first of three tiers of badges that an instructor can receive as part of the Instructor Development and Recognition Program. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by 1st Lt. Rebecca Linder/Released)



160621-Z-GY802-003: Lt. Col. Ted Bartunek, 2nd Battalion, 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) commander, South Dakota Army National Guard, awards Sgt. 1st Class Neal Stratman the Basic Army Instructor Badge during a class formation, June 21, 2016 in Fort McCoy, Wis. Stratman earned the BAIB by meeting the requirements outlined in Training and Doctrine (TRADOC) Regulation 600-21, including acting as the primary instructor for 80 hours. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by 1st Lt. Rebecca Linder/Released)

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