

# South Dakota National Guard

## Public Affairs Office

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## Mettler assumes senior NCO duties for 196th MEB

By Sgt. Mark VanGerpen - 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade

SIoux FALLS, S.D. – U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Todd Mettler, of Hartford, assumed responsibility of the senior noncommissioned officer position in the South Dakota Army National Guard's 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade during a ceremony at the Sioux Falls National Guard Armory, Sept. 10.

Mettler assumed duties from Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Burgeson, of Yankton, who served in the position since 2015.

"I am really honored to be given this opportunity," said Mettler. "It's an exciting opportunity. This is a great unit, and we're going to get even better. We're going to train harder. We're going to take care of each other, and we're going to do great things."

As the unit's senior NCO, Mettler is responsible for advising the unit commander on all aspects of the brigade's enlisted Soldiers, providing guidance and mentorship to those Soldiers and assisting in ensuring the brigade is prepared to handle all missions it is assigned. The 196th MEB is a multifaceted unit responsible for enhancing and protecting operational and tactical freedom of action for a supported maneuver force.

"I want to thank Col. Patrick Pardy and Command Sgt. Maj. Mettler for the opportunity to serve with them," said Burgeson, who will retire after 29 years of service. "In the MEB we take care of each other. We are a family. Now I'm turning it over to (Mettler), and I know he'll be great. He's one of the greatest noncommissioned officers I've ever known."

Mettler began his military career in 1988 enlisting as a member of Battery C, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery. He served as a howitzer driver, ammunition team chief, gunner and a howitzer section chief. He graduated from the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy in 2008 and also has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Management from American Military University.

Mettler has completed two tours of duty, both in Afghanistan: the first in 2006 with the 235th Military Police Company, and the second in 2009 with the 196th MEB. In 2010 he was selected as the MEB's operations sergeant major. In 2014 he served as command sergeant major of the 153rd Engineer Battalion. He returned to the MEB as operations sergeant major in January 2016, where he served until now.

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High resolution photos are available at [www.flickr.com/photos/southdakotationalguard](http://www.flickr.com/photos/southdakotationalguard)



**160910-Z-LN227-001:** U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Todd Mettler, right, salutes the flag during a change of responsibility ceremony Sept. 10, 2016, in Sioux Falls, S.D. Mettler assumed responsibility for the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade from Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Burgeson, who had served in the position since 2015. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Mark VanGerpen)



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**160910-Z-DZ410-001:** U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Todd Mettler, right, receives the rank of command sergeant major at a change of responsibility ceremony Sept. 10, 2016, in Sioux Falls, S.D. Mettler assumed responsibility for the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade from Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Burgeson, who had served in the position since 2015. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Charles Butler)



**160910-Z-LN227-002:** U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Todd Mettler, inspects the noncommissioned officers' sword during a change of responsibility ceremony Sept. 10, 2016, in Sioux Falls, S.D. Inspecting the sword is a traditional gesture symbolizing a sergeant major's first act as a unit's senior enlisted leader. Mettler assumed responsibility for the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade from Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Burgeson, who had served in the position since 2015. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Mark VanGerpen)



**160910-Z-DZ410-002:** U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Burgeson receives a bronze eagle statuette from Col. Patrick Pardy, commander of the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, at a change of responsibility ceremony Sept. 10, 2016, in Sioux Falls, S.D. Pardy offered the eagle to Burgeson in recognition of his 29 years of service to the South Dakota Army National Guard. Burgeson turned over his position as senior enlisted leader of the MEB to Command Sgt. Maj. Todd Mettler. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Charles Butler)



**160910-Z-DZ410-003:** U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Burgeson received a Legion of Merit award upon his retirement from the South Dakota National Guard at a change of Responsibility ceremony Sept. 10, 2016, in Sioux Falls, S.D. Burgeson retired after 29 years of service and had served as the command sergeant major of the MEB since 2015. He turned over his position as senior enlisted leader of the MEB to Command Sgt. Maj. Todd Mettler. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Charles Butler)

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