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MAGAZINE OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD • FALL 2017



SABER GUARDIAN

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Maj. Gen. Timothy A. Reisch
The Adjutant General

Maj. Anthony Deiss
Director of Public Affairs

Capt. Chad Carlson
Editor

CONTRIBUTORS

- Capt. Jessica Bak
- Master Sgt. Christopher Stewart
- Tech. Sgt. Luke Olson
- Staff Sgt. Kayla Morris
- Staff Sgt. Lucas Bollock
- Staff Sgt. Mike Beck
- Staff Sgt. Christina Sahrer
- Staff Sgt. Rachel Korzeniewski
- Staff Sgt. Duane Duimstra
- Sgt. Austin Pearce
- Spc. Kristin Lichius
- Spc. Carl Johnson
- Spc. Rebecca Blidden
- Pfc. Eryn Schlotte



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p. 605.342.0979
f. 605.342.2053
email: heatherm@simpsonsprinting.com
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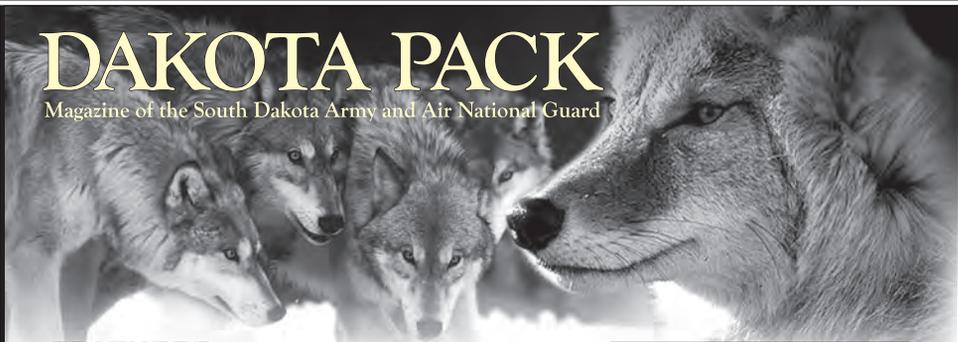
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Magazine of the South Dakota Army and Air National Guard



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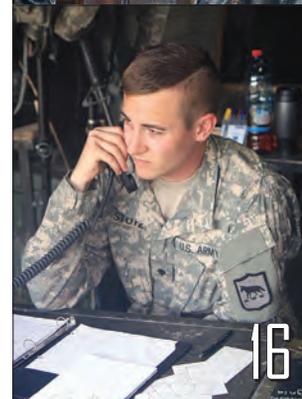
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On the Cover

U.S. Army Spc. Erika Cotton and a crewmember from Alpha Battery, 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion, inspect a rocket pod as they prepare to load a M270A1 Multiple Launch Rocket System during Saber Guardian 17 in Cincu, Romania, July 5. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Rachel Korzeniewski)

Message from the Adjutant General

I'd like to begin by saying how proud I am of the South Dakota National Guard! This organization has built a tremendous legacy of excellence that dates back to our first muster in 1862. As I type these words, we have 164 Soldiers from the 153rd Engineer Battalion nine months into their deployment, spread across nine locations in four different countries, 125 Airmen from the 114th Fighter Wing deployed to six different countries, 13 Soldiers of A Battery, 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion, finishing up operations in Romania, 15 Soldiers from the 200th Engineer Company and three from the 216th Firefighter Detachment mobilized doing their final preparations for overseas deployment at Fort Bliss, Texas, and one Soldier assigned to Suriname performing her State Partnership Program duties.

In addition, we have 93 Soldiers of Company C, 1-189th Aviation in their final phase of home station preparation for an October deployment overseas and

28 Soldiers of Detachment 1, Company B, 935th CS Battalion in the initial stages of preparation for a June 2018 deployment.

Other than a few short months during a period over Christmas in 2015, we have had troops continuously deployed for the past 15 years. This is what it means to be a member of the National Guard today! Our nation, actually the world relies upon our expertise, our dedication and our willingness to serve anywhere on this planet at anytime to make this world a better place and that is what we are doing right now.

I am dedicating the balance of my column space for photos of our deployed troops. Please keep them in your prayers.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy A. Reisch".

Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch
The Adjutant General



114th Fighter Wing welcomes first female command chief

Story by Tech. Sgt. Luke Olson
114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

SIOUX FALLS - Chief Master Sgt. Zona Hornstra assumed the duties and responsibilities as the new command chief of the South Dakota Air National Guard's 114th Fighter Wing from retired Chief Master Sgt. Michael Clauson at a ceremony at Joe Foss Field in Sioux Falls, Aug. 5.

Hornstra becomes the 114th Fighter Wing's first female wing command chief to ever hold the title in the unit's history.

Col. Nate Alholinna, 114th FW commander, officiated the ceremony and passed the unit colors from Clauson to Hornstra marking the official change of responsibility.

"I'm super excited and very humbled to be chosen to support the commander in his vision and to support all of our Airmen within the wing," said Hornstra. "I'm definitely ready for this challenge and to do my best for the Airmen of the Wing."

Hornstra has served since 1997, working in the 175th Fighter Squadron, 114th Medical Group and SDANG Headquarters before accepting her new position as the highest ranking enlisted member of the wing.

"She has been in the Air Guard for a while, so she knows the system, she knows the mission, she knows what the Airmen need," said Clauson, who now serves as the battalion chief of training for Sioux Falls Fire Rescue. "She will do extremely well and it's time to turn it over to Chief Hornstra."

Hornstra will now serve as the principal advisor to Alholinna and his staff on matters of health, morale and welfare, professional development, diversity, inclusion, mentoring and force development of more than 1,000 Air National Guard members.

"She understands how to take care of Airmen, how to communicate, how to be the Airmen's voice, and to me that is the most important thing that she brings to the table," said Alholinna.



(Photo by Tech. Sgt. Luke Olson)

Col. Nate Alholinna passes the unit colors to Chief Master Sgt. Zona Hornstra as she assumes the duties and responsibilities as the command chief of the 114th Fighter Wing during a ceremony at Joe Foss Field, Aug. 5.



(Photo by Staff. Sgt. Duane Duimstra)

Chief Master Sgt. Zona Hornstra, center, assumes the duties as the new command chief of the 114th Fighter Wing from Chief Master Sgt. Michael Clauson, right, as Col. Nate Alholinna presides over the ceremony in Sioux Falls, Aug. 5



(Photo by Master Sgt. Christopher Stewart)

Chief Master Sgt. Zona Hornstra assumes the duties and responsibilities as the new command chief of the 114th Fighter Wing. Hornstra becomes the 114th's first female wing command chief to ever hold the title in the unit's history.

Purple Heart Run makes stop at Camp Rapid



RAPID CITY – Veterans from The Military Order of the Purple Heart made a stop at Camp Rapid to showcase the 2017 Purple Heart Truck, July 20.

The Purple Heart Run made its way from coast-to-coast and back on an 8,500 mile odyssey, rallying communities across America to thank the nation’s military veterans. The specially equipped truck was delivered to a double amputee wounded warrior at the MOPH convention in Dallas, Texas, Aug. 13.

The Purple Heart Run began July 1 in Washington D.C. and made stops in Sioux Falls, Mitchell, Chamberlain and Wall. Soldiers and Airmen from the South Dakota National Guard got the chance to see the vehicle up close and visit with its occupants, as well as sign the truck to express thanks and encouragement for the truck’s recipient.

James Logsdon, a double amputee Vietnam veteran, was behind the wheel of the vehicle along with passenger Ken Teunissen, commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of North and South Dakota. The two drove across the state and made stops to bring awareness to the struggles veterans face, especially those facing mobility issues.

“We need to take care of our veterans,” said Teunissen. “This is a good way of letting South Dakotans know that there are individuals out in the public that are in desperate need of transportation.”

The focus of the 2017 Purple Heart Run is “Mobility is Freedom.” Sponsored jointly by the Military Order of the Purple Heart and Wounded Warriors Family Support, the Purple Heart Run features a mobility-equipped, 2017 Ford F-150 Raptor truck, adapted to accommodate combat-wounded veterans who are paralyzed or have lost legs and/or arms. The belief is that, given the right vehicle for mobility, a combat-wounded veteran will have the freedom to live a productive and quality life with his or her family.

National Guard brings technology lessons to DSU students



MADISON – Classroom lessons are important, but real-life examples are invaluable for a complete education. That is why the organizers of Dakota State University’s GenCyber co-ed camps appreciate the South Dakota Army National Guard’s presence at camp to demonstrate how the military uses technology.

“It’s important for the students to see how the classroom examples and the real-world examples of networking and communication come together. It’s great that the Guard can facilitate that,” said camp director Dr. Kyle Cronin. Cronin is an assistant professor in DSU’s College of Computing.

This is the second year the 115th Signal Company of Brookings has provided a demonstration at GenCyber Camp, enhancing what the students are learning at camp by showing them “the capabilities we bring to the SDARNG and the Army as a whole,” said Sgt. 1st Class Barb Boyer.

The mission for the 40 members of the 115th is to take communications, the Internet, and networking to the battlefield, she said. She and four other Soldiers showed the students antennas, a satellite dish, a Humvee, and explained how these benefit the Soldiers in the field. The equipment they brought to campus would support a brigade, supplying about 3,000 to 4,000 users with voice, video and data, said Staff Sgt. Darin Huwe.

Guard training and experience could set the students apart from other college graduates, said both Boyer and Huwe. By learning the communication capabilities of satellites and antenna systems and networking systems, students “learn skill sets that will help them excel in the civilian world as well,” Boyer said.

Huwe added, “This is résumé experience.”

The fourth and final 2017 DSU GenCyber camp concluded on July 21. All totaled, almost 560 students and teachers attended the free camps, which are supported by grants from the National Science Foundation and the National Security Agency.

Prospective SD Guard recruits accept Warrior Challenge



PIERRE – The South Dakota Army National Guard’s 153rd Engineer Battalion hosted the 5th annual Warrior Challenge event in Pierre, July 15.

Warrior Challenge showcases the capabilities of the units in the 153rd and gives potential recruits an opportunity to see the benefits of joining the South Dakota National Guard.

This year’s event was comprised of five different stations from different companies within the battalion. Each station allowed future Soldiers to learn about various military occupations and skills while interacting with current Soldiers.

“The Warrior Challenge was ran by an amazing group of people, which made the day challenging and a ton of fun,” said Pvt. Makala Hauge, from Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, and who enlisted as unit supply specialist and will be attending Basic Combat Training in September.

The Warrior Challenge had a large turn out with over 60 participants, which were broken up into four to five-person teams. As each team moved through the stations, they competed for points to determine an overall winner of the event. The points are collected based on the time it takes each team to complete the event.

Some of the highlights from this year’s challenge included the rear detachment of the Headquarters and Forward Support Companies’ combat lifesaver lane, the 211th Engineer Company’s single-rope bridge, the 842nd Engineer Company’s mud run and the 200th Engineer Company’s raft race.

“It was fun to see so many enthusiastic kids who were motivated to come out and complete all of the events,” said Sgt. 1st Class Libby Flemming, 153rd personnel staff non-commissioned officer.

The Warrior Challenge is just one of the many tools the SDARNG is using to increase recruiting efforts for the 16-21 year-old age group.

NASA astronaut visits 114th Fighter Wing

Story by Master Sgt. Chris Stewart - 114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

SIOUX FALLS - U.S. Air Force Col. Michael Hopkins, NASA astronaut, gave a presentation about NASA's goals for Mars and his experience on the International Space Station to a full auditorium at Joe Foss Field, Aug. 4. Hopkins focused on the effects of space travel on the human body and mind, along with other problems NASA is working to solve before future missions to Mars.

"We are focused on going to Mars," said Hopkins. "2030 is the time frame that we are marching towards."

Hopkins laid out the basic time frame for the NASA goal of putting a human on Mars. This included information about the new rockets and capsules being designed to carry a crew into space, and a six to nine month journey to the red planet. He then talked about his experience on the International Space Station and how astronauts are studied during and after their missions in order to better understand the effects that space travel has on their bodies and minds.

"It's all about science for exploration and science for helping life down here on earth," said Hopkins. "Things act differently in space; it's a strange environment and we need to understand it."

Many experiments take place in the International Space Station. Some of which the astronauts conduct for scientists on the ground, while other experiments are conducted remotely from the ground while the



(Photo by Master Sgt. Christopher Stewart)

U.S. Air Force Col. Michael Hopkins, NASA astronaut, poses for a photo with Brig. Gen. Joel De Groot, SDANG assistant adjutant general, Gov. Dennis Daugaard, and U.S. Sen. John Thune, Aug. 4.

astronauts sleep. The International Space Station is a 24-hour science lab where scientific research is constantly occurring.

During free time astronauts are able to video conference home, check emails, play around in micro gravity, or just look out the window at the earth from 250 miles above the surface.

Hopkins went on to describe the exercise routine required for astronauts in space to help reduce the amount of bone and muscle loss associated with long stays in space. After returning to Earth, astronauts are routinely examined to see how long it takes for their bodies to recover, and watched for any long term effects that may be caused by space travel.

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National Guard mechanics vital in pilots, flight crew safety

By Spc. Kristin Lichius - 129th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

RAPID CITY - Aviation mechanics play a vital role in ensuring the safety of the National Guard's pilots and flight crews. In the South Dakota Army National Guard, it is the mechanics of the Rapid City-based Detachment 1, Company B, 935th Aviation Support Battalion, who provide high-level aviation maintenance and repair support for the aircraft and aircraft systems.

"This unit plays an absolutely critical role in aviation support," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Seth Mendel, 935th detachment commander. "What we do can't be taken lightly because we have peoples' lives in our hands."

Every 360 flight hours, aircraft go through a phase maintenance inspection. This involves major disassembly and inspection of critical components. Worn or damaged components are then repaired or replaced as the aircraft is put back together. This process can take up to two months to complete.

"This job is important because we ensure these aircraft are safe," said Staff Sgt. Ryan Thorson, a general mechanic with the 935th. "We want our flight crews to be confident they're safe, and that they can rely on their equipment."

The nearly 30-member detachment is made up of general, shops and avionics mechanics. Each type of mechanic specializes in inspecting and repairing different equipment and systems on HH-60M Black Hawk and UH-72 Lakota helicopters.

"We're a small, close-knit unit and are able to cross-train many of our Soldiers," said Staff Sgt. Calvin Schmidt, the detachment sergeant of the 935th. "Cross-training helps build camaraderie in the unit and gives our Soldiers a unique opportunity to learn and appreciate each other's skills."

To become a mechanic, most Soldiers spend three or more months in training, learning about the aircraft. Mechanics who specialize in working with electrical or avionics attend a longer school.

"I love this job," said Spc. Kyle Pfeifle, 935th general mechanic. "Not everyone can say they get to work on Black Hawk helicopters, and the people in the unit are great."

While aircraft maintenance and repair is often a behind the scenes role, the SDARNG aviation mechanics play a big part in helping save lives by ensuring the reliability and efficiency of the Army's aircraft.



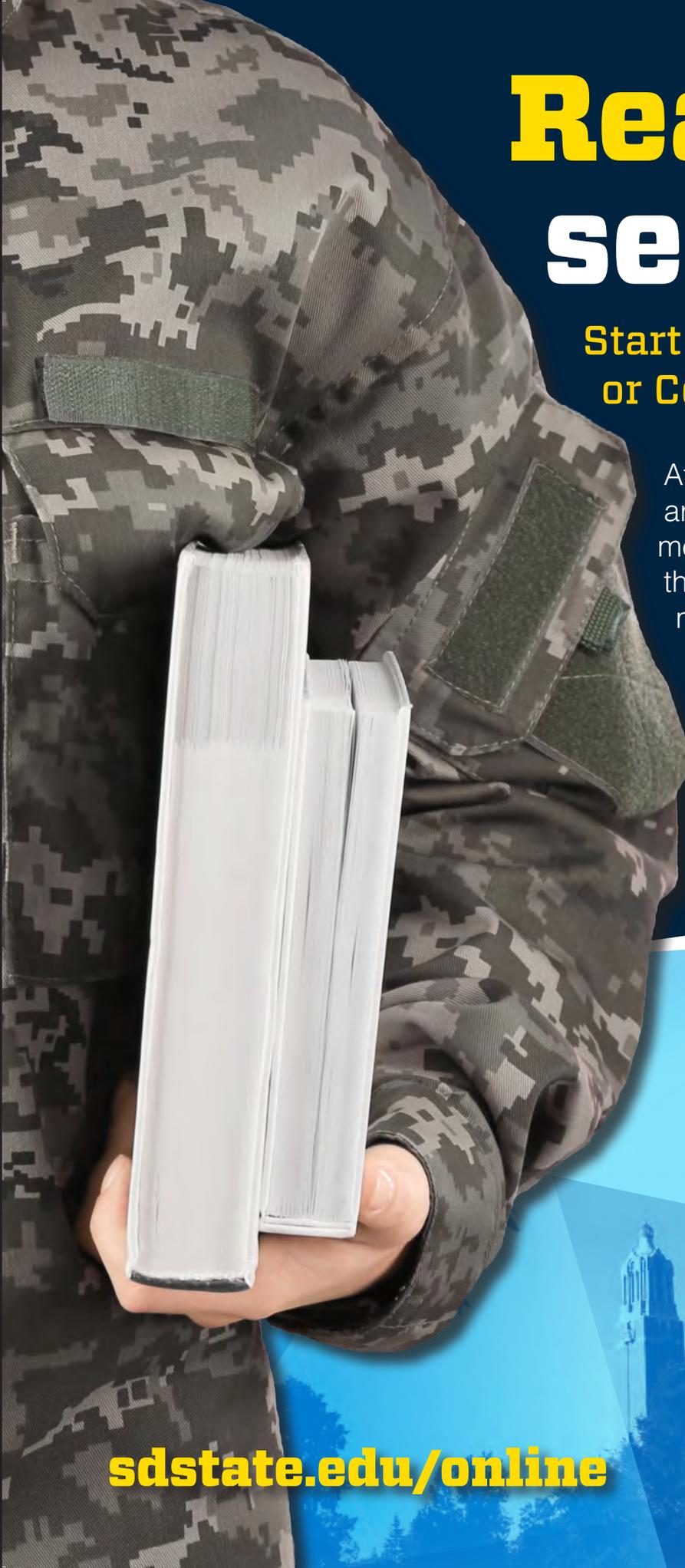
(Photo by Spc. Kristin Lichius)

Spc. Mark Heintz, a general mechanic Detachment 1, Company B, 935th Aviation Support Battalion removes safety wire to prepare a tail rotor paddle for further inspection.



(Photo by Spc. Kristin Lichius)

Spc. Ben Walker, a general mechanic with Detachment 1, Company B, 935th Aviation Support Battalion, and Spc. Matt Irwin, a crew chief with the Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, create a sheet metal template at the SDARNG aviation facility.



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200th Bridge Training Team honored during ceremony

Story by SDNG Public Affairs Office

PIERRE – Fifteen Soldiers from the South Dakota Army National Guard’s 200th Engineer Company were honored during a deployment ceremony in Pierre, July 22.

Hundreds of family members, friends and community supporters assembled at the Riggs High School auditorium to say farewell to the Soldiers who will depart for a nine-month deployment to the Middle East.

The Soldiers will serve as a Bridge Training Team and provide training and assistance to coalition forces on military bridge systems throughout the region. As a multi-role bridge unit, the 200th’s mission is to assemble, maintain, repair and replace all standard U.S. Army bridge systems.

“The Soldiers of the 200th Bridge Training Team have been preparing for over a year both physically and mentally, spending weeks away from home, in preparation for this day. I can tell you we are ready,” Capt. Mark Francisco said during the ceremony and officer in charge of the team. “We are ready for the challenges that will come before us, and we look forward to the day we can reunite.”

Other ceremony speakers wishing the Soldiers well included Gov. Dennis Daugaard, U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds, U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem, Pierre Mayor Steve Harding, and Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, SDNG adjutant general.

“We gather to thank you, the members of the 200th, for answering the difficult call to leave the comfort of your homes and the embraces of your families to serve your country,” said Daugaard. “To all of those deploying and to everyone else in their lives, thank you for your sacrifices, your patriotism and your hard work. Thank you for what you are doing for us.”

“As adjutant general, I couldn’t be prouder of this unit, of this team, as you get ready to go out the door,” said Reisch. “I’m very confident you are going to be successful on this deployment.”

Since the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the United States, this will be the third mobilization for the Pierre, Chamberlain and Mobridge-based unit, which deployed forces to Iraq in 2003-04 and Afghanistan in 2011-12.

One Soldier who is going on his third career deployment is Capt. A.J. Armstrong, executive officer for the team.

“Today is that ceremonial beginning – to be able to start the clock and have the official



(Photo by Spc. Carl Johnson)

Fifteen Soldiers from the 200th Engineer Company stand for the team roll call during a ceremony in Pierre.



(Photo by Spc. Carl Johnson)

Spc. Jesse Parsons sits with his family during the deployment ceremony of the 200th Bridge Training Team.

send off – it’s a good way to start it,” he said.

“It’s nice to see all the community support behind the Soldiers deploying,” added Armstrong’s wife, Ashley.

While A.J. and Ashley are not new to deployments, they will experience one for the first time with children.

“This is actually our first deployment with kids, so this will be brand new with four kids,” said Ashley. “But we know what to expect and kind of the rules of the road.”

Both A.J. and Ashley had advice for the other Soldiers and family members who may be experiencing a mobilization for the first time.

“The biggest thing is to lean on your Guard family, for both the Soldier and the spouse,” said A.J. “There is a lot of support within the unit and within the other families, so lean on them as much as you can.”

“I agree with him completely,” added Ashley. “Leaning on the Guard family and others who have gone through this before, or are currently going through the same thing – it’s nice to have someone to lean on.”

Armstrong and the rest of his team members will report to Fort Bliss, Texas, to complete several weeks of theater-specific training prior to deployment overseas.

216th firefighters honored during deployment ceremony

Story by SDNG Public Affairs Office

KEYSTONE – Family, friends and colleagues gathered at the “Shrine of Democracy,” Mount Rushmore National Memorial, July 17, for a deployment ceremony in honor of the South Dakota Army National Guard’s 216th Engineer Detachment (Firefighting Team).

Supporters of the unit assembled at the monument’s amphitheater to say farewell to the three Soldiers of Rapid City-based 216th as they depart for a nine-month tour to Romania.

“On behalf of all of South Dakota, I thank you for your service, your courage, your willingness to step forward and protect that which gives us wonderful opportunities in America,” said Gov. Dennis Daugaard during the ceremony. “For that I thank you and I wish you Godspeed and God bless you.”

The mission of the 216th is to provide command and control of attached firefighting teams to provide fire protection of aviation assets, facilities and installations in the European Command area of operation.

Since the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the United States, this is the second mobilization for the 216th, which deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003-2005.

“One hundred years ago today, the South Dakota National Guard was completely mobilized during World War I, and 20 years after that it was again totally mobilized for World War II,” said Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, SDNG adjutant general, to the audience. “Make no mistake about it, we have a three-man unit deploying overseas today. This is a big deal too. This is a part of our history and a part of our legacy that we are creating today.”

The unit will also deploy with three assigned Army National Guard firefighting teams from Hawaii, South Carolina and Idaho, as well as one active-duty Army unit. The 216th will report to Fort Bliss, Texas, to complete several weeks of theater-specific training prior to deployment overseas.

The unit’s commander, Capt. Jared Bloomgren, said the unit has been training hard for the past year to prepare for this deployment.

“My team’s readiness, as well as the other units that are going with, I definitely feel confident about the mission that is going to take place,” said Bloomgren. “We’ve known for over a year that the deployment is coming up and you have all this training that has to take place before you leave. We are prepared.”



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Mike Beck)

Soldiers of the 216th Engineer Detachment (Firefighting Team) stand for the unit roll call during the unit’s deployment ceremony at the Mount Rushmore National Memorial amphitheater, July 17.

After months of training, Sgt. 1st Class Austin Hagen, 216th fire chief, said he is ready to start the deployment, but is also poignant about leaving his family behind.

“Having command and control over other fire teams is something that we haven’t got a chance to do,” he said. “Getting an opportunity to perform our mission is

something I’m excited about.

“We’re anxious, but we are ready to get it going,” continued Hagen. “It’s kind of a bittersweet moment for us – having to leave our families, but we are ready to get the deployment started. My family is very proud of me, and I have a huge support system. I appreciate my family and all they do.”



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Mike Beck)

Gov. Dennis Daugaard expresses his thanks to Sgt. 1st Class Austin Hagen and the Soldiers of the 216th Engineer Detachment at the unit’s deployment ceremony, July 17.



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Mike Beck)

Capt. Jared Bloomgren, commander of the 216th Engineer Detachment, addresses his Soldiers and the crowd gathered during the unit’s deployment ceremony at Mount Rushmore.

Airmen of the 114th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron phase inspection element remove a panel from a F-16 during a phase maintenance inspection, July 8.
 (Photo by Master Sgt. Christopher Stewart)



Keeping the fighters in the fight

Story by Master Sgt. Christopher Stewart – 114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

SIoux FALLS - Airmen of the 114th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron phase inspection element keep the squadron of F-16 Fighting Falcons stationed at Joe Foss Field in Sioux Falls combat ready. The stressed placed on fighter aircraft during flight, necessitate routine disassembly, inspection, repair and reassembly to make sure each system and subsystem is functioning per Air Force Instructions.

Keeping the 114th Fighter Wing's squadron of F-16s in peak condition is no easy task as it demands a high degree of precision and attention to detail. The Airmen of these maintenance back shops are up to the task.

"Every 400 flight hours the aircraft will go through the phase process," said Master Sgt. Matt Hummel, 114th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron phase inspection supervisor. "Almost every maintenance shop on base has a tasking in the process."

The process is orchestrated by the phase shop, but each individual maintenance shop will have specific tasks to complete. As Airmen start to remove many of the panels from the aircraft, Airmen from the engine shop come in and begin the process of removing the jet engine. Soon after avionics Airmen come arrive to work on instruments in the cockpit. Soon the F-16 will be towed to the fuel barn were all of its fuel lines, pumps, cells and bladders will be examined and checked for leaks, excessive wear, and foreign objects.

"Much of the wiring and hydraulics of the F-16 run through the fuel cells," said Tech. Sgt. Tyler Christiansen, 114th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron fuels technician. "Many other shops run inspections and do repairs while the fuel cells are open and being inspected, and we work

hand in hand with them to finish their tasking."

All of this falls under the initial Fuel Phase. Following the Fuel Phase, the aircraft moves through the Look Phase, where all the shops inspect and test their components to find any hidden issues. Followed by the Gear Phase, that focuses on the functionality of the landing gear, breaks, and wheels. Once complete, the maintainers begin the Fix Phase where all the aircraft maintenance shops come together again to repair problems found during previous phases. This occurs while the engine



(Photo by Master Sgt. Christopher Stewart)

114th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron engine shop Airmen remove the engine of a F-16 during a phase maintenance inspection at Joe Foss Field.



Senior Airman Nicholas Jones, 114th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron sheet metal mechanic, removes a panel from the tail of a F-16. (Photo by Master Sgt. Christopher Stewart)

is being reinstalled. Once all known problems are addressed, the aircraft goes through one last look for quality assurance and the panels are put back on. The final day includes multiple ground tests to ensure all systems are up and running within regulations.

The detailed process of disassembling, inspecting, and reassembling of the aircraft takes a tremendous amount of time, as well as the involvement of many specialized aircraft maintenance back shops on base. Each shop inspects, and if needed repairs, the portion of the aircraft they are responsible for.

“On average the process takes around 24 working days,” said Hummel. “The process typically requires around 1500 man hours to complete.”

These numbers go up dramatically if the aircraft is found to have any major issues, but the Airmen of the phase inspection element would not have it any other way.

“I love this job,” said Tech. Sgt. Beau Bartscher, 114th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron phase mechanic. “There is nothing more rewarding than watching the jet you helped to rebuild, launch and recover safely during its next flight.”

Through their hard work, attention to detail, and dedication, 114th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron phase inspection Airmen are ensuring the South Dakota Air National Guard will continue to maintain ready and reliable units and have equipment and facilities which support both federal and state missions.

Rising 6 continues to volunteer in the community

Story by Staff Sgt. Duane Duimstra – 114th FW PAD

SIOUX FALLS - The 114th Fighter Wing Rising 6 organization participated in the Paint the Town event, June 10, in Sioux Falls. The Rising 6 selected to work with Paint the Town because it was an opportunity to work with another organization to help people in need.

The Rising 6 is made up of Airmen to technical sergeants who want to make an impact in the Air National Guard, Sioux Falls and surrounding communities.

Paint the Town event is an all-day event where houses are nominated by friends, family and neighbors to be prepped and painted by volunteers. Approximately 20 Airmen and family members came ready to work on a hot Saturday morning.

“The Paint the Town program provided most of the supplies to paint the house. They left organizing with the home owner and the work needed to be done to the Rising 6,” said Senior Airman Briana Grage, 114th Fighter Wing Rising 6 president. “Some of our Airmen brought extra supplies, such as ladders and paint sprayers, to make painting easier.”

The Airmen and their family members power washed and scrapped the old paint before the painted the house.

“The Airmen and their families did an amazing job working together to finish a project that was tougher than expected,” said Grage “It really shows that the Airmen of the 114th Fighter Wing are selfless and willing



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Duane Duimstra)

A 114th Fighter Wing Rising 6 Airman and family member paint a door during the Paint the Town event June 10 in Sioux Falls.

to give back to the community.”

It took approximately six hours to prep and paint the entire house. It was a successful event and a good way to give back to the Sioux Falls community.

“This was an amazing opportunity to help someone in need,” said Grage. “The Rising 6 would love expand our community outreach by giving our members more opportunities to volunteer with different organizations in the Sioux Falls and surrounding communities.”

1-112th Regiment supports local, state, federal agencies

Story by Spc. Rebecca Glidden
129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

RAPID CITY - While most South Dakota Army National Guard units focus their yearly training on missions for a combat theater, one aviation unit is honing its skills to support homeland security.

The Rapid City-based Detachment 1, Company B, 1-112th Aviation Regiment, using its UH-72 Lakota helicopters, serves alongside local, state and federal agencies in support of security defense requirements.

“We’ve spent a lot of years training at local exercises, including Golden Coyote, and a few years ago at the Sturgis Rally,” said Capt. John Barnes, 1-112th commander. “In these exercises we do a lot of law enforcement support. These agencies know our abilities, so they are able to set us up with missions that allow us to gain experience.”

Composed of a variety of technical experts including pilots, crew chiefs, mechanics and operations support personnel, the nearly 30-member unit can provide aerial reconnaissance, search and rescue support, and counter drug assistance.

Supporting various agencies on homeland security missions gives unit members a unique experience, increases the unit’s capabilities, and builds relationships with federal, state and local government agencies, Barnes said.

“The best way that our crew can stay proficient on our equipment is by going out and doing missions,” Barnes added.

Serving and supporting law enforcement missions is not specific to the Black Hills or South Dakota as the 112th will go where aircraft are needed.

“The greatest experience that we received as a unit was when we deployed to the U.S. Southern Border to support U.S. Customs and Border Protection,” Barnes said. “We had missions every night where we found out what works, what doesn’t, and we have a hard time recreating that here in the state.”

The unit is looking forward to future opportunities.

“I am ready to deploy with a full unit, doing all of our jobs together and being able to support missions,” said Barnes. “We get everyone in one place, spending 24 hours a day together and we are all doing it to accomplish the same mission.”



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Mike Beck)

A UH-72 Lakota helicopter crew from Company B, 1-112th Aviation Regiment conducts pre-flight checks prior to a training flight to prepare for a mission to the U.S. Southwest border.



(Photo by Sgt. Austin Pearce)

Soldiers from Company B, 1-112th Aviation Regiment load a UH-72 Lakota helicopter aboard a C-17 Globemaster at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Rapid City in June as the unit prepares for their annual training.

114th FW, Royal Air Force personnel build relationships through exchange program

Story by Tech. Sgt. Luke Olson
114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

SIOUX FALLS - The 114th Fighter Wing hosted Royal Air Force Reservist Ft. Lt. Andy Wolfe, 607 Squadron logistics officer, May 30-June 11, at Joe Foss Field through the Military Reserve Exchange Program.

MREP is a reciprocal exchange program which provides National Guard and Reserve members, both officer and enlisted, the opportunity to train with select foreign allied nations and gain a better understanding how foreign militaries operate.

Lt. Col. Scott Rust, South Dakota Air National Guard plans officer, is the first unit member to participate in the program. Wolfe hosted Rust in the United Kingdom, July 17-28. Each host has the opportunity to display their unit's readiness to their guest and learn from the visiting foreign participant.

"It's really a career broadening experience," said Rust. "We are now working together more and more, and we aren't just active duty, Guard or Reserve. You are now seeing the international partners of the U.K., Australia, Germany, for example, so it's important that you understand their culture and what their needs and goals are too."

In the fiscal year 2017, 84 applications were submitted in the Air National Guard and 16 chosen for the program. The states/territories selected to participate in the program will host a foreign reserve exchange selectee in return from either the U.K., Germany, Estonia or Denmark.

"I encourage anybody to apply," said Rust. "The Guard has done a good job of giving us opportunities, and we need to take advantage of the opportunities that are presented to us."

This opportunity has provided Wolfe with insight on how the 114th FW supports both the state and the federal missions. He has toured many shops on base and spent time learning how the base operates, runs the logistics and day-to-day activities.

"We operate in quite a different way," said Wolfe. "We don't have force elements as a squadron, we don't have jets, we don't have a base like the 114th. We are a unit on a conventional, regular RAF base, and we work to provide trained manpower and readiness to



(Photo by Tech. Sgt. Luke Olson)

Royal Air Force Reservists Ft. Lt. Andrew Wolfe, 607 Squadron logistic officer, poses for a picture with Lt. Col. Scott Rust, 114th Fighter Wing plans officer, during his visit as part of the Military Reserve Exchange Program.



(Photo by Tech. Sgt. Luke Olson)

Ft. Lt. Andrew Wolfe talks with Brig. Gen. Russ Walz, South Dakota National Guard director of joint staff, and Col. Gregory Lair, 114th Fighter Wing vice-commander, during his visit to Joe Foss Field, June 3.

be used as a resource by the wider Air Force on enduring operations at home and abroad."

Both Wolfe and Rust agreed building these relationships could benefit allied forces down the road, so when they work with allied militaries they could use these experiences to enhance future relationships.

"It just builds a better working relationship getting to better understand each other," said Rust. "You can't do that just being at an exercise for a week or two, so that is what really intrigued me to have the opportunity to sit down and get to know them and see how they really do business."

Trail of Governors unveils statues of two former SD Guardsmen, governors

Story by Capt. Chad Carlson
SDNG Public Affairs Office

Statues of two former South Dakota National Guardsmen, who also served as governors, were unveiled as part of the state's Trail of Governors, in Pierre, June 16. The Trail of Governors, which began unveiling bronze statues of South Dakota governors in 2012, unveiled four more at this year's ceremony inside the capitol building that included Leslie Jensen and Joe Foss, the 15th and 20th governors respectively.

"I'm very proud of the men and women of the South Dakota National Guard - who put their lives on the line overseas and do so much to serve us at home," Gov. Dennis Daugaard said before sculptors unveiled the statues. "We have National Guard Soldiers and Airmen from South Dakota deployed today as we sit here in this rotunda. I'd like to think that these two statues will pay tribute not only to those two governors but all the men and women who served in our South Dakota National Guard."

LESLIE JENSEN

Jensen, governor from 1937-1939, a Hot Springs businessman with no political experience, emphasized highway construction and tourism promotion. He strengthened state finances through increased taxes, cuts in state spending, and a reduction in state-held debt.

In 1937, Jensen was both the governor of South Dakota and commander of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, making him the only political figure in the state to be both commander of a National Guard unit and his own commander-in-chief.

Today, this dual status would raise legal and regulatory issues; in South Dakota of the era, questions were never asked. Historians credit his ability to manage both assignments based on his reputation for being one of the most diplomatic persons to ever hold the office of governor.

Raised in South Dakota, where his family owned and operated the People's Telephone and Telegraph Company that served the Fall River county seat and the surrounding area.

Jensen attended the Culver Military Academy in Indiana for high school and served as the regimental supply officer for the 4th South Dakota Infantry during its active duty service on the Mexican border in 1916-17.

From there he went on to serve as the adjutant of the 147th Field Artillery Regiment in France during World War I, 1917-18. He returned home, earned a law degree from the University of South Dakota in 1921,



(Photo by Capt. Chad Carlson)

The Trail of Governors unveiled the bronze statue of Leslie Jensen, a former South Dakota governor and member of the South Dakota Army National Guard.

and worked as a collector for the Internal Revenue Service in addition to maintaining his membership in the South Dakota National Guard.

Jensen served one term as a Republican governor from 1937 to 1939. He decided against running for a second term and subsequently lost a bid for the GOP nomination to run for the U.S. Senate against Yankton's Chan Guerney. During his tenure, the state's long-term overdraft status was eliminated and the highway patrol established.



(Photo by Capt. Chad Carlson)

The Trail of Governors unveiled the bronze statue of Joe Foss, a former South Dakota governor and founding member of the South Dakota Air National Guard.

When the National Guard started up again after World War I, Jensen was appointed major in the 2nd Battalion, 147th Field Artillery on May 11, 1922 and remained at that rank and unit for 17 years.

The 147th Field Artillery was called to active duty in 1940, then Lt. Col. Jensen went with the Regiment to Fort Ord, Calif., as the executive officer. When Col. Eugene Foster was relieved, Jensen was selected to command and was promoted to colonel as the 147th continued its service first in Australia and then across various islands in the South Pacific. Jensen continued in command until 1944, when he was selected to be liaison officer for Lt. Gen. Walter Krueger, commander of 6th Army, which included in various combinations of I, X, XIV and XXIV Corps.

After the war, Jensen returned to Hot Springs to resume management of his family-owned telephone company. He died in an automobile accident in Rapid City on Dec. 14, 1964.

The Leslie Jensen Scenic Highway, part of U.S. Route 18, has been named in his honor. In 1987, the Governor Leslie Jensen House, his family residence, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Jensen's statue can be viewed at the South Dakota National Guard Museum in Pierre through August when it will be placed near the Soldiers and Sailors War Memorial building.

JOE FOSS

Foss, governor from 1955-1959, a heroic World War II fighter ace and Medal of Honor winner, initiated the first state-directed economic development efforts. After leaving office, Foss led the American Football League, hosted outdoor television shows, and served as president of the National Rifle Association.

He enlisted in the Battery F, 147th Field Artillery, South Dakota Army National Guard, on Oct. 2, 1939. He was discharged on March 7, 1940, in order to join the Marine Corps.

His accomplishments as a Marine pilot in WW II are well known.

Foss was appointed to form an Air National Guard squadron at Sioux Falls on July 10, 1946. The mission of the squadron would be to recruit and train aircrews and ground crews to a level of operational proficiency, which would enable them to intercept and destroy enemy airborne weapons. The equipment slate for the proposed unit included 25 of the fast and maneuverable P-51 Mustangs, a first-line fighter of the day.

Foss called a meeting for those interested and plans were formulated for organizing the squadron. Authority to activate the 175th Fighter Squadron in South Dakota was issued and on Sept. 20, 1946, the organization received federal recognition. Foss was a lieutenant colonel with the duty assignment of squadron commander, 175th Fighter Squadron. He was promoted to colonel on Aug. 17, 1950.

The 175th was reassigned to the 133rd Fighter Interceptor Wing along with units from Fargo, Duluth and Minneapolis in November 1950. The unit was called to active duty on March 1, 1951 and moved to Ellsworth Air Force Base in Rapid City to provide support for the B-36 bombers stationed there.

The unit remained nearly intact and at the end of the active duty was returned to state control and reorganized on Dec. 1, 1952.

Foss was promoted to brigadier general on Oct. 13, 1953.

Foss' statue can be viewed at the South Dakota National Guard Museum through August when it will be placed near the Joe Foss State Office Building.

In addition to Foss and Jensen, statues were also unveiled for Tom Berry, who served as the state's 14th governor from 1933-1937 and Sigurd Anderson, who served as the 19th governor from 1951-1955.

SABER GUARDIAN 1-147th FA Battalion trains with US, Romania forces



Soldiers from the 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion conclude their training and participation in Saber Guardian 17 in Cincu, Romania in July.

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Rachel Korzeniewski – 129th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Soldiers of South Dakota Army National Guard’s 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion trained alongside U.S. and allied nation forces during the exercise Saber Guardian 17 in Romania, July 2-18. About 110 Soldiers from the battalion trained on their operational capabilities, battlefield integration and fire support coordination with U.S. Army, National Guard and Romanian forces.

SG17, a U.S. Army Europe-led, multinational exercise, takes place in Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania with approximately 25,000 service members from 22 partner nations. The exercise highlights participant deterrence capabilities, specifically the ability to mass forces at any given time anywhere in Europe.

“Our mission for Saber Guardian was to deploy to Romania and show our commitment to our NATO allies for our common defense,” said Lt. Col. Paul Hollenack, commander, 5th Battalion, 113th Field Artillery Regiment, North Carolina Army National Guard. “We want to show our interoperability through a fire support coordination exercise and a combined arms live-fire exercise that demonstrates how we can integrate maneuver, air and artillery forces from various partner nations into concentrated effects on the battlefield.”

While participating in SG17, Alpha Battery, 1-147th FA was assigned under the 5-113th Field Artillery Battalion and 1st Cavalry Division Artillery of Fort Hood, Texas. The battery operates the M270A1 Multiple Launch Rocket System, which can fire 12 surface-to-surface rockets in fewer than 60 seconds.

“We are working with 1st Cavalry Division Artillery, the main division in the Army, in conjunction with 5-113th Field Artillery Battalion, a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System unit, to learn the different capabilities and similarities of each other’s launchers while conducting field artillery operations,” said Staff Sgt. Nicholas Tyler, launcher chief, Alpha Battery.

“The 1-147th brought a new and different capability,” said Hollenack. “Being from a different state, they also brought a new perspective on



The Romanian Army’s 83rd Larom Battalion fires a rocket during SG17, July 7.

training and how they operate, which we were all able to learn from.”

The exercise gave the units an idea in many ways what it’s like to deploy and fight in a foreign country. Going overseas brings new obstacles for units, such as learning new terrain and increased planning and preparation compared to using the same training area year after year.

“If you look at the fundamental tasks we trained in, they weren’t much different, but we fundamentally changed the conditions in which we operated and that really challenged us in our processes and systems – that is where the learning comes,” said Hollenack.

The 1st Cav. DIVARTY provides fire support coordination and mission command for the training and readiness of field artillery units participating in SG17.

“Falling under division artillery and having them generate the pace of the fire missions we were executing was a new challenge and a growing event for us,” said Capt. Brandon Jarman, commander of Alpha Battery, 1-147th FA. “The live-fire exercise we participated in was a joint-fire mission alongside multiple nations and active duty components – integrating tube artillery and aviation assets is a piece we do not normally get to exercise.”

Tyler said the exercise gave the unit an idea on what to expect the next time they’re in a similar situation, such as coming up with ways to keep the launchers cool during down time and better sleep plans for the crews.



A M270A1 Multiple Launch Rocket System from 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery fires a M26 practice rocket while participating in Saber Guardian 17 in Romania, July 15.



ABOVE: Spc. Chris Ewalt and Sgt. Brooks Jacobsen, 147th Forward Support Company, work to repair a M270A1 Multiple Launch Rocket System, July 17. BELOW: Spc. Ben Stotz, Alpha Battery, 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion, monitors radio communications during fire missions in Cincu, Romania, July 7.



“The most unique aspect about this training is the field time. We normally do not spend this much time in the field,” said Tyler. “The weather has been a challenge, it changes very quickly here and we’ve had rain storms come through in a matter of 10 minutes. That’s something we do not see at home.”

Training alongside allied nations has also created opportunities the units wouldn’t normally have.

“In any exercise or event, you are always coordinating with the units to your left and your right,” said Hollenack. “With the Romanian 83rd Larom Battalion being on our right flank, we have had a lot of direct coordination with deconflicting terrain where U.S. forces are on the battlefield, as well as sharing space for our fire direction center, sharing resources, sharing ambulances and doing combined medevac exercises. That is where our main interaction with Romania comes from in this exercise.”

Part of this training exercise was for NATO and U.S. forces to work together and build relationships.

“Watching the Romanian Laroms fire and conduct their crew drills helped build that relationship and trust,” said Jarman. “It was nice to see that their tactics, techniques, procedures and operations are not that different from ours.”

For the live-fire missions to be successful, the unit needed support from numerous sections. Each component went through their own obstacles to ensure the fire missions were a success.

“The most critical component the unit has is our maintenance section,” said Tyler. “Without them, we wouldn’t be able to complete our missions, and they’ll work day and night to ensure our launchers are ready. Communication and the support staff are also key parts in making sure we are successful.”

Fire direction crews had a few hurdles of their own to jump through during this year’s annual training.

“A challenge as a fire direction chief is coordinating fire,” said Staff Sgt. Jesse Holman, fire direction chief, Alpha Battery, 1-147th FA. “We had close air and maneuver elements in our area of operations, overcoming these challenges gave us an opportunity to train in a realistic scenario.”

Jarman said he wanted the unit to concentrate on certain tasks such as survivability, movability and communication – aspects of field artillery that tend to take a backseat to live-fire missions.

“A lot of the credit goes to our guys that have been out in the field working hard,” said Tyler. “This mission was successful because of all the time and effort the lower enlisted and non-commissioned officers put in. They did a great job out here.”



Native American event brings cultural awareness to Soldiers

Story by SDNG Public Affairs Office

The White Eagle Drum and Dance Society demonstrates a women's dance during the Native American Cultural Day.

The South Dakota National Guard concluded its annual Golden Coyote training exercise with a Native American Cultural Day on Camp Rapid, June 15. The event gave hundreds of service members from 14 states and two foreign nations attending the two-week training exercise the opportunity to see a variety of exhibits and demonstrations on Native American culture.

"This idea was formed through the SD Army Diversity Council with the goal of reaching out to our local community and organizations in order to bridge the gap between varying cultures in the SD National Guard," said Capt. Carstin Jerzak, SDNG equality, diversity and inclusion manager. "The council chose to focus on the Native American culture based on lots of curiosity and interest from units attending Golden Coyote in the past."

Units attending Golden Coyote conduct military operations, train on their equipment and employ tactics, and complete various humanitarian missions and engineer projects that help improve the forest and infrastructure of many communities. One annual project includes military transportation assets loading, transporting and unloading timber to Native American communities.

"We've been delivering timber to various reservations throughout South Dakota for years

now," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Bill White, a member of the SD Army Diversity Council.

White said mission requirements limit the



The South Dakota National Guard concludes its annual Golden Coyote training exercise with a Native American Cultural Day in Rapid City, June 15.

opportunity service members have to meet with the Lakota people and learning about their culture and customs.

"Events like this introduce the culture to the service members - build bridges and close gaps - and that's this event's mission," said White.

The White Eagle Drum and Dance Society presented a pow wow, living exhibit, demonstrating and displaying components of a pow wow, traditional dances, and attire.

Exhibits included the Code Talker Congressional Medallions and tribal flags that included the list of veterans who served as code talkers during WWI or WWII, a display on the use and importance of the buffalo to Native American's, an authentic teepee and several artifacts or replicas representing cultural and/or traditional life as a Plains Indian.

Service members and their families were able to sample traditional Native American food such as buffalo stew, fry bread and wojapi and make a dream catcher or a God's eye, items significant to the Native American culture and their spiritual walk.

"I hope we all gain greater appreciation for Native American heritage and we see where our cultures have similarities verse differences," Jerzak said. "Hopefully this creates opportunities to get to know someone we may not have had the opportunity to in the past or at other events."



Spc. Erika Cotton, Alpha Battery, 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion, loads a rocket pod into a M270A1 Multiple Launch Rocket System during Saber Guardian 17 in Cincu, Romania, July 5.

Women take on combat roles in field artillery

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Rachel Korzeniewski - 129th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

In 2013, South Dakota Army National Guard's 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion welcomed the first females into their ranks. Spc. Erika Cotton was South Dakota's first qualified female field artillery crew member to join the 1-147th. Cotton said when she joined the SDARNG, she didn't realize she would be the first.

"At first I thought being the first female would put a lot of weight on my back, but I've just kept going to pave the way for more females," said Cotton.

Cotton wasn't the only female to join the 1-147th, Spc. Stephanie Kasten joined shortly after her.

"All I wanted to do was join the Guard," said Kasten. "Being one of the first females in the field artillery never crossed my mind."

Kasten is a truck commander of an ammo truck and Cotton is a driver of a M270A1 Multiple Launch Rocket System.

"The best part of my job is knowing my team is playing a huge part in the fight on the battlefield," said Cotton. "Shooting rockets is pretty awesome."

Today, the 1-147th has 47 females out of about 390 Soldiers.

"I have two females in my section, Cotton and Kasten, and they're both extremely hard workers," said Staff Sgt. Dan Noeldner, launcher crew chief, Alpha Battery, 1-147th FA. "Them being females has never stopped them from doing their jobs."

Spc. Haili Wimer is a fire direction specialist in the 1-147th. She said she is capable of doing her job just like the other men in her section.

Cotton's advice for other females joining the field artillery is to stay positive in any situation, embrace every moment and remember you are just as capable to do this job.

"You can do anything you put your mind to," said Cotton. "If you come across any obstacles, remember you are never alone."



Spc. Stephanie Kasten, Alpha Battery, 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion, conducts maintenance services on a Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck while participating in Saber Guardian 17 in Cincu, Romania, July 5.



(Photo by Capt. Chad Carlson)

Brig. Gen. Kevin Griese, assistant adjutant general of the South Dakota Army National Guard, administers the Oath of Office to seven newly commissioned second lieutenants during a commissioning ceremony at Camp Rapid, Rapid City, Aug. 18. The newly commissioned officers will be assigned to National Guard units across South Dakota.



(Courtesy photo)

Five South Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers and five Ellsworth Air Force Base Airmen were honored at the 31st annual military appreciation pig roast put on by the Rapid City Chamber of Commerce's Military Affairs Committee in Rapid City, July 28. Every year, select Soldiers and Airmen are recognized for outstanding performance within their respective organization. This year's honorees from the SDARNG are: Sgt. Gabriella Avila Martinez, Staff Sgt. Kayla Morris, Staff Sgt. Cory Sterkel, Sgt. 1st Class Holly Walton, and Capt. Waylon Skelton.



(Photo by Capt. Chad Carlson)

South Dakota National Guard employees at Camp Rapid show their support of 114th Fighter Wing Airmen deployed around the world during a R.E.D. (Remember Everyone Deployed) Friday event Aug. 25.



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Duane Duimstra)

114th Fighter Wing pilots are introduced and recognized at the top of the 6th inning during the first game of the NCAA College World Series finals June 26, in Omaha, Neb, where they performed a fly over at beginning of the game.



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Lucas Bollock)

Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe Chairman Dave Flute presents Sen. Mike Rounds, Brig. Gen. Russ Walz, SDNG director of the joint staff, and Brig. Gen. Kevin Griese, assistant adjutant general of the SDARNG, with pendants at Agency Village, June 30. Two SDANG F-16 Fighting Falcons honored Native American veterans for their service to the United States with a flyover.

Learned helplessness or learned hopefulness?

When elephants are first captured in the wild, they are tied to a big tree by one leg. In captivity the elephant tries again and again to break free but can't, so eventually gives up. When it is sold to the circus, all that it takes to keep one of the world's strongest animals from moving is tying its leg to a small stake in the ground. Why? The elephant doesn't try because in its mind he already believes he'll be a failure. This is a psychological phenomenon called "learned helplessness."

As the Army National Guard "Achieving Spiritual Resilience" resource says, "We are often like that elephant, immobilized by an imaginary stake. We can, however, pull out the stake and go down any path we choose."

Let's discuss the difference between "learned helplessness" and "learned hopefulness."

1. Learned helplessness believes failure defines us. Learned hopefulness believes failure helps lead to success. Whether our career has not gone as we had hoped, whether our marriage has not gone as we had hoped, or whether our dreams now seem beyond our reach, enough failure leads us to 'stop trying to move the stake.' In fact, even worse, we think the failure defines us, and use terms that describe our worst failure to others. The danger is that we start believing failure is our future. Learned hopefulness sees failure not as what defines what we can't accomplish, but as what helps us to learn what we can. Edison attempted many times to discover the light bulb, but said "I haven't failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." The only way failure will define us is if we believe it does!

2. Learned helplessness believes we are victims of circumstances. Learned hopefulness believes we can determine our own destiny. In one sense, there are certain limitations, which affect our ability to do whatever we want. For example, at my height I doubt I'll ever play in the NBA! But even though there are things that play a part in our future, we are largely responsible for shaping our own future. As one article said: "although the environment can be seen to determine behavior, psychologists also talk about how we shape our own individual environment. This they call reciprocal determinism." We can choose to be positive even though our environment is negative. And this 'reciprocal determinism' can become a habit that determines our destiny.

3. Learned helplessness believes that rejection is the greatest tragedy that can ever befall us. Learned hopefulness believes our passion for what we believe is greater than the rejection of those who don't. The two examples I use are Jesus and Jobs. First Peter 2:23 says, "When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats." The suffering and death of Christ reveal that there is greater freedom in not returning the cruel insults and pain others have caused us. Second, Steve Jobs. We think of Steve Jobs as the supremely talented founder of Apple. But Steve Jobs was fired from the very company he started! As one writer said, "The dismissal made him realize that his passion for his work exceeded the disappointment of failure." "I didn't see it then, but it turned out that getting fired from Apple was the best thing that could have ever happened to me," he said in 2005.

I leave you with a quote from Harvard dropout and co-owner of a business called Traf-O-Data, which failed. Perhaps you know his

name? Bill Gates. Gates turned that failed business and became the pioneer of Microsoft. "It's fine to celebrate success, but it is more important to heed the lessons of failure." My encouragement to you is to keep trying to pull the stake out of the ground!—no matter how many failures you've experienced. And in that process, heed the lessons even failure can bring!



(Remember to also keep the members and families of those deployed, the 114th, 153rd, 216th, and 200th in your thoughts and prayers!)

Chaplain Lynn Wilson

State/Full-time Support CH

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lynn.j.wilson.mil@mail.mil



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