

DAKOTA PACK

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



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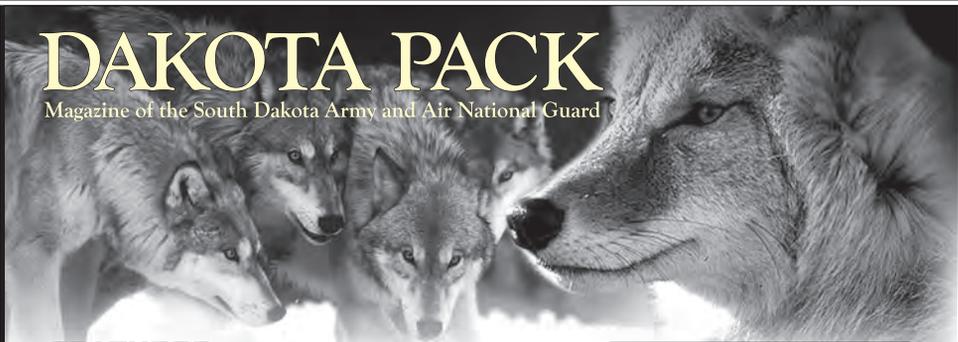
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Magazine of the South Dakota Army and Air National Guard



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On the Cover

Command Sgt. Maj. Gary DeVries hugs his daughter after returning from a 10-month deployment to the Middle East with the 153rd Engineer Battalion in Huron, Sept. 30. (Photo by Sgt. Austin Pearce)

Message from the Adjutant General

I'd like to begin by welcoming the members of the Headquarters and Forward Support Company of the 153rd Engineer Battalion back from their deployment in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. They were spread across numerous countries during this deployment as engineers, and logisticians are always in high demand on the battlefield. They performed their job in a truly outstanding manner. Lt. Col. Bruce, Command Sgt. Maj. DeVries and leaders at all levels of those units are to be commended for their fantastic performance.

As I type these words, we have 90 members of Company C, 1/189th Aviation Regiment completing their final training at Fort Hood, Texas, in preparation for their deployment to the Middle East, where they will provide aerial medical evacuation support with their HH-60 Black Hawk helicopters. This is their third mobilization since 9-11.

We still have nine members of the 153rd on federal orders as well. They volunteered to extend their deployment overseas in specific areas that the follow-on forces needed assistance with. These Soldiers along with the three members of the 216th Firefighting Team in Europe and our 15 Soldiers that comprise the 200th Bridge Training Team deployed to the Middle East all remain in our prayers.

Several days ago, I began making welcome home calls to the first several Airmen of the 114th Fighter Wing who have completed their six-month tours in six different countries across the globe. Each of these Airmen have stepped up to fill a critical need identified by the Air Force and they have performed their roles in an outstanding manner. In total, 125 of our Airmen deployed to six different countries and performed their federal mission with great distinction. I very much look forward to getting the rest of these Airmen home safely in the weeks ahead.

Congratulations are in order for the 114th Fighter Wing, which for the third straight year was awarded the Distinguished Flying Unit Plaque at the National Guard Association of the United States Conference held this year in Louisville, Kentucky. This award goes exclusively to the five most outstanding Air National Guard flying units in the nation that aren't the Spaatz Trophy winners. Considering the fact that in 2014, the 114th was awarded the Spaatz Trophy for being the top overall flying unit in the nation, and that for the next three years we've earned this award, it can be rightfully claimed that no other flying wing in the nation is in our elite class.

Our very own Detachment 1, Company B, 1/112th Aviation Battalion was awarded the Certificate of Victory in Louisville for having the highest overall figure of merit in marksmanship in the nation. This makes seven national unit awards that the S.D. Army National Guard has picked up at the NGAUS Convention over the past three years! This is certainly a testament to the high training standards we hold ourselves to.

While we're on the topic of awards, it was an honor to accept the National Guard Bureau's 2017 Excellence in Diversity Award, Army National Guard Unit category, at the Guard Senior Leader Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas, last month. Gen. Joe Lengyel, the chief of the National Guard Bureau, made the presentation and commended the S.D. Army National Guard for its accomplishments in this area. You may remember that the S.D. Air National Guard won this award a couple of years back. We've made a lot of progress in our efforts toward becoming more inclusive but we've still got work to do.

It was a distinct honor to be asked to speak at the ceremony commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the 147th Field Artillery in Watertown during October drill. The 147th got its start when the 1,576 members of South Dakota's 4th Infantry was activated for World War I and sent to Camp Greene, North Carolina, to prepare. The day after their arrival

most of the previously infantry units were reorganized as artillery. What probably seemed to many to be a haphazard decision has certainly stood the test of time.

Over the past 100 years, the 147th has distinguished itself as one of the premiere artillery units in the U.S. Army. It is one of only two MLRS rocket battalions that exist in the National Guard today, and this nation's reliance on artillery units is

growing by leaps and bounds given the potential threats we face around the world. Here's to the next 100 years!

I'd like to congratulate Colonels Pat Parady and Scott Petrik who completed their tenures in command recently. Col. Parady commanded the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade which is comprised of 1,900 Soldiers. He placed great emphasis on readiness during his tenure. Earlier this year it was announced that only 35 Army National Guard units in the nation had been awarded the Superior Unit Award for training year 2016. Fourteen of those units were in the 196th MEB's command. Col. Petrik's tenure as commander of the 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) earned similar distinction by achieving the highly-coveted accreditation rating as an Institute of Excellence. I applaud these two accomplished leaders for their dedication and hard work, and I congratulate Col. Doug Bogenhagen and Col. Joe Eining as they begin their commands at the MEB and the RTI.

I would be remiss if I were to fail to mention the fact that we have Soldiers deployed to Puerto Rico performing one of the most important missions in the aftermath of back-to-back hurricanes striking there in September. Four members of Company A, 139th Brigade Support Battalion, arrived in Puerto Rico on Oct. 8 and began hauling drinking water to numerous locations where safe drinking water was not available. This mission is being conducted as a result of a request via the Emergency Management Assistance Compact that exists to provide emergency assistance to states and territories that are struck with a disaster that their government cannot take care of on their own.

In closing, I once again ask for your continued support for the safety and wellbeing of all of our Soldiers and Airmen, whether serving at home or abroad. I am extremely grateful for your service to our state and nation as well as for the contributions that our families and employers make. Our state and nation are forever in your debt.



Sincerely,

Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch
The Adjutant General

1-112th Aviation receives Certificate of Victory

RAPID CITY - The South Dakota Army National Guard's Detachment 1, Company B, 1-112th Aviation Battalion was awarded the National Guard Association of the United States' Certificate of Victory during its annual conference in Louisville, Kentucky, Sept. 7-10.

The Rapid City-based unit received the award for having the highest overall figure of merit in weapons qualification in the nation.

This is the third year in a row a South Dakota Army National Guard unit has received the award.

114th Fighter Wing receives Distinguished Flying Unit Plaque

LOUISVILLE, Ky. - The 114th Fighter Wing earned the National Guard Association of the United States Distinguished Flying Unit Plaque during the 139th NGAUS Conference in Louisville, Kentucky, Sept. 7-10.

The Distinguished Flying Unit Plaque is awarded to the five highest-rated Air National Guard flying units in the nation. This is the third consecutive year, and the seventh time overall the 114th has received this honor.

The award is based on overall unit combat readiness and performance with respect to all other Air National Guard units. Evaluation factors include flying safety, aircraft operation readiness, weapons firing, unit alerts, unit manning, skill level qualifications, retention, drill attendance, operational readiness inspections, outstanding accomplishments and special missions and exercises.

The 114th Fighter Wing previously earned the Distinguished Flying Unit Plaque in 1980, 1985, 1988, 2008, 2015 and 2016.

196th Regiment (RTI) changes command

SIoux FALLS - Col. Joseph Eining took command of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) during a change of command ceremony in Sioux Falls, Oct. 15.

Eining assumed command from Col. Scott Petrik who served as the commander over the last two years.

As commander, Eining is responsible for the command and control of the 196th Regiment

and its two subordinate battalions - 1st Battalion at Fort Meade and 2nd Battalion in Sioux Falls - which provide instruction on a variety of military courses.

Eining, who works as a counselor in the Minnehaha County Juvenile Detention Center, has served in the Army National Guard for over 32 years.

Since September 2015, Petrik has been responsible for the training of more than 1,800 Soldiers from across the nation and Denmark in officer candidate school, warrant officer candidate school, field artillery, transportation and other functional courses.

196th MEB receives new commander

SIoux FALLS - Col. Douglas Bogenhagen took command of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade during a change of command ceremony in Sioux Falls, Oct. 14.

Bogenhagen assumed command from Col. Patrick Parly who served in the position since August 2015.

The 196th is one of four major commands for the South Dakota Army National Guard.

As the commander, Bogenhagen is responsible for the command and control of three battalions, which are comprised of 16 units totaling nearly 1,900 Soldiers in 18 communities throughout South Dakota.

Bogenhagen is employed as a federal investigator with the Office of Personnel Management.

139th BSB changes leadership

BROOKINGS - Lt. Col. Michael Webb took command of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 139th Brigade Support Battalion during a change of command ceremony, Oct. 15.

Webb assumed responsibility of the Brookings-based unit from Lt. Col. Jason Kettwig who served in the position since September 2014.

As commander, Webb is now responsible for the planning, execution and support of about 480 Soldiers in five units and communities throughout South Dakota. The battalion provides logistical and maintenance support to a maneuver enhancement brigade and attached units. The 139th also assists assigned units in meeting training, administrative and logistical requirements to maintain the unit's readiness in support of their state and federal missions.

SDNG employee earns Sec. of the Army award for energy management

RAPID CITY - The South Dakota Army National Guard's energy manager, Michael Haltiner, received the 2017 Secretary of the Army Energy Award under the category of Individual Exceptional Performance at the Federal Energy Exchange Conference in Tampa, Florida, Aug. 17.

Haltiner, who started leading energy conservation for the SDARNG in 2009, has completed numerous projects impacting energy reduction levels in South Dakota.

"Mr. Haltiner leads our energy conservation efforts and is personally involved in all projects as well as monitoring energy consumption for our facilities on a monthly basis," said Col. Scott Petrik, construction and facilities management officer. "His efforts over the years have consistently made South Dakota one of the nation's top performer's in energy conservation."

Projects include passive heating solar walls, automated controls and lighting, motion sensors, redesign and replacement of HVAC and boiler systems and LED lighting. These projects have resulted in annual energy savings of \$248,931, resulting in more than one million dollars in savings to date.

Haltiner is always involved in the design process of the SDARNG's sustainability-focused buildings.

"The federal government is the largest U.S. consumer of energy," Petrik said. "The president published an executive order mandating a 30 percent energy consumption reduction over a 10-year period. The South Dakota Army National Guard was one of two states in the nation to meet the requirements of the presidential executive order."

In addition to energy savings, energy conservation efforts has brought additional funding for energy projects to the SDARNG.

"Two years ago we received \$120 thousand for energy projects; this year we received over \$500 thousand," Petrik said.

The National Guard Bureau rewards states for meeting the presidential executive order energy conservation requirements.

"Knowing that energy conservation is saving money to spend on Soldier training and helping our organization maintain its readiness, along with saving our natural resources, is the most rewarding part of the job," Haltiner said.

Soldiers help with Puerto Rico hurricane recovery efforts

Story by SDNG Public Affairs Office

PIERRE – Gov. Dennis Daugaard activated four members of the South Dakota Army National Guard’s Company A, 139th Brigade Support Battalion, at the request of Puerto Rico government authorities to help with recovery operations in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria.

The four Soldiers and equipment were airlifted to Puerto Rico Oct. 8 and served in until Dec. 15. The Soldiers from the Watertown-based unit provided water distribution capabilities to those in need.

They deployed to Puerto Rico with two Load Handling System vehicles and trailers equipped with four Compatible Water Tank Racks, or “Hippos.” The Hippo has the capability to receive, store and distribute up to 2,000 gallons of potable water per system.

“When disaster strikes, South Dakota lends a hand,” Daugaard said. “Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Puerto Rico and with the Soldiers of Company A, who will be on the ground helping those in need.”

Recovery efforts are especially personal for one SDNG Soldier. Spc. Jorge Morales, a water treatment specialist in Company A, is from Ceiba, Puerto Rico.

While Morales now lives in Clark, his family is still in Puerto Rico and like the rest of the island, they’ve been impacted.

“I didn’t think twice – I just said I’ll go,” Morales said, when presented with the opportunity to mobilize to Puerto Rico. “It’s more than an honor. To help my people is something big.”

This is the first request South Dakota has received through the emergency compact to help with hurricane recovery efforts.

Daugaard said the request for South Dakota National Guard support came through an Emergency Management Assistance Compact that exists between all 50 states and three U.S. territories. Under the compact, the State of South Dakota will be reimbursed for costs incurred during the mission.

While Morales isn’t sure where in Puerto Rico the mission will take the South Dakota Soldiers or if he will even see family members, he said, “I’m going to help everyone like they are my family.”



(Photo by Senior Airman Ryan Sparks)

Puerto Rico native, Spc. Jorge Morales, Company A, 139th Brigade Support Battalion, waves the Puerto Rican flag, Sept. 30, as he and unit members prepare equipment to depart from Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D.



(Photo by 1st Sgt. Waldemar Rivera)

Two Load Handling System vehicles and trailers equipped with four Compatible Water Tank Racks, or “Hippos,” are staged to distribute clean, potable water to the residents of Comerio, Puerto Rico, Oct. 16.



(Photo by Sgt. Alexis Velez)

Spc. Ryan Sanden from Company A, 139th Brigade Support Battalion, fills up water bottles for a girl near the town of Naranjito, Puerto Rico, Oct. 11.

Runway construction prompts arresting system upgrade

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

SIOUX FALLS - The 114th Civil Engineer Squadron's power production craftsmen certified the newly installed BAK-14M hook cable support system Oct. 17, at Joe Foss Field.

The Air Force is phasing out the original BAK-14 and replacing it with the new BAK-14M.

"With our runway being joint use with the Sioux Falls airport we were able to get the new system installed during a recent runway construction project," said Master Sgt. Chip Carda, 114th Civil Engineer Squadron power production supervisor.

The Zodiac Arresting Systems BAK-14M Retractable Hook Cable Support System maintains the fully operational status of military hook cable aircraft arresting systems installed on active runways at military-commercial joint-use airfields, while providing unobstructed runway surfaces for commercial aircraft traffic.

The retract feature of the BAK-14M allows the hook cable to remain connected to the arresting system, yet it can be quickly lowered below the runway surface whenever non-



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Duane Duimstra)

A 175th Fighter Squadron F-16 grabs the BAK-14M Retractable Hook Cable Support System with its arresting hook during the system certification at Joe Foss Field, Oct. 17.

military flight operations occur.

The new BAK-14M contains less independent parts required to operate the equipment, which means less maintenance and possibility to negatively affect the flying mission.

The system was certified as the U.S. Air Force standard system after extensive aircraft

testing. It also meets all FAA criteria for operational use and installation at joint-use civil-military airfields, such as Joe Foss Field.

"While other bases have retro fit their arresting system, we are the first Air National Guard base to install the complete system," said Carda.

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114th Maintenance Group instrumental in achieving 4,000 flying hours

Story by Staff Sgt. Duane Duimstra
114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office



114th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron avionics Airmen perform an hourly inspection on an F-16 Fighting Falcon, Oct. 5, at Joe Foss Field. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Duane Duimstra)

SIoux FALLS - The 114th Fighter Wing reached 4,000 flying hours for the 2017 fiscal year on Sept. 29. This wouldn't have been possible without the hard work of the Airmen of the 114th Maintenance Group for keeping up with scheduled maintenance and unforeseen issues to ensure the 114th's F-16s are mission ready.

This feat has only been accomplished twice by the 114th since acquiring the F-16 in 1991, the first time in 2004.

"We have flown more than 4,000 hours numerous times since we began flying the F-16, but not solely in support of the Annual Flying Hour Program," said Lt. Col. Kevin Curley, 114th Maintenance Group commander.

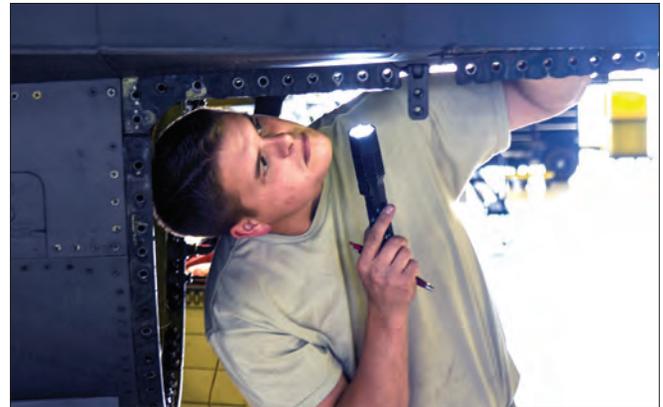
The Air National Guard's Flying Hour Program allocates flying hours for pilots at each wing to complete and maintain required training, but it does not include overseas or contingency operation flights. Each unit is given the responsibility to plan, schedule and execute their allotted annual flying hours.

The 114th Operations and Maintenance Groups develop an annual flying hour plan. It's broken down monthly by number of flights and flying hours required to train pilots. Both groups have built a relationship based on trust and years working together. They communicate each group's priorities, limitations and issues that might arise.

The amount and types of training required for pilots have increased due to new technology and capabilities of the F-16, but it has also put a strain on the aging F-16s. The 114th Fighter Wing F-16s currently require 33 maintenance man-hours per flying-hour which includes preventative maintenance inspections.

"We have well-trained pilots ready to execute the 114th Fighter Wing's combat tasking because our maintenance Airmen provide reliable, mission capable aircraft," said Col. Quenten Esser, 114th Operations Group commander.

While some inspections and maintenance are planned, unforeseen maintenance issues do occur. As the aircraft continue to age,



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Duane Duimstra)

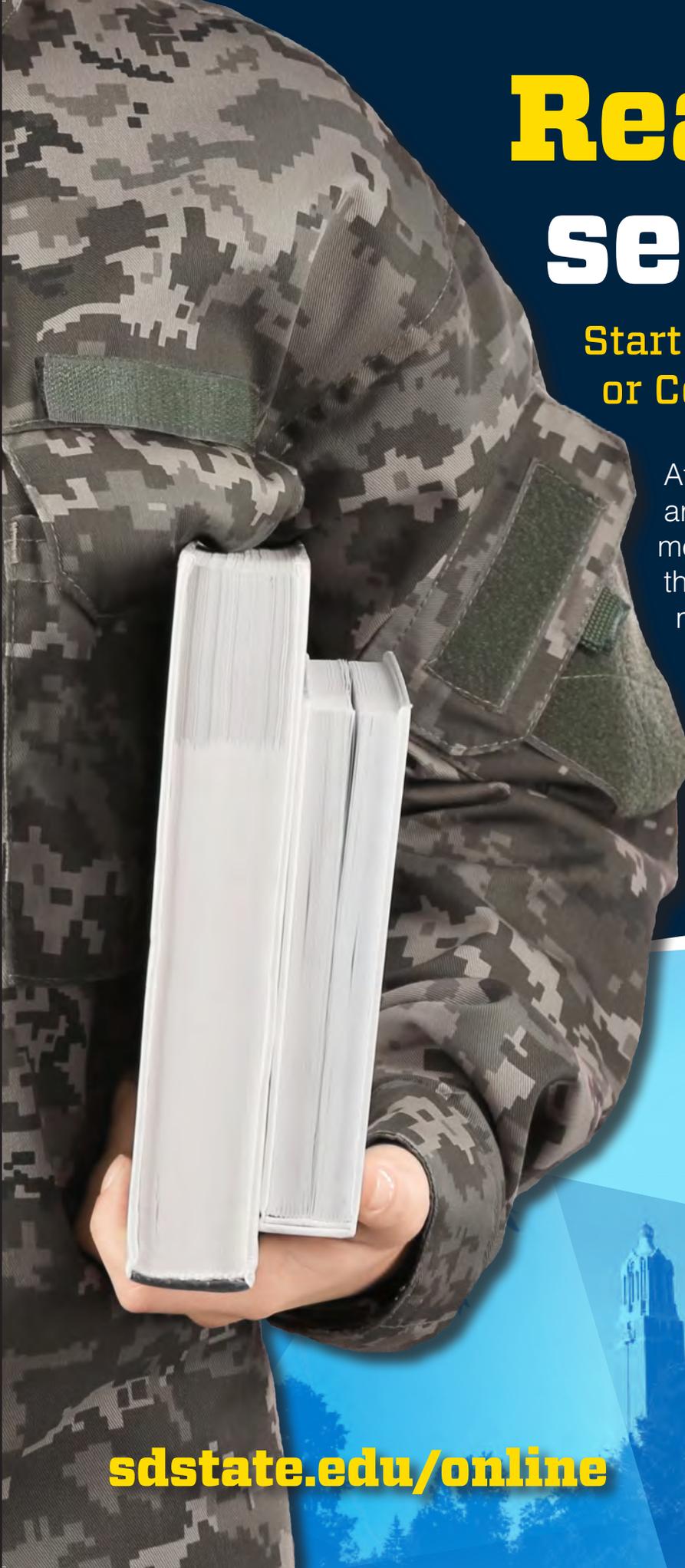
Tech. Sgt. Beau Batscher, 114th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron phase mechanic, inspects an F-16 engine bay during a Phase Inspection, Oct. 5, at Joe Foss Field.

maintenance efforts must be increased. Low parts availability is also an issue. Even with these issues, the 114th Maintenance Group Airmen are always able to provide mission-ready aircraft."

"Our maintenance group Airmen have the perfect mixture of experience, knowledge and work ethic to handle this work load," said Esser. "This shows not only at home with our execution of the flying hours, but every time we deploy. They stand apart from other maintenance groups."

The Airmen of the 114th Maintenance Group are proud of their work in meeting the mission's requirements. Tech data compliance, sound leadership and a well-organized plan aides in accomplishing the Air Force's mission.

"I could not be prouder of the dedicated men and women of the 114th Maintenance Group for the excellent work they do every day," said Curley.



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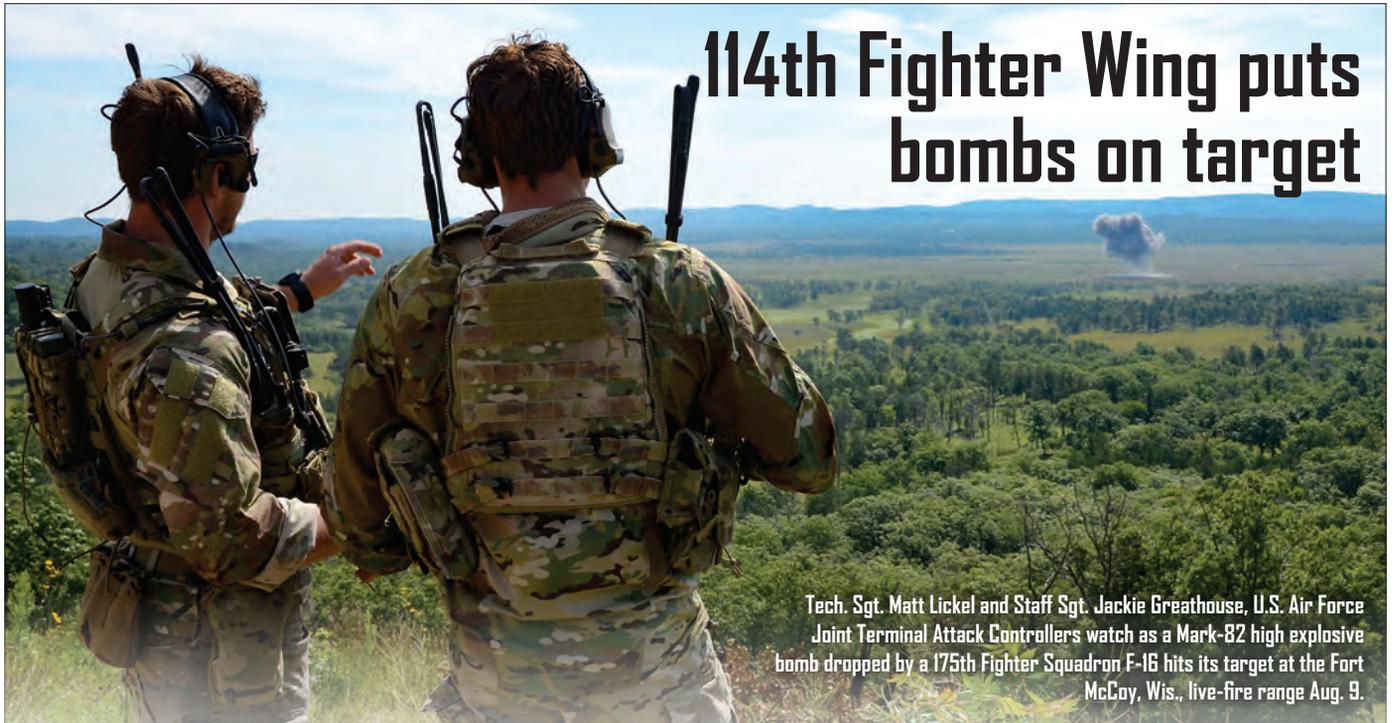
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114th Fighter Wing puts bombs on target

Tech. Sgt. Matt Lickel and Staff Sgt. Jackie Greathouse, U.S. Air Force Joint Terminal Attack Controllers watch as a Mark-82 high explosive bomb dropped by a 175th Fighter Squadron F-16 hits its target at the Fort McCoy, Wis., live-fire range Aug. 9.

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

SIOUX FALLS - Nearly 200 Airmen from the 114th Fighter Wing participated in a live drop bombing exercise at Volk Field Air National Guard Base, Wisconsin, Aug. 9-16.

Volk Field Readiness Training Center's mission is to provide a year round integrated training environment for units to enhance their capabilities and readiness.

"We drop live weapons every year, but this is the first time the 114th Fighter Wing has been to Volk Field in this capacity," said Lt. Col. Steve Schultz, 175th Fighter Squadron pilot and exercise project officer.

The 175th Fighter Squadron's mission during the exercise was close-air support. Their main goal was to drop ordnance and ensure they hit the targets precisely.

The pilots of the 175th Fighter Squadron worked with U.S. Air Force Joint Terminal Attack Controllers in close-air support. During the training, the 175th Fighter Squadron dropped Mark-82 high explosive bombs to the locations sent by the JTACs at Fort McCoy Bombing Range.

"The pilot and JTAC relationship is not only critical but essential for success. It is built on trust and mutual respect. They are the ones on the ground getting shot at and have to act professional under pressure in order to call in an attack from the fighters. The pilots must trust that they give the correct location for the weapons impact, and the JTACs must trust that the pilot will get the bomb to the exact point



An F-16 assigned to the 175th Fighter Squadron takes off during a training sortie at Volk Field, Wis., Aug. 11.



175th Fighter Squadron pilots drop 500 pound Mark-82 high explosive bombs on target at a Fort McCoy live fire range.

they desire; especially given the fact that they may only be a couple of hundred meters away from the enemy," said Schultz.

The live drop training mission is also vital to the members of the 114th Maintenance Group. The training gave Airmen the opportunity to maintain and prepare F-16s for sorties similar to a combat deployment. The Airmen were

also able to assemble an F-16 delivered to Volk Field from Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, as a crash damage or disabled aircraft recovery trainer.

"Deploying to a different location gets everyone out of their comfort zone and requires them to work with each other in order to accomplish the mission," said Schultz.

114th Fighter Wing conducts readiness exercise



Story by Staff Sgt. Duane Duimstra – 114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

SIoux FALLS - The 114th Fighter Wing held an Attack Response Exercise, Oct. 7-15, at Joe Foss Field. The exercise is part of the South Dakota Air National Guard's regular training to ensure Airmen have the skills necessary to perform homeland defense and support overseas operations.

"As part of our annual training requirement, we are testing our ability to rapidly send combat power anywhere in the world on a moment's notice," said Maj. Matthew Kayser, 114th Fighter Wing inspector general director of complaint resolution.

The exercise was conducted by members of the 114th Fighter Wing Inspector General Office to objectively evaluate the ability of the SDANG to process people and cargo, and generate and deploy F-16 Fighting Falcons around the world.

The exercise encompassed everything from individual Airmen receiving a deployment notification phone call to the entire wing operating in a simulated deployed environment.

During the preparation phase, Airmen went through simulated deployment processing where they were issued equipment and received briefings on active duty benefits, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, public affairs, human resources, medical and dental requirements and various other topics to ensure they were prepared to deploy.

The 114th Logistic Readiness Squadron also simulated preparation of cargo and equipment needed for deployment. After determining the equipment needed, Airmen gathered, packed, organized and weighed equipment and materials to be loaded onto multiple cargo aircraft.

The deployment phase evaluated the 114th Fighter Wing's ability to perform operations at a deployed location under adverse conditions. This included practicing CBRN-E response procedures and performing self-aid buddy care on injured Airman while conducting flying operations.

"The 2017 ARE was a highly successful validation of the 114th Fighter Wing's worldwide commitments," said Col. Nathan Alholinna, 114th Fighter Wing commander. "The complete success of this ARE was due to the professionalism, commitment and sacrifice of our Airmen, families, employers and schools. I couldn't be prouder of our success and the positive attitude, pride and morale shown by our Airmen."

175th Fighter Squadron F-16s sit on the runway before takeoff during Phase I of the Attack Response Exercise, Oct. 13, at Joe Foss Field. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Duane Duimstra)



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Duane Duimstra)

114th Maintenance Squadron ammunition Airmen prepared munitions during the Attack Response Exercise, Oct. 13. The goal of the exercise is to evaluate the 114th Fighter Wing's ability to rapidly deploy personnel and materiel to a deployed location in support of a combatant commander.



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Jorrie Hart)

114th Maintenance Squadron Airmen tend to a simulated injured Airman during the Attack Response Exercise, Oct. 14.

Company C, 1-189th Aviation deploys to the Middle East

Story by SDNG Public Affairs Office

RAPID CITY – Family, friends and community supporters gathered at Rapid City’s Rushmore Plaza Civic Center for a deployment ceremony for more than 90 Soldiers of the South Dakota Army National Guard’s Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, Sept. 27.

The Rapid City-based 1-189th, comprised of pilots, crew chiefs, medics, aviation operations specialists and other support personnel, is deploying to the Middle East where they will provide aerial medical evacuation support with its HH-60M Black Hawk helicopters.

“We’re here today to thank you for answering the difficult call to leave the comfort of your homes, to leave the embraces of your families and to serve your country,” South Dakota Governor Dennis Daugaard told the Soldiers.

He then thanked the family members, employers, coworkers, friends and neighbors that would make sacrifices of their own during the yearlong deployment.

“Several of you who are deploying are serving in other government jurisdictions in one role or another,” Rapid City Mayor Steve Allender said during the ceremony.



(Photo by Sgt. Austin Pearce)

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Tyler Ehnes, Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, plays with his daughter at his deployment ceremony in Rapid City, Sept. 27.

“There are law enforcement officers, firefighters, sheriff deputies, EMTs, paramedics and other types of government employees.

“In response to your commitment to this nation, I would like to say thank you for serving our country,” added Allender. “Thank you for serving our state. Thank you for living in and serving our local communities. Also, thank you for reminding us that there are real problems in the world and that volunteers such as yourselves have been tasked with finding and implementing a solution.”

The unit will report to Fort Hood, Texas, to complete several months of theater-specific training prior to deploying overseas.

“I want to tell you, that I couldn’t be more proud of this unit,” Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, SDNG’s adjutant general said to the Soldiers during the ceremony. “You’ve executed a rigorous training plan. I know you’re ready. We all look forward to being here about a year from now to welcome you home.”

Since the 9/11 terrorist attacks, this is the third mobilization for the unit which deployed to Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn from 2011-2012 and supported peacekeeping operations in Kosovo from 2008-2009.



(Photo by Sgt. Austin Pearce)

Sgt. Jeffrey Otto, Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, stands for roll call at his deployment ceremony in Rapid City, Sept. 27.

South Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers from the 153rd Engineer Battalion depart a plane as the unit arrives home in Huron, Sept. 30, after a 10-month deployment to the Middle East.
(Photo by Staff Sgt. Kristina Stirrer)



153rd Engineer Bn. returns home from Middle East

Story by Maj. Anthony Deiss - SDNG Public Affairs Office

HURON – About 165 Soldiers from the South Dakota Army National Guard's 153rd Engineer Battalion and its Forward Support Company were welcomed home by family and friends in Huron, Sept. 30, after returning from duty in the Middle East.

The Huron and Parkston-based units served 10 months providing command and control of attached engineer units. Members of the unit served in multiple locations throughout the region, including Iraq and Syria.

"It is great to be home! I believe everyone in our formation would tell you that it was a great experience and a very rewarding mission," said Lt. Col. Trent Bruce, 153rd commander. "The Soldiers of the 153rd represented their state and nation in an outstanding manner."

Many government leaders were also pleased to see the Soldiers return home safe. Lt. Gov. Matt Michels, U.S. Senators John Thune and Mike Rounds, U.S. Representative Kristi Noem and Huron Mayor Paul Aylward were at the event and praised the Soldiers for their service.

"The South Dakota National Guard is our state's pride and joy," Thune said during the ceremony. "We thank you for a job well done and mission accomplished."

"None of us in elected office, none of us that have a business, none of us that have dreams that we make possible could do that without the rule of law and you women and men serving as Soldiers and keeping us safe under a civilian government secured by liberties," said Michels. "You have put your lives on the line for that and to be put into harm's way. Thank you for our freedom."



(Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Heather Trobee)

Staff Sgt. Keith Fitzgerald hugs his family after returning home from a 10-month deployment to the Middle East.

During the unit's deployment, the 153rd's primary mission was to provide general engineering and maneuver support to the Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command and Special Operations Joint Task Force. The unit served as operational command of five attached units totaling 550 Soldiers. The 153rd operated in 24 different locations across four countries.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

196th MEB plays unique role in today's Army



196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade and 200th Engineer Company Soldiers perform a river crossing exercise, July 16, 2015. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Charles Butler)

Story by Sgt. Mark VanGerpen – 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade

SIoux FALLS – At least once a year, it’s not unusual to see the Sioux Falls National Guard armory parking lot transformed into a sprawling complex of trucks, generators and combat tents.

The tents go up quickly, sometimes in the space of a few hours. The generators run around the clock. Inside is a state-of-the-art command post system, in which virtual troop movements are tracked on physical and digital maps.

In one tent, plans are made for transporting simulated detainees. In another, plans for repairing roads or meeting with local leaders. Battlefield intelligence is delivered up to the minute, ensuring Soldiers can respond immediately to any situation.

It is a complex operation, and nothing more than what the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, has come to expect.

From putting up the tents to controlling troop movements and a tactical combat force, every part of the operation is an integral part of the Sioux Falls-based unit’s mission: protect and support everything behind the front line of combat, and be ready to move when it does.

The headquarters unit is only a small part of that mission. When deployed, a maneuver enhancement brigade consists of multiple units such as mechanized infantry, military police, engineers, and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN).

In fact, the actual makeup of a MEB will change depending on the mission. By design, the unit can be tailored to the needs of the battlefield. The forces that deploy with a MEB could be significantly different from one deployment to the next.

That customization distinguishes a MEB from other units in the Army. Traditionally, unit structures, like those of brigade combat teams, remain static across deployments.

“Brigade combat teams are made up of singular organic units,” said Col. Patrick Parady, commander of the 196th MEB. “That means they’ll have armor, striker or infantry units, and their organization reflects that. MEBs are designed not only to have armor or striker forces, but also to command and control engineers, chemical specialists and military police

battalions – in addition to other combat multipliers such as artillery, civil affairs and explosive ordnance disposal.”

A MEB is a relatively new concept by Army standards. The first was established in 2006, with the 196th following shortly after in 2007.

The idea was to increase the Army’s modularity – its ability to combine forces of multiple specialties into a single, functional unit that could be tailored to a battlefield in order to take command and control of a division or corps support area.

It sounds simple, but in practice it entails a wide variety of tasks.

It means protecting roads so troops and supplies can reach the front line; rebuilding infrastructure damaged in previous battles; defeating the enemy forces that remain in the area or try to move back into it; disposing explosive ordnance; or conducting civil affairs.

And then, when the brigade boundary moves forward, it means the whole operation needs to be torn down, moved, put back up, and made functional again in very little time.

“MEB’s are entrusted with a complicated and wide array of tasks,” Parady said. “They are one of only four types of brigades that can actually own and control battle space.”

The multitude of requirements of a MEB leads to significant training and education requirements for its staff and Soldiers, Parady said.

One of the challenges for the 196th is that it has positions for units it doesn’t have. Maj. Jason Thomson, 196th operations officer, said that South Dakota’s structure does not reflect the ideal structure of a MEB.

For example, one common denominator in MEBs is that they have units that specialize in CBRN threats.

But the 196th has no such unit, so a CBRN unit would have to join the MEB from another state during a deployment.

That isn’t uncommon, Thomson said, but it creates a challenge when filling leadership positions in areas like CBRN at headquarters. The people who fill those positions often have to be retrained to become subject matter experts.

Although it is a challenge, it is also one of the 196th’s strengths.

“Most NCOs and officers in the 196th have multiple branches or military occupation specialties,” Thomson said. “It creates diversity within our unit. When deployed, the MEB is typically going to pick up



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Charles Butler)

The 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade operates out of a mobile tactical operations center at annual training, July 13, 2015.



(Photo by Sgt. Charlie Jacobson)

196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade Soldiers monitor battlefield operations via the Command Post of the Future system at the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., March 13, 2014.

additional functional units, simply because the components of the MEB all deploy at different times. So it's a good thing to have people trained in more than one area."

Additionally, the 196th tries to rotate its leadership from staff positions to line units so they can see how things work outside headquarters, Thomson said.

"People who work on staff for 20 years aren't going to relate to someone in the field as well as someone who has been out there with them, sleeping in the mud," he said.

It's part of an effort to bring stability to the unit when it becomes deployable in 2021 and beyond. Recently MEBs transitioned out of the active Army, leaving the reserve components to establish MEB doctrine. Because of that, the 196th is working to bring to the table as much training and practical experience as possible so it can help make the MEB an effective, professional force.

"Every year we move a little closer to stabilization," Thomson said. "We are aggressive in learning our functional areas, and we prepare for the worst so we're ready when it happens. That Midwest, hard-work ethic is what we're trying to instill within the MEB community."

153rd welcome home

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11 – In all, the unit completed more than 100 engineer construction projects, 11 bridge emplacements and 160 technical engineering support requirements, such as surveys and reconnaissance missions.

Many of the missions ensured freedom of movement for U.S. and coalition forces around the region, base infrastructure upgrades and force protection improvements. Many of the engineer projects supported multiple operations throughout the deployment, to include key offensive objectives to liberate Mosul, Iraq, and the seizure of Raqqa, Syria.

"We literally changed the landscape of Iraq and Syria through the missions we were assigned and accomplished," said Bruce. "We had a very fast paced, busy mission, and every single Soldier stepped up to exceed expectations."

The 153rd's Forward Support Company also provided key logistics and maintenance support during the deployment. The unit maintained a 95 percent operational rate on over 550 pieces of military equipment, delivered over 2.5 million gallons of fuel, prepared over 800,000 meals and ordered and installed over \$2.5M of repair parts, to name a few.

The significance of the unit's mission was also echoed by the SDNG's highest ranking member.

"One-hundred years ago today, the South Dakota National Guard was fully mobilized fighting in World War I and just 20 years later they were in World War II," said Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, SDNG adjutant general, while addressing the Soldiers. "This mobilization is just as big a part of our history and legacy as any of those previous wars."

Thune also reinforced the general's message.

"We are grateful for the contributions you have made throughout our state and nation's history and continue to make day in and day out," added Thune. "You have the qualities of those patriots who founded this country, who've defended it, and we live in a free country today – the greatest country on the face of the planet – because of the men and women in uniform who are willing to sacrifice to make it so."

Bruce ended by praising the unit and its Soldiers for their service.

"I am honored to be the commander of this unit and carry on the tradition and legacy of the 153rd," said Bruce. "I am extremely proud of the professionalism and work ethic the Soldiers displayed throughout the deployment. The Soldiers did the state proud and without a doubt left an impression on everyone we worked with."



(Photo by Sgt. Austin Pearce)

U.S. Sen. John Thune and Lt. Gov. Matt Michels congratulate the Soldiers of the 153rd Engineer Battalion after returning from deployment to the Middle East.



South Dakota National Guard and Suriname Defense Force soldiers repair a foundation while renovating portions of the O.S. Majosteeg 3 School in Paramaribo, Aug. 15.

SD Guard, Suriname engineers partner together to renovate school

Story by Capt. Chad Carlson
SDNG Public Affairs Office

PARAMARIBO, Suriname - Soldiers from the South Dakota Army National Guard and the Suriname Defense Force partnered together to renovate portions of the O.S. Majosteeg 3 School in Paramaribo, Aug. 13-24.

The renovation project, part of the Suriname and South Dakota State Partnership Program, provided an annual training opportunity for SDARNG engineer units and further developed partnerships with the SDF, while simultaneously assisting with a community need.

"The South Dakota National Guard has been the backbone for U.S. Department of Defense engagement in Suriname for more than 11 years," said U.S. Navy Cmdr. Paolo Carcavallo, U.S. Navy deputy chief, Security Cooperation Office Suriname. "This second school renovation they've done shoulder-to-shoulder with Suriname's military engineers and is just another manifestation of the partnership between the State of South Dakota and the Suriname Defense Force."

Working together was a team of 10 Soldiers from the 155th Engineer Company, one from the 211th Engineer Company, and about a

dozen engineers with the Suriname Defense Force. The service members focused on rest room improvements and the addition of a teacher's office.

The service members spent nine days on the renovations, which included panel construction, electrical, plumbing, tiling and painting.

"You get to learn how the Suriname engineers do things compared to how we do things," said Sgt. Zach Heesch, 155th Engineer Company. "I got the opportunity to learn how to do stuff I've never done before - like tiling."

Since 2006, Soldiers from both countries have conducted over 100 subject matter exchanges through the program, which have benefitted men and women from both organizations to gain knowledge and experience in both military operations and civilian culture.

"It feels great to be able to help so the kids have a better facility to use when they get back to school," said Heesch, who hopes he can return to Suriname someday. "You get to experience a whole new culture. It's an awesome experience."

"This will mean so much for the school and the students," said Mrs. Gail Burselson, school director. "When they return from summer

break, they will get to come back to all new bathrooms. On behalf of myself, the school, and the students, we greatly thank you."

Throughout any particular year, about 20-30 service members from either South Dakota or from Suriname, travel to each other's respective countries and engage in about 10 subject matter exchanges covering a wide spectrum of topics.

"Engagements like these school renovations where soldiers from both countries work together to improve the quality of life for children really drive home what the partnership is about," Paolo said. "We look forward to continue working with the Ministry of Defense and other government organizations to find more opportunities like this where we can directly impact for the better the lives of our friends in Suriname."

Funding for the project was provided by U.S. Southern Command and all materials and supplies were purchased in Suriname.

For the past 10 years, the SDNG and SDF have successfully partnered together to establish a security cooperation relationship in coordination with USSOUTHCOM under the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program. The partnership has flourished during the past decade becoming a model for mutual security cooperation.

147th FA celebrates its 100th year



Story by Maj. Anthony Deiss - SDNG Public Affairs Office

The South Dakota Army National Guard celebrated 100 years of history of the 147th Field Artillery with an open house and ceremony at the Ernie Edwards Readiness Center in Watertown, Oct. 14. Past and present 147th Soldiers celebrated the milestone of the longest serving unit in the state. The 147th FA traces its formation back to Oct. 3, 1917, during World War I.

At this time, there was a total mobilization of the SDNG. While in federal service, SDNG units were dissolved into various units and new ones formed, one of which was the 147th Field Artillery Regiment. Following the Great War, the 147th was discharged and disappeared briefly, but by 1921 it returned. During the years following the war, the artillery would begin to see a modernization of their equipment. By 1927 the horse-drawn capability of the unit would give way to motorized trucks, allowing guns to be carried rather than towed. Although plagued by shortages of equipment and money, the artillery along with the rest of the SDNG, forged ahead to make do with what they had. Through all the Guard had endured in its history to this point, its experiences surely prepared it for its biggest test yet: World War II.

With another total mobilization of the SDNG, the more than 1,000 men of the 147th Field Artillery Regiment were activated for training and possible deployment in November of 1940. A year later in November of 1941, the 147th departed for the Philippine Islands, and after a quick stop at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, continued on. A week later the unit became the first Expeditionary Force into the Pacific theatre, being some 1,500 miles southwest of Pearl Harbor when the Japanese attacked on December 7.

The 147th was rerouted to the Fiji Islands and Australia. The unit became the first Americans to visit Australia and remained there until July of 1943. The unit began island hopping throughout the Southwest Pacific, gaining prestige as they went. The "Bushmasters," as they became known, moved to New Guinea in December to take part in an offensive against the Japanese.

At this point the 147th was separated into two separate battalions. The 1st Battalion became the 260th Field Artillery Battalion and the 2nd Battalion was re-designated as the 147th Field Artillery Battalion. The 260th remained in New Guinea until it was deactivated in June 1945. The 147th went on to participate in combat operations in the Philippines and served briefly on occupation duty in Japan immediately after the war ended. It was deactivated in Japan 1946.

After World War II, South Dakota once again had to piece back together its state militia. The artillery found its way back to South Dakota, as Washington allowed for the establishment of the 196th Regimental Combat Team, under which the 147th Field Artillery Battalion was assigned.

Peace however, was to be short lived, as North Korea invaded South Korea, and the 147th Battalion, under the 196th RCT, was called into federal service in September of 1950. Station at Fort Richardson, Alaska, the unit was assigned as a part of the Alaskan Defense Command and served here until August of 1952. Following the Korean War, the 147th FA would continue to transform throughout the next several decades, changing designations locations, equipment and structure.

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196th RTI and 60 years of history



Story by Staff Sgt. Lucas Bollock - 129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

As you drive onto Fort Meade, you know you have entered a part of history. The old stone buildings stand strong from an age of engineering where things were simple and made to last. Mixed with these historic buildings are more modern buildings made of wood, brick and steel. You drive down streets like Custer Avenue and Reno Road passed repurposed stables and a hall once used for indoor horse training.

Inside this historic architecture lies the lineage of a unit and institution. The 196th Regiment, Regional Training Institute, one of four major commands in the South Dakota Army National Guard, has been training Soldiers since 1957 and celebrated its 60th anniversary during a dining-in at Riding Hall on Fort Meade, Nov. 4.

The 196th started out as the South Dakota Military Academy in Mitchell and was tasked with establishing the SDNG Officer Candidate School. There were 33 candidates in attendance at the first drill on Nov. 2-3, 1957. The next summer, 19 candidates from Class 1 graduated after completing annual training at Camp Rapid. Attrition was the norm for many years of training Soldiers to become second lieutenants during OCS.

"It used to be kind of a rite of passage," said Col. Timothy Moran, director of logistics for the SDNG. "You had to survive and get through the TACs (teach, assess and counsel officers)."

Moran started as a TAC officer in 1987 with Class 33 and eventually served as the OCS company commander. TACs were similar to drill sergeants in their approach to military bearing, discipline and attention to detail. The TAC officers are now called platoon trainers.

"We believed in leading by example," said retired Lt. Col. Tim Goodwin, a graduate of Class 22 in 1977. "In the field, we carried what they carried plus some of their stuff."

Goodwin became a TAC officer shortly after graduating from OCS. He left the Officer Candidate School after 13 years of training future officers. In 1986, the SDMA moved to Fort Meade and in 1996 it became the Regional Training Institute.

"The training became more tactical with the move to Fort Meade," said Goodwin. Since its inception, the 196th has continued to grow and evolve. One of the biggest changes in the OCS program and at the RTI has been the training culture.

"There was nothing wrong with the way we used to do things," said Moran. "We just made it better." The platoon trainers have taken on a larger responsibility in the training with the emphasis changing from a right-of-passage to mentorship and development.

"Developing an officer is really more of a challenge than breaking one down," said Moran. "You send us that kid and we are going to develop that person the best we can into a platoon leader."

Academics and leadership are now the priorities. "The mental and physical stress hasn't changed," said Moran. "Training is just much more developmental."

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(Photo by Senior Airman Ryan Sparks)

SD National Guard provides domestic operations support

Story by Maj. Anthony Deiss
SDNG Public Affairs Office

The South Dakota National Guard continued to provide domestic operations support to the citizens of South Dakota and the nation throughout 2017. Soldiers and Airmen responded to a variety of missions at the state and federal level that supported civil authorities, emergency management personnel and law enforcement agencies.

“In times of need, South Dakota National Guard forces provide response and recovery assistance to federal, state and local governments,” said Lt. Col. Jim Selchert, director of military support to civil authorities. “Civil authorities understand the unique capabilities of the Guard when additional assets are needed in an emergency or natural disaster.”

Located in 22 communities, the SDNG has more than 4,100 service members that can provide overwhelming capability and capacity to the governor before and after disasters strike. In 2017, Guard members were called up by Gov. Dennis Daugaard to support 11 state active duty missions that involved 90 personnel and totaled over 300 man-days.

The majority of the response involved wildland fire support providing aerial water suppression assistance using HH-60 Black Hawk helicopter crews and ground support personnel. The Army Guard responded to eight fires throughout the Black Hills and western South Dakota from March through September.

“Helicopter flight crews certify annually with the South Dakota Wildland Fire Division in order to provide assistance when wildland fires develop,” said Selchert. “The crews conduct water-bucket drops to aid firefighters on the ground by cooling off hot spots, save structures

Tech. Sgt. Edwin Johnson, 319th Logistics Readiness Squadron, directs a Load Handling System from Company A, 139th Brigade Support Battalion, Sept. 30, at Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D., as four SDNG Soldiers deploy to Puerto Rico.

and help get some containment on the fire.”

When not dropping water, flight crews are also picking up people in need. One crew assisted in the rescue of a male hiker who was injured on Black Elk Peak and airlifted from Custer State Park on April 13.

The man was found near high rock formations by Custer County Search and Rescue personnel about two-thirds of the way up the 7,200-foot peak in rough terrain. The man was airlifted to Rapid City Regional Hospital for treatment.

“Our aviation assets provide a unique hoist capability to be able to safely remove personnel from difficult or hard to reach areas,” said Selchert. “Our crews train every year with interagency partners for these scenarios.”

Another team training and ready to support a variety of local and state



(Photo by Sgt. Austin Pearce)

Members of Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, conduct annual wildland fire certification with the South Dakota Wildland Fire Division near Hot Springs, May 5.



(Photo by Sgt. Austin Pearce)

Second Lt. Michael Wollman, left, and Staff Sgt. Kelley Trebesch, both survey team members with the 82nd Civil Support Team, prepare to conduct sampling of an unidentified substance during a training exercise in Rapid City, Oct. 12.

agencies in 2017 was the 82nd Civil Support Team. Deployable within 90 minutes, the 22-member unit conducted numerous exercises this past year to maintain their preparedness level for responding to chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear threats.

“We train constantly. Every month we do exercises – sometimes a couple exercises in one week,” said Lt. Col. Dale Gadbois, CST commander. “We have to constantly hone our skills because we have so much specialized equipment and we need to be on top of our training, and these exercises afford us the ability to sustain our operations.”

The unit uses high-tech equipment for substance detection and has an array of testing, laboratory and communications gear to help identify natural or man-made hazardous materials.

The 82nd serves as subject experts on any CBRN event and supports civil authorities in major disasters and help emergency management personnel get a clear picture of what’s happening and how to address it.

“It’s critical that we work with agencies because we typically work for an incident commander from a civilian-led agency, whether it be a fire department or law enforcement – and working with them and establishing relationships is going to pay dividends in the end when it comes to a real-world emergency or response.

“By building relationships with first responders, law enforcement, fire departments and hazmat teams, we are able to interoperate,



(Photo by Sgt. Austin Pearce)

Warrant Officer Ashton Hanisch, left, and Staff Sgt. Michael Reiprich, members of Detachment 2, Cyber Protection Team 174, conduct cyber protection training at Camp Rapid in Rapid City, Oct. 11.

communicate and understand each other’s capabilities and how we can complement each other during a response,” said Gadbois.

While the CST was training to protect against CBRN dangers, a new team was activated this year to respond to cyber threats.

In June, an activation ceremony was held for the newest SDNG unit; Detachment 2, Cyber Protection Team 174. CPTs are part of the National Guard Bureau’s ongoing growth of cyber forces throughout the Department of Defense.

The team can be called up by the president or governor to assist local, state and federal agencies’ in protecting domestic critical infrastructure and to provide support to law enforcement, homeland defense and defense support of civil authority activities in support of national objectives.

“Our mission is to coordinate, train and assist mission partners in an advisory-type role to steer them in the right direction in the event of a cyberattack,” said Staff Sgt. Mike Reiprich, senior security analyst for Det. 2, CPT 174. “We would strictly be an extra set of eyes for our mission partners in that advisory role.”

Reiprich also emphasized the team does not perform offensive cyberattacks to any intruder or potential attacker.

“We’re there to defend a network and protect it if an intrusion happens,” he said. “We are preventative and then reactive until a network is secured.”

However it’s not just within the state that South Dakota Guardsmen responded this year. When disaster struck the island of Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, the state responded.

Gov. Daugaard activated four members of Company A, 139th Brigade Support Battalion, at the request of Puerto Rico government authorities to help with recovery operations and provide water distribution capabilities to those in need.

On Oct. 8, the Soldiers deployed with two Load Handling System vehicles and trailers equipped with four Compatible Water Tank Racks, or “Hippos.” The Hippo has the capability to receive, store and distribute up to 2,000 gallons of potable water per system.

Whether responding to natural disasters or preparing to defend against cyberattacks, on any given day, SDNG Airmen and Soldiers are ready to provide assistance.

“The National Guard is the military first responder for our communities, state and nation and the primary domestic response option for the Department of Defense,” Selchert said. “We stand trained and prepared to assist civil authorities in protecting lives and property.”



(Photo by Sgt. Alexis Velez)

A resident of Naranjito, Puerto Rico, thanks Staff Sgt. Gregory Beynon of Company A, 139th Brigade Support Battalion, after providing him with a supply of water, Oct. 11.



Guardisman saves fellow Soldier's life

(Photo by Sgt. Austin Pearce)

Sgt. 1st Class Grant Serna, left, meets with Sgt. David Rodarte at Sioux Park in Rapid City, July 27. Serna performed CPR to save Rodarte's life on June 12 after he suffered a massive heart attack upon completing an Army Physical Fitness Test.

Story by Sgt. Austin Pearce - SONG Public Affairs Office

It's a Monday morning in June and two South Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers are at the track at Sioux Park in Rapid City for an Army Physical Fitness Test. Two minutes of push-ups, two minutes of sit-ups, and a two-mile run - something Sgt. David Rodarte has done at least twice a year since joining the National Guard more than 13 years ago.

Sgt. 1st Class Grant Serna, who trains SDARNG recruits, oversees APFTs at least once a month. He volunteered to administer Rodarte's test that morning. This was an old hat for both of them.

Rodarte, 49, had just completed the two-mile run, the final event of three, passing another APFT. He wasn't feeling right and decided to take a cool-down lap.

"He went to jog out a lap and on turn number four, he collapsed on the track," said Serna. "I ran over to him - he was unresponsive and wasn't breathing. I started chest compressions and began CPR."

Rodarte maintains a healthy diet, exercises regularly to include swimming and Jiu Jitsu, suffered a massive heart attack.

Two men working out at the track rushed over to help. The three would continue CPR until two senior officers, Jerred Younie and Mark Weyer, with the Rapid City Police Department arrived.

Younie and Weyer used their defibrillator device, which Serna said without a doubt helped save Rodarte's life.

Once emergency medical technicians arrived, they started Rodarte on the LUCAS CPR machine, which delivers automated chest compressions, and loaded him into the ambulance. While en route to the hospital, Rodarte's vitals returned.

Rodarte's cardiac arrest gave doctors a chance to identify a more serious underlying cardiovascular problem.

"I had a quintuple bypass surgery," said Rodarte. "Doctors found five arteries that were between 60-90 percent blocked. I also had an aortic valve replacement - that in and of itself is a traumatic experience for the body."

Despite the complications, Rodarte returned to fulfill his National Guard obligations and complete his two-week annual training in July.

"For me, my decision was to put on the uniform and continue doing what I do," said Rodarte, who trains and mentors SDARNG recruits. "It's been part of the healing process for me; putting on the uniform has helped provide me a sense of purpose again."

Since returning to work, Rodarte has had time to reflect on the events in June and develop a greater appreciation for those involved in saving his life.

"Now that time has passed, I realize that what they did was more than just save my life," said Rodarte, a husband and father of two. "They affected my family's lives because they brought back somebody that my wife and children need, and they also thank them."

On July 27, Rodarte and his family had the chance to meet and thank



(Photo by Sgt. Austin Pearce)

Sgt. 1st Class Grant Serna meets with Sgt. David Rodarte's family at Sioux Park in Rapid City, July 27.



(Photo by Sgt. Austin Pearce)

Sgt. 1st Class Grant Serna receives an Army Commendation Medal from Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general of the S.D. National Guard, in Rapid City, Sept. 13.

several of those involved in saving his life.

"It's nice to see the result because quite frankly with cardiac events, the chance of actually making a meaningful difference is pretty slim," said Younie. "The fact that we made a difference and that we got to meet with him and his family after is probably one of the most rewarding things that we can do."

Speaking specifically of Serna's actions, Rodarte said, "I'm just the guy who keeled over and had a heart attack. He's the guy whose training from the Guard saved my life. Most people would've given up within a couple of minutes of chest compressions and said, 'Man, this guy is dead,' but he kept going."

The SDARNG awarded Serna with the Army Commendation Medal, Sept. 13, for taking action to save the life of a fellow Soldier.

Serna said he will do his best in any life-threatening situation because he has the training to help and feels it's the right thing to do.

"If you look at our Founding Fathers and the documents that were a part of creating our nation, there's an overlying umbrella that if you have the ability to help, you have therefore the responsibility to help," said Serna. "That's my idea of Americanism."

The Army Commendation Medal is awarded to any member of the Armed Forces of the United States other than general officers who, while serving in any capacity with the U.S. Army after December 6, 1941, distinguished themselves by heroism, meritorious achievement or meritorious service.



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SDNG wins NGB Excellence in Diversity Award



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Michelle Gonzalez)

Gen. Joseph Lengyel, chief of the National Guard Bureau, left, and Brig. Gen. Carol Timmons, chair of the National Guard's Joint Diversity Executive Council, right, present the South Dakota National Guard's Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Hoekman, Capt. Carstin Jerzak and Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch with the NGB Excellence in Diversity Award in North Little Rock, Ark., Oct. 25.

Story by SDNG Public Affairs Office

The South Dakota Army National Guard won a National Guard Bureau Excellence in Diversity Award for fiscal year 2016 presented at the National Guard Diversity Training Workshop at the Professional Education Center, Camp Robinson, Arkansas.

The Excellence in Diversity Awards are presented to individuals, organizations, states and territories for significant contributions to diversity and inclusion initiatives.

"Enhancing diversity and inclusion has been one of my top priorities since being appointed to this position in 2011," said Maj. General Tim Reisch, SDNG adjutant general. "The closer that our units represent the overall demographics of the State of South Dakota, the better we will be."

The SDARNG received the award in the Army National Guard organization/unit category, which recognizes significant contributions to readiness with regard to participation, leadership, new initiatives and exemplifies diversity of thought and inclusion of leaders of all ranks.

The SDARNG and its Army Diversity Council led the state in diversity initiatives along with other community-based organizations and promoted broader diversity and cultural understanding.

These initiatives have served to embed diversity in our strategic initiatives, as well as within its force development and recruiting and retention marketing approaches, and showcase various internal and external diversity programs linking directly to unit combat readiness.

The SDARNG's Lt. Col. Joe Jacobson, Command Sgt. Maj. Cory Rabenberg and Sgt. Maj. Eric Jennings initiated the award nomination based on community support missions and international participation in the Golden Coyote training exercise.

The SDARNG exercise supported several timber hauling missions to South Dakota's Native American reservations. Five nations - Canada, Denmark, the United Kingdom, Singapore and Suriname - participated in the exercise, along with units from the U.S. Navy, Army Reserve and National Guard from across the nation. In addition, the SDARNG held four celebrations in 2015 in honor of Lakota code talker veterans at locations around the state, which culminated at Crazy Horse Memorial on Veterans Day with over 700 people in attendance.

Artillery history

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15 - Towed 155mm and 8 inch howitzers became the weapons of the late 1950s. By the 1960s and 70s these weapons would become self-propelled.

In 1963, the artillery group would be reorganized into four howitzer battalions. One of which, the 1st Howitzer Battalion, was called up to federal service during the Berlin Crisis and stationed at Fort Sill, Okla., from October 1961 to August 1962.

In the early 1970s, the 1st and 2nd Battalions became the first Army National Guard 8-inch battalions to pass the Nuclear Capabilities Command evaluation, becoming proficient in the delivery of nuclear weapons. By 1978, the group was re-designated as the 147th Field Artillery Brigade with two battalions.

By the late 1990s, the artillery units in the state saw more changes, going to the self-propelled 155mm, M109 Howitzers, and by 1997, both battalions converting to the modern M270 Multiple Launch Rocket System. The MLRS is a high-mobile automatic system that fires surface-to-surface rockets and can employ the Army Tactical Missile System. A crew of three is capable of firing twelve rockets in less than a minute.

By 2003, the South Dakota National Guard would experience its biggest call up since WWII in response to Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom, mobilizing more than 3,400 Soldiers over the next five years. The artillery was ready and willing to answer the call, and carry on the traditions of their forefathers.



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The Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award is the highest recognition given by the U.S. Government to employers for their support of their employees who serve in the Guard and Reserve. Nominations must come from a Guard or Reserve member who is employed by the organization they are nominating, or from a family member. The award was created to publicly recognize employers who provide exceptional support to their Guard and Reserve employees. The nomination process is open to all Guard and Reserve personnel or a family member acting on their behalf and applications are submitted online to ESGR. For more information about the Freedom Award or ESGR programs or ESGR volunteer opportunities, please contact: Maj. Lona Christensen at lona.m.christensen@mail.mil, 605-737-6540 or visit www.ESGR.mil.

196th RTI history

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15 – Gone are the days of log chain training aides for corrective action. “You can apply the same amount of stress with deadlines and administrative actions,” said Moran.

The 196th has not just changed its training culture but it has changed structurally as well. It now consists of two battalions. 1st Battalion is located at Fort Meade and conducts OCS training and the Warrant Officer Candidate School program. 2nd Battalion is located in Sioux Falls and provides several functional and developmental courses including instruction for military specialty schools and noncommissioned officer courses.

“A lot of times people relate the RTI to OCS because the OCS program has a lot of visibility to the nation,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Dan Konechne, 196th senior NCO. “But the courses offered at 2nd Battalion are very valuable to the SDNG as well.”

The 196th will likely continue to grow and evolve in the future as it has in the past, but one thing that has remained consistent over the last 60 years is the brotherhood and relationships that have formed under its training.

“Those relationships, those bonds, they last for years,” said Konechne. Like the stone and the brick of historic Fort Meade.

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**MORE INFORMATION
 TO FOLLOW**

Helpful tips to mentally prepare for the holiday season

There is no season I love more than the holiday season, except perhaps the fall when I get to watch God’s two favorite teams: the Cornhuskers and the Vikings! Nevertheless, the holiday season also brings with it many stressors, and it’s good to be alert and prepare for those as well. Here are some thoughts in that direction:

1) Work on developing realistic expectations. If for instance, your goal is to get every single card and gift purchased by the time you’re reading this issue of the Dakota Pack, you’re probably going to be disappointed. Goals are good, and you definitely SHOULD have some, but work on developing some realistic ones:

- I’m going to work on being happy even if the gifts I bought for others aren’t appreciated
- I’m going to work on getting at least six hours of sleep if I can’t get eight.

2) Find a friend or loved one you plan to visit with when things aren’t going as well as expected. When expectations, even simple ones, are not falling into place, have a plan for how you will deal with that stress. Perhaps it’s a counselor, clergy or maybe a battle buddy, but have a plan for someone you can share the ‘not so great moments with’ – someone you know who cares for you and doesn’t judge you.

3) Forgive yourself when the mistake that has happened is your own doing. It’s often true that we offer words of encouragement and forgiveness to others while giving ourselves none. We are our own worst critic, and while some of that self-evaluation is part of maturity, it’s also possible that we can use such negative language about ourselves to dig a hole that’s hard to get out of. That’s why it’s important to forgive two groups: others and yourself!

4) Try to have fun and keep a positive perspective! In our goal to complete our



massive list of professional and personal goals, we forget what the holidays are really about: a time to take a breather, a time to give thanks and a time to enjoy a season where we reflect on God’s love for us in the gift of sending; His Son. Fun, positive thinking, strange as it may seem, is also a practice. It’s a habit that CAN be developed. Let me give you one quick example – I’m writing this article a little past the deadline and feeling stressed myself, but at the same time waiting for one of our recently deployed chaplains (114th Fighter Wing Chaplain Tesch) to come back from a long deployment of great service to our nation! Who’s had it harder this past year? Easy answer – all of our brave men and women, Soldiers, Airmen and their families who’ve sacrificed so much in 2017! When I reflect on that, I realize I have very little to be anxious about and instead MUCH to be thankful for – as do we all!

God bless and contact me if I can be of any assistance to you or your families!

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Rapid City, SD 57702

FOLLOW YOUR FRONTIER

The Chadron State College War Eagles finished 43rd out of 107 teams in the Army Ten-Miler, the world's third largest 10-mile race in Washington, D.C., in October.

Four CSC ROTC cadets finished around the 1 hour, 27 minute mark or earlier before the race was reclassified to recreational when the Military District of Washington deemed the high temperatures and humidity unsafe for running.

Capt. Nate Reicks said it was the first time Chadron State ROTC competed in the event which included about 35,000 runners. The CSC runners were Connor Besse of Denver, Colo., Justyn Curtis of Richmond, Ind., Calvin DePriest, Mason Marsh of Gering, Neb., Mitchell Parish of North Platte, Neb., Kalli Talbot of Rapid City, S.D, and Sam Vanderheiden of Norfolk, Neb.

ARMY TEN-MILER



Chadron State College War Eagles pose at Arlington National Cemetery in October while visiting Washington, D.C., to compete in the Army Ten-Miler.



The Chadron State Eagle Rate is Chadron State College's low tuition rate for out-of-state students. No matter where you're from, you pay the same affordable rate as in-state students, plus \$1 per credit hour!
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