

DAKOTA PACK

MAGAZINE OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD • WINTER 2018



OUR
HEROES
ARE
HOME

HEROES RETURN

Airmen and Soldiers
return home from
deployments

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- 114th Fighter Wing Airmen return home from AEF rotation
- 1-189th Aviation Regiment Soldiers return from Middle East deployment

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- Heritage, tradition and service in SDNG

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- Air, Army units receive national awards



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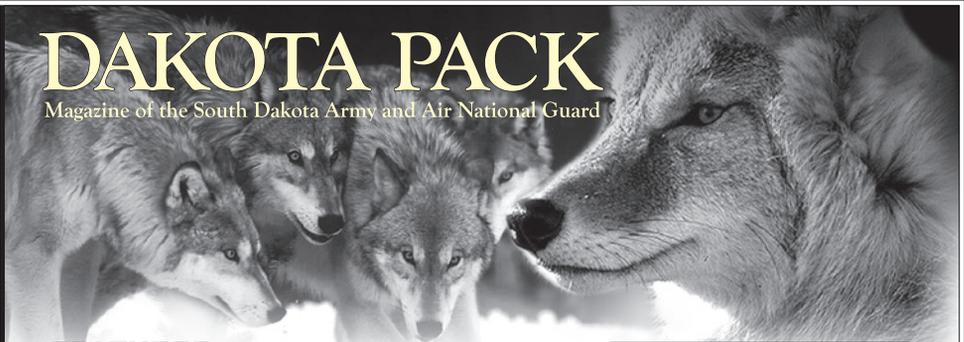
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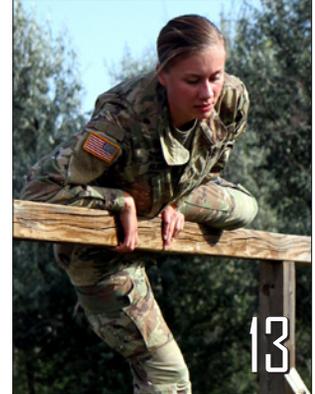


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On the Cover

An Airman with the 114th Fighter Wing is welcomed home by his family in Sioux Falls in early November after completing an Air Expeditionary Force rotation to Southwest Asia where the unit provided decisive air power in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel. (Photo by 114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

Message from the Adjutant General

I want to begin by congratulating Congresswoman Kristi Noem on her election as the 33rd Governor of South Dakota, and the next commander in chief of the South Dakota National Guard. Governor-elect Noem is no stranger to the Guard, having previously served as a state legislator and a highly-supportive member of Congress. Her past membership on the House Armed Services Committee and current membership on the House Ways and Means Committee has certainly given her a unique insight into how things work in the federal circles where the Guard needs to have influence. We look forward to her inauguration on Jan. 5!

It is great to have the members of Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment and the 114th Fighter Wing back from their deployments to the Middle East. By all accounts, both of these units performed all aspects of their important wartime missions in a truly outstanding manner. It is so good to have you safely back on U.S. soil!

In December we will have two more unit activations, the 174th Cyber Protection Team and a combination of Soldiers from B Battery, 1-147th Field Artillery and the Forward Support Company. Both of these units, along with the Detachment 1, Company B of the 935th, will be deployed over Christmas. Please continue to keep all of our deployed troops and their families in your prayers.

Congratulations are in order for the 152nd Combat Support Sustainment Battalion for receiving the General Walter T. Kerwin Jr. Award for being the most outstanding battalion-sized unit in the nation! The award was presented by the deputy commanding general of U.S. Army Forces Command at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. last month. The 152nd also won the Reckord Trophy and the Supply Excellence Award this year so they should be extremely proud of their extraordinarily high state of readiness.

The South Dakota Army National Guard brought back all three of the unit awards again this year during the National Guard Association of the United States conference in New Orleans. The 152nd CSSB was awarded the Maj. Gen. Milton A. Reckord Trophy, B Battery, 1-147th Field Artillery was awarded the General John J. Pershing Plaque and Headquarters Battery 1-147th earned the Certificate of Victory. Not to be outdone, the 114th Fighter Wing stole the spotlight at the other end of the conference hall when they were awarded the Distinguished Flying Unit Plaque, the William W. Spruance Safety Award and the Maj. Gen. John J. Pesch Flight Safety Award. To top it off, the 114th was just awarded the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for the last training year.

There is not another state in the union that even comes close to the number of national awards that we do. Being recognized for these national accolades is a tremendous honor that we should take pride in; but to me what's far more important than the awards themselves, is knowing that our units are highly trained and ready to perform their mission in response to a call from the President of the United States or the Governor of South Dakota. That is what ultimately counts!

While I'm on the topic of excellence, I'd like to congratulate Staff Sgt. Cory Cody of the 211th Engineer Company for winning the SD Army National Guard NCO of the Year competition in September. Pfc. Nicholas Rios earned the distinction of being named the Soldier of the Year. These two Soldiers represent the best of our enlisted ranks and will go on to compete in regional competition against the winners from other states. The best of luck to you both!

On Sept. 8 we dedicated the newly constructed South Dakota National Guard Memorial Plaza adjacent to our state headquarters building on Camp Rapid. The plaza features a beautiful memorial to the 171 S.D.

National Guard Soldiers who have lost their lives while serving in combat since our first muster in 1862. If you haven't had a chance to see it yet, please do so the next time you're in Rapid City. It is a fitting tribute to the Soldiers who have lost their lives serving our great nation and to their families whose lives were forever changed in the aftermath.

During the month of October, the S.D.

National Guard received three other awards that I would like to briefly mention. Our Substance Abuse Program was awarded the Secretary of Defense's Community Drug Awareness Award at a ceremony conducted in the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. on Oct. 18. Cricket Palmer and Paul Brosz have dedicated countless hours supporting this critical mission. The S.D. Army National Guard received the Excellence in Diversity Award during the Diversity and Inclusion Symposium held in Little Rock on Oct. 24. Brig. Gen. Croymans, Command Sgt. Maj. Hoekman and Carstin Jerzak have all worked very hard to make this a priority throughout the Army Guard and this award is a manifestation of their efforts. Finally, the 114th Fighter Wing was honored with the Governor's Award in Occupational Safety for the 8th consecutive year and 18th time overall at a ceremony last month in Sioux Falls. Col. Nate Alholinna and Senior Master Sgt. Don Pottebaum received the award. It is obvious that safety is a huge priority at the finest fighter wing in the nation!

At a recent conference in Washington, D.C. the chief of staff of the U.S. Army, Gen. Mark Milley said something during his keynote address that really stuck with me. "The only thing more costly than preparing for war is fighting a war, and the only thing more costly than fighting a war, is losing a war." What a profound statement that is! As a taxpayer, I understand that the amount money we spend on defense is astounding, but given the threats we face around the world, we really have no other reasonable choice.

I thank God that we have so many dedicated women and men who are willing to serve in uniform to defend our way of life, and to help others who are unable to do so. I am so proud of you all, and consider it the honor of my life to serve as your leader.



Sincerely,

Timothy A. Reisch
Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch
The Adjutant General

Message from the Assistant Adjutant General - Army

Why should mentorship be a priority? By now you should know a little about the efforts to establish and maintain a viable mentorship program in the SDARNG. Currently, the program consists of a location on the SDARNG home page where individuals can go to find resources on mentorship and where one can provide contact information to either provide or receive mentorship. The long term goal is to establish and nurture an environment where mentorship is an integral part of being a member of the SDARNG.



"A lot of people have gone further than they thought they could because someone else thought they could," is an anonymous quote that very accurately depicts the value of mentorship.

Throughout my career in both my civilian and military occupations, I've had the good fortune of mentorship. It's come to me in many ways: formal and informal, expected and unexpected, welcomed and unwelcomed. But in every instance the intended outcome was always positive, whether I realized it at the time or not. Looking back, the not so pleasant mentoring sessions were probably the most valuable!

The best leaders I've had were the ones that took the time and showed interest in what I was doing, how I was doing it, where I was in my career and where I should be going. Likewise, I've tried to do that for those in my circle of influence. The bottom line is that mentorship builds character, instills confidence, and inspires people to achieve what they might not otherwise have done.

Mentoring programs help Soldiers do the right thing by exposing them to those Soldiers who have more experience, that know how to do the right thing. This helps them perform more effectively and gives them more satisfaction and confidence. Higher job satisfaction leads to increased productivity and higher retention rates.

Mentoring is important, not only because of the knowledge and skills taught by mentors, but also because mentoring provides professional socialization and personal support to facilitate success in positions of greater scope and responsibility. Studies have shown 90 percent of people who were mentored want to mentor others - so it's easy to see how a viable mentorship program will not only have a ripple effect but a long lasting effect as well.

The South Dakota Army National Guard is truly a great organization but we can make it better. We can do that as leaders by purposely taking time to mentor those we lead, at every opportunity, to pass on those best practices that have made us and the organization successful so that future generations of the South Dakota Guard can not only continue the legacy but make this organization even greater than it is today.

Sincerely,

Brig. Gen. Tom Croymans
Assistant Adjutant General - Army

SDARNG recognized for excellence in diversity



(Photo by Maj. Anthony Deiss)

Senior SDNG leaders and members of the Army Diversity Council proudly display the National Guard Bureau Excellence in Diversity Award at Camp Rapid, Nov. 4.

By SDNG Public Affairs Office

The South Dakota Army National Guard won a National Guard Bureau Excellence in Diversity Award for fiscal year 2017. The awards are presented to outstanding National Guard individuals, organizations, states and territories for significant contributions to diversity and inclusion initiatives. For the second year in a row, 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 non-traditional leaders of all ranks.

"Enhancing diversity and inclusion has been one of my top priorities since being appointed to this position in 2011," said Maj. Gen. 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 and its Army Diversity Council have 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 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.

Several of these initiatives included: working with community partners to host cultural awareness events; increasing efforts to recruit and retain women and minorities; promoting a culture where all service members can achieve the highest levels of leadership; building allied nation partnerships during training exercises and events; and to develop, mentor and retain top talent reflective of the communities the National Guard serves.

"Engagement is the key, and with engagement comes increased cultural education and competence, which helps us be a more inclusive organization and thus reflective of our state," said Carstin Jerzak, state manager of the SDNG Office of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

A highlight event included the hosting of a Native American cultural awareness day during its annual Golden Coyote training exercise. The event featured a wacipi with ceremonial dancing and music, traditional food and artifacts, and informational booths, exhibits and craft classes. The event exposed more than 1,000 service members that participated in the exercise to Native American culture, customs and heritage.

SDNG Mentorship Program

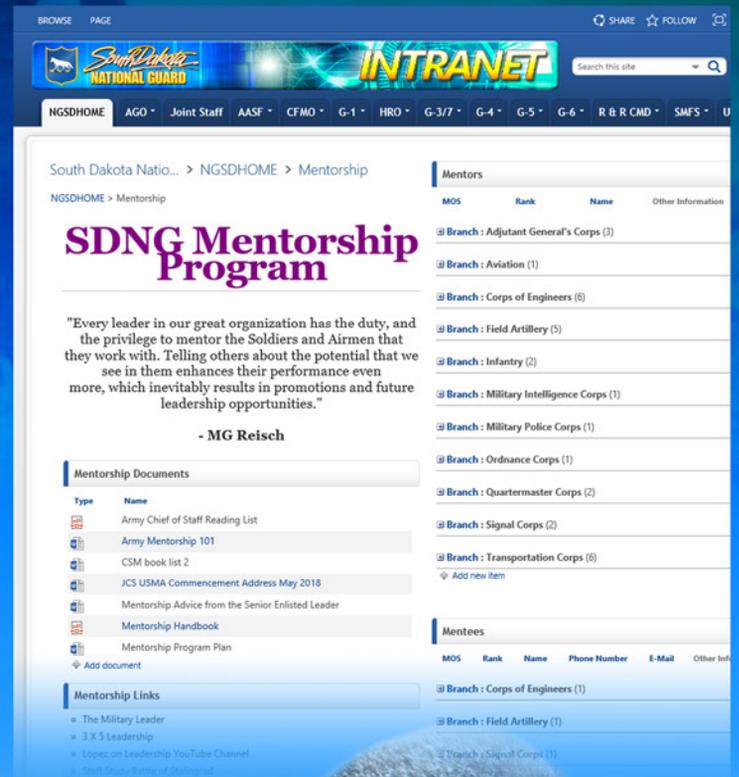
The SDNG Mentorship Program is an opportunity for you to reach your full potential and is an extremely powerful tool for personal and professional development. Mentoring offers many opportunities for mentors and mentees to improve their leadership, interpersonal and technical skills, as well as achieve personal and professional goals.

The Mentor-Mentee Relationship can provide:

- Encouragement and support
- Honesty, candid information, advice and guidance
- "Big picture" view and help with "vision"
- Honest appraisal of capabilities
- Assistance in making "good" choices
- Advice on career paths or needs specific to MOS or Branch
- Officer or NCO Professional Development
- Advice on making the military a career
- How to manage military life
- How to prepare for retirement

Sign up online at the SDNG Intranet homepage as a mentor or mentee. The site also contains information, articles and references on mentorship, and a recommended reading list.

<https://gko.portal.ng.mil/states/SD/NGSDHOME/default.aspx>



The screenshot shows the SDNG Intranet homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for BROWSE, PAGE, SHARE, FOLLOW, and a search bar. Below the navigation bar, there is a banner for the South Dakota National Guard Intranet. The main content area features the title "SDNG Mentorship Program" and a quote: "Every leader in our great organization has the duty, and the privilege to mentor the Soldiers and Airmen that they work with. Telling others about the potential that we see in them enhances their performance even more, which inevitably results in promotions and future leadership opportunities." Below the quote, there is a section for "Mentorship Documents" with a list of documents including "Army Chief of Staff Reading List", "Army Mentorship 101", "CSM book list 2", "JCS USMA Commencement Address May 2018", "Mentorship Advice from the Senior Enlisted Leader", "Mentorship Handbook", and "Mentorship Program Plan". There is also a section for "Mentorship Links" with links to "The Military Leader", "3 X 5 Leadership", "Lopes on Leadership YouTube Channel", and "Staff Study Items of Distinction". On the right side, there are two tables: "Mentors" and "Mentees". The "Mentors" table has columns for MOS, Rank, Name, and Other Information, and lists various branches with their respective counts. The "Mentees" table has columns for MOS, Rank, Name, Phone Number, E-Mail, and Other Information, and lists various branches with their respective counts.

"Every leader in our great organization has the duty and the privilege to mentor the Soldiers and Airmen that they work with. Telling others about the potential that we see in them enhances their performance even more, which inevitably results in promotions and future leadership opportunities."

- Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch

SD Air, Army Guard units receive national awards



The 114th Fighter Wing was presented a Distinguished Flying Unit Plaque, William W. Spruance Safety Award, and the Maj. Gen. John J. Pesch Flight Safety Award.



The 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion was presented the Maj. Gen. Milton A. Reckord Trophy as the most outstanding Army National Guard battalion.

Story by SDNG Public Affairs Office

NEW ORLEANS – South Dakota Air and Army National Guard units continue to earn top honors for performance excellence as they brought home six awards from the 2018 National Guard Association of the United States annual conference in New Orleans, Aug. 27.

For the fourth year in a row, the SD Air National Guard’s 114th Fighter Wing of Sioux Falls was the recipient of a Distinguished Flying Unit Plaque, which recognizes the five most outstanding Air National Guard flying units in the nation. This is the eighth time the 114th has received the honor.

The 114th also received the William W. Spruance Safety Award, presented annually to the National Guard unit that makes the most significant contribution to accident prevention, and the Maj. Gen. John J. Pesch Flight Safety Award, presented annually to two flying units judged to have demonstrated the highest standards of flight safety in the Air National Guard. S.D. Army National Guard units received awards

in all three of the Army categories. The 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion of Pierre received the Maj. Gen. Milton A. Reckord Trophy as the most outstanding Army National Guard battalion in the nation for achieving the highest standards in training and readiness.

The Yankton-based B Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, received the General John J. Pershing Plaque for weapons marksmanship. The unit attained the highest figure of merit (highest percentage of assigned members qualified) during annual weapons qualification firing with assigned individual weapons.

The Watertown-based Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, received the Certificate of Victory for having the highest overall figure of merit in the nation.

“The state of readiness and overall quality of our units is unmatched by any other state as evidenced by the selection for these prestigious awards,” said Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, SDNG adjutant general. “I couldn’t be more proud of the Soldiers and Airmen of the South Dakota National Guard!”

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- 12C BRIDGE CREWMEMBER
- 74D CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL & NUCLEAR (CBRN) SPECIALIST
- 94F COMPUTER DETECTION SYSTEMS REPAIRER
- 92G FOOD SERVICE SPECIALIST
- 92A AUTOMATED LOGISTICAL SPECIALIST
- 12N HORIZONTAL CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
- 92Y UNIT SUPPLY SPECIALIST
- 91B WHEELED VEHICLE MECHANIC
- 35F INTELLIGENCE ANALYST
- 12Y GEOSPATIAL ENGINEER
- 25B INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST
- 42A HUMAN RESOURCES SPECIALIST

152nd CSSB named most outstanding Army Guard unit

Story by SONG Public Affairs Office

WASHINGTON - A South Dakota Army National Guard battalion received the Gen. Walter T. Kerwin, Jr. Award as the most outstanding Army National Guard battalion in the nation at an Oct. 3 ceremony in Washington, D.C.

The 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion received the award recognizing the top performing Army National Guard and Army Reserve units in the country at the annual conference of the Association of the U.S. Army.

The Pierre-based 152nd CSSB demonstrated excellence in operational planning, execution of training and maintaining high readiness standards above all other Army National Guard units for training year 2017.

Lt. Gen. Laura J. Richardson, deputy commanding general, U.S. Army Forces Command, presented the award to Lt. Col. Tim Schlotterback, 152nd battalion commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Eric Jennings.

"The 152nd has distinguished itself as a battalion that demonstrated excellence in operational planning, execution of training and maintaining high levels of readiness," said Schlotterback. "The hard work and dedication of Soldiers in this battalion resulted in four of the five down trace units receiving the Superior Unit Award."

The 152nd CSSB is currently preparing for an upcoming deployment to the Middle East, where they will provide command and control of logistical missions in support of U.S. forces in the region.

"The training focus of "Train as You Fight" has embodied the success of the 152nd," Schlotterback said. "The Soldiers in the battalion exhibit great pride in their hard work and dedication to the outstanding achievements and readiness metrics."

To be eligible for the award, units must achieve readiness objectives as outlined by U.S. Army Forces Command.

Evaluation criteria for the award include the areas of assigned personnel strength, percentage of personnel qualified in their duty position, attendance at monthly drill weekends and annual training, individual weapons qualification and physical fitness test scores, as well as an effective maintenance program.

The 152nd CSSB provides mission command and supervision for five units with about 520 Soldiers in seven communities



(Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Pete Morrison)

The 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion receives the Gen. Walter T. Kerwin, Jr. Award in recognition as the most outstanding Army National Guard battalion in the nation in Washington, D.C., Oct. 3.

throughout South Dakota. They assist assigned units in meeting training, administrative and logistical requirements to maintain the unit's readiness in support of their state and federal missions.

Units under the 152nd CSSB's command include: Headquarters and Headquarters Company in Pierre; the 730th Area Support Medical Company in Vermillion; the 740th Transportation Company in Milbank and its detachment in Aberdeen; the 1742nd Transportation Company in Sioux Falls and its detachment in Flandreau; and the 147th Army Band in Mitchell.

"This award is a recognition of the quality of leaders we have at the company level, from the company commander down to the squad leader, whose dedication and focus on individual and unit readiness validates our units are relevant and ready to perform their state and federal mission," said Schlotterback.

The Kerwin Award was first established in 1976 after the former U.S. Army vice chief of staff who served as the first commander of U.S. Army Forces Command. The command was responsible for ensuring the readiness and training of all Army units in the United States.

Kerwin was a strong advocate of the "One Army" or "Total Army" concept that recognized the important role of the National Guard and Army Reserve. The programs he initiated resulted in a significant improvement in the readiness of reserve components.

114th FW and 175th FS receive Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

Story by 114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

SIOUX FALLS - The 114th Fighter Wing and 175th Fighter Squadron, South Dakota Air National Guard, were the recipients of the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for the time period Oct. 1, 2016, to Dec. 31, 2017, for exceptionally meritorious service.

The Air Force Outstanding Unit Award is given by the Secretary of the Air Force to numbered units of the active-duty Air Force, Air Force Reserve, and Air National Guard, that clearly set themselves apart from other units.

The 114th and 175th demonstrated the ability to accomplish federal and state missions while maintaining a focus on safety, service within the community and Airmen development.

This is the fourth consecutive year, and the tenth time overall the unit has received this honor.

153rd receives Army Deployment Excellence Award

Story by SDNG Public Affairs Office

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. – A South Dakota Army National Guard battalion received an Army Deployment Excellence Award at the Professional Education Center in Little Rock, Nov. 14.

The 153rd Engineer Battalion received the award that recognizes units for outstanding deployment accomplishments and captures innovative deployment initiatives that may improve the Army's deployment process.

The Huron-based 153rd En. Bn., along with its Parkston-based Forward Support Company, deployed 164 Soldiers to the Middle East from November 2016 to September 2017 where they provided command and control of attached engineer units. Unit members served in multiple locations throughout the region, which included Iraq and Syria, completing more than 54 engineer projects and 1,000 work orders.

"Their attention to detail and work ethic are key factors in their

success throughout the year," said Lt. Col. Dennis Bickett, battalion commander.

The 153rd was responsible for over \$105 million in equipment and raised maintenance readiness rates of the theater provided equipment from 57 percent to 95 percent in the first four months of their deployment.

"The 153rd Engineer Battalion displays true professionalism on a daily basis," said Bickett. "They are always ready, willing and able to accomplish any assigned mission."

The 153rd was also submitted for the Meritorious Unit Commendation for performance during their deployment.

"The Soldiers upheld our state's reputation for excellence and ensured the Army's high standards for a deployed unit was maintained at all times," said Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, South Dakota National Guard's adjutant general.

152nd CSSB wins regional supply award

Story by SDNG Public Affairs Office

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. – The U.S. Army announced a South Dakota Army National Guard battalion as a region winner and national runner up in supply excellence awards. The award was presented at the Professional Education Center in Little Rock, Nov. 14.

The 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion won the Region VI Supply Excellence Award and was runner up in U.S. Army Chief of Staff of the Army Supply Excellence Award, which recognizes Army units who demonstrate excellence in supply and support operations, property accountability and resource management.

The Pierre-based battalion that provides mission command and supervision for five units with approximately 520 Soldiers in seven communities throughout South Dakota was named runner up in the Modified Table of Organization and Equipment, or MTOE, unit category.

The Supply Excellence Award Program was established in 1984 by the Chief of Staff of the Army to recognize excellence in supply operations at various unit and organizational levels. The program's objectives are to enhance logistics readiness of all Army units, enforce the Command Supply Discipline Program and provide a structure for official recognition of group and individual initiatives.

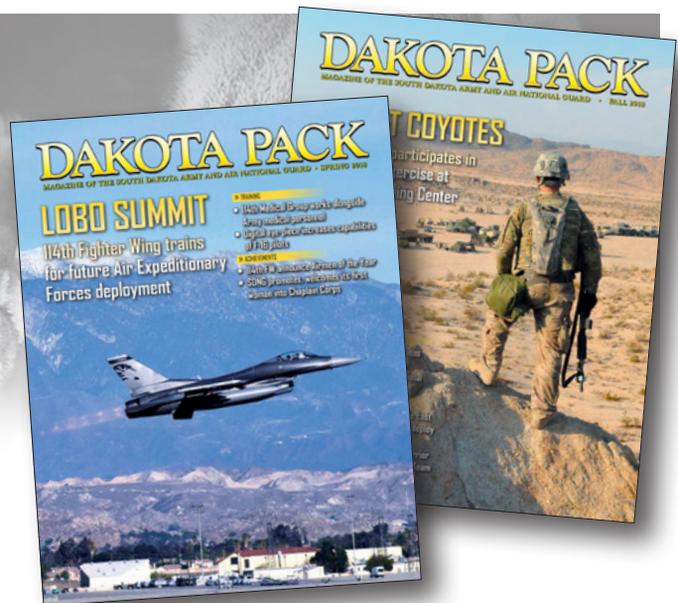
DAKOTA PACK magazine to go digital

Dakota Pack Magazine will publish its final four issues in print in 2019.

The magazine will continue to be published in digital form only and will be available by signing up for the email distribution list or it will be available on the South Dakota National Guard website: sd.ng.mil.

For members of our individual mailing list, primarily retirees, you will no longer receive the magazine in the mail or be able to pick up a copy at a local armory. We are encouraging all our retirees who wish to continue to receive the magazine in digital form, to sign up for the email distribution list.

Send us your email address, along with your full name to: ng.sd.sdarng.list.pao@mail.mil or call 605-737-6978 or 605-737-6721 to provide your information by phone.



1-189th Aviation Regiment honored during welcome home ceremony

Story by SDNG Public Affairs Office

RAPID CITY – About 90 Soldiers with the South Dakota Army National Guard's Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment is were honored during a homecoming ceremony in Rapid City, Nov. 4.

Hundreds of family members, friends and community supporters assembled at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center to welcome home the Soldiers who returned to South Dakota in September after serving nearly a year throughout the Middle East.

"You know they got your back you can go forward and do your job knowing that everyone is behind you and supporting you and really the entire community," said 1st Sgt. Michael Martin, 1-189th senior noncommissioned officer. "Being back is amazing. You really appreciate the things you have at home when you're gone for a year."

While deployed, the unit provided 24/7 combat life-saving aerial medical evacuation support with HH-60M Black Hawk helicopters to U.S. military and coalition forces in Iraq and Syria.

State and local government leaders to include Lt. Gov. Matt Michels, Congresswoman Kristi Noem, Rapid City Mayor Steve Allender and Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, SDNG adjutant general, spoke to the audience and addressed the Soldiers and their family members during the ceremony.

"To the members of the 1-189th, it's great to have you back!" said Reisch. "The mission that you performed was critical to this nation's strategic objectives in the Middle East, and by all accounts, you performed all aspects of this mission in an outstanding manner. I couldn't be more proud of you than I am today and to have you home safe and sound."

The unit completed over 500 flying missions from six locations and evacuated over 700 patients while providing enroute medical care to higher-level medical facilities. The Soldiers also worked with over 20 coalition nations to develop medical capacity and training while deployed.

The unit's commander, Maj. Anthony Timanus, thanked the Soldiers for their efforts and praised the unit's various sections for their



South Dakota Lt. Gov. Matt Michels welcomes back members of Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment during a welcome home ceremony in Rapid City, Nov. 4. (Photo by Sgt. Brandon Julson)



Sgt. First Class Adam Armstrong is welcomed home by members of the South Dakota Army National Guard during a ceremony for 89 Soldiers with Company C, 1-189th Aviation Regiment. (Photo by Sgt. Brandon Julson)

contributions to the mission.

"We flew over 500 missions and 252 of those were live-combat missions," Timanus said. "Every single location that we had a live mission, I know out of those 252 people that we picked up, there are people that are walking back home in the United States right now. You guys were amazing."

Timanus and Martin were thankful to have their Soldiers home safe in time for the holidays.

"Your goal as a leader is always to come home with the same number of people that you left with," Timanus said. "I couldn't ask for more than that. It's a great Christmas present."

"We missed the last holidays and this just makes it all the more special because we're going to be together on this one," Martin said. no exception.

114th Fighter Wing Airmen return home from deployment

Photos by 114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

SIoux FALLS - Airmen with the 114th Fighter Wing returned home to Sioux Falls in early November after completing an Air Expeditionary Force rotation to Southwest Asia where they provided decisive air power in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel.

Hundreds of family members and friends welcomed home the deployed Airmen at Joe Foss Field. Several Airmen from the AEF rotation were still deployed and a welcome home ceremony is planned for December.

The 114th Fighter Wing deployed about 335 Airmen and F-16 fighter aircraft in July to the region to provide combatant commanders with the capabilities needed to maintain a deterrent against threats to regional security and stability.





Career Day sparks passions

Story by Staff Sgt. Jorrie Hart
114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

SIoux FALLS - No matter what your passion is, there is a good chance you'll find it here at the South Dakota Air National Guard. Recruiters hosted a career day event for potential new recruits and their families at Joe Foss Field, Nov. 2.

"Career day is an opportunity for recruiters to open our doors to the community and show what we actually do within these walls," said Staff Sgt. Jordan Snyder, 114th Fighter Wing recruiter.

"A lot of the people in the community don't know what the Air Guard does," said Snyder. "They hear the jets, they just don't know what we're doing. It's a good way to showcase different careers and opportunities that we have."

The event kicked off with breakfast and a short video exploring the vast career opportunities within the Air National Guard.

At the conclusion of the video, Lt. Col. Travis Schuring, HQ SDANG director of personnel/A2, highlighted the various careers available and how they have specifically contributed to an assortment of local and global missions. The global mission was on display for attendees that morning, as crew members could be seen unloading an MD-11 jet airliner that had returned from an overseas deployment with cargo and personnel.

Col. Nathan Alholinna, 114th Fighter Wing commander, acknowledged the extensive impact the SDANG has on the overall global mission of the Air Force. He highlighted the unit's combat specific mission by stating, "That's what we do, and that's why we're here."

Alholinna enforced the importance of the mission, but made clear his number one priority as commander is the Airmen.

"I'm here to take care of your children," Alholinna said to a room full of young adults and their parents.

Over 50 individuals and their families traveled from over 30 different communities to see what the Air National Guard has to offer.

Cordell Murtha, a Parkston High School junior, said he heard about career day while interacting with Technical Sgt. Bo Ellefson, 114th Fighter Wing recruiter, at a college fair in Mitchell. Murtha's familiarity with the unit goes beyond that of his peers since he has



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Jorrie Hart)

Staff Sgt. Isaac Druin, 114th Civil Engineer Squadron emergency management technician, explains to career day attendees about the functions of the Mobile Emergency Operation Center, Nov. 2.



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Jorrie Hart)

Attendees at the South Dakota Air National Guard career day were shown several areas of the unit that might be of interest to them including getting a close-up view of the cockpit of an F-16 jet.

two older brothers who have enlisted in the SDANG. He became interested after attending meetings with his brothers as they went through the recruitment process.

"Listening to what the Air National Guard had to offer for jobs and getting to work with jets sounded sweet," said Murtha. After hearing so much about the unit from his brothers, he was looking forward to experiencing the career possibilities himself.

When asked if there was a particular shop he was eager to learn about, he said he was keeping his options open but it sounded to him like being a crew chief would be exciting.

In continuation of the day's events, recruits and their families were escorted to a location near the runway to watch the launching of two F-16 aircraft. While many said they had previously heard jets flying over their

communities, few had the opportunity to see them in person until this experience.

The event also included the opportunity for attendees to explore first-hand the inside of a jet engine, walk through the unit's Mobile Emergency Operations Center, and climb the ladder of an F-16 aircraft to view the cockpit. Subject matter experts were at each station to answer questions about the career fields.

While many participants had previously met with a recruiter, attending the event helped them clarify what career path they might pursue and enforced their desire to become a part of the Air National Guard family.

Staff Sgt. Snyder anticipates the next SDANG career day event will occur in April 2019 and encourages anyone with friends or family interested in what the Air National Guard has to offer to check it out.



Fallen heroes honored with memorial

Story and photos by Sgt. Carl Johnson – 129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The South Dakota National Guard dedicated a new memorial plaza, Sept. 8, on Camp Rapid to honor 171 fallen SDNG Soldiers who died in various wars or conflicts since the organization's formation in 1862. The memorial pays tribute to the service and sacrifice of these fallen heroes who were active members of the SDNG and died while deployed during federal service.

The Soldiers and their families were honored in several ways including the playing of taps, firing a cannon, a Black Hawk helicopter flyover and speeches by distinguished guests. Lt. Gov. Matt Michels and Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, made speeches honoring the memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service of their country.

"I wanted to give a complete picture and give due credit to honor every family who lost a Soldier," said Reisch. "It's long overdue but we got it right, and it's something we can be proud of. In talking with the family members, they are appreciative of what we did here. We are not going to forget about these Soldiers."

Several family members of the fallen attended the dedication, including the family of Chief Warrant Officer 2 Paul J. Pillen, who gave his life in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Paul was a fantastic young man who loved being in the National Guard," said Gary Pillen, his father. "I love the memorial. It will allow people to come here and remember their sacrifice."

The importance of the memorial and the extent of sacrifice were further emphasized by CW2 Pillen's daughter.

"It means a lot to have this place," said Kaylee Pillen. "It's a way to make sure he is not forgotten. I feel really close to him."

The memorial plaza includes a metallic globe, stone wall and metal plaques with the names of all known South Dakota Guardsmen who lost their lives during the Philippine Insurrection, World War I, World War II, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

"People will come here 50 years from now and they will see the names, and maybe it will be children, grandchildren or great grandchildren that will know that the South Dakota National Guard is appreciative of what their family member did," said Reisch.



Several family members of fallen South Dakota National Guard Soldier reach out to touch their names on the wall of a new memorial plaza dedicated on Camp Rapid, Sept. 8. Several family members of the fallen attended and were deeply moved by seeing the name of their loved one on the memorial wall.



SD Army National Guard names Soldier, NCO of the Year for 2019

Story by Staff Sgt. Austin Pearce
129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Pfc. Kasianna Klemm, Company A, 139th Brigade Support Battalion, navigates an obstacle at the obstacle course during the SDARNG Best Warrior Competition at West Camp Rapid, Rapid City, Sept. 7
(Photo by Staff Sgt. Kayla Morris)



The South Dakota Army National Guard selected six enlisted Soldiers and seven non-commissioned officers to compete in the state's Best Warrior Competition in Rapid City and Sturgis, Sept. 7-9, to identify the next Soldier and Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year, respectively.

After the three-day competition, Staff Sgt. Cory Cody, of White Owl, and a member with the 211th Engineer Company, was named the SDARNG's Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year. Pfc. Nicholas Rios, of Rapid City, and a member with the Headquarters Company, 109th Regional Support Group, was named the SDARNG Soldier of the Year.

"The significance of this Best Warrior Competition is because of the dynamic world that we live in today," said State Command Sgt. Maj. James Hoekman, the SDNG's senior enlisted leader. "We are now changing our philosophy on how we fight and it's going to be a more near-peer enemy and with that, brings demands of more individual training for our Soldiers.

"This competition is based on that individual posture where they're doing individual training on warrior tasks, life-saving tasks, CBRNE (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and/or explosive) tasks, and weapons qualification and familiarization - all the basic war-tasks needed for an individual Soldier to protect themselves in combat."

The BWC challenges the competitors academically, technically, physically and mentally.

"I feel very proud of myself," said Rios. "I represented my unit at the highest standard possible and made my family proud as well."

This year's competition was changed to mirror the intensity that the Soldiers may face at the regional and national level competitions. The timing of the state competition was also changed from April 2019 to September 2018 to give the winner's more time to train and prepare for the regional competition next spring.

"Every year, we've gotten a little bit better and we go to these different competitions [regionals and nationals] and we take the best practices that we see there and bring them back to our state competition," said Hoekman. "Bailey Ruff won nationals last year for Soldier of the Year and it shows our Soldiers in South Dakota that they can compete with anybody in the nation - in the National Guard, the Reserve or in the active Army component - and that they can win against that competition."



(Photo by Sgt. Brandon Julson)

Sgt. Amber Vanderwerff, 740th Transportation Company, assembles an M1G/A2 rifle during weapons familiarization while competing in the SDARNG Best Warrior Competition at Fort Meade, Sturgis, Sept. 8.

Cody and Rios will advance to the Region 6 Best Warrior Competition scheduled to be held in North Dakota, spring 2019, where they'll face competitors from Alaska, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming.

At regionals, they will be tested on a variety of skill sets, which can include warrior tasks and battle drills, written essays, uniforms and appearance, drill and ceremony, land navigation and map reading, first aid, weapon systems, physical fitness and general Army knowledge.

"It is extremely humbling to be chosen to represent each and every NCO in the state," said Cody. "This is a task I am more than willing to take on for the South Dakota National Guard the best I can."

The NCO of the Year runner-up/alternate was Sgt. Daniel Ward, 129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, and the Soldier of the Year runner-up/alternate was Spc. Rylie Fleckenstein, Alpha Battery, 1/147th Field Artillery Battalion.

The competition and the training involved to prepare for it provides the competitors not only with the opportunity to improve themselves, but to improve their peers and subordinates as well.

"The competition was definitely difficult; there's a wide variety of subjects and physical activities and it certainly pushes a Soldier to the limits and hopefully beyond the limits that they've already set for themselves," said Cody. "As an NCO, you try to take experiences and learning points from any event that you go to in the military and that allows you to take that knowledge and improve the way that you train your Soldiers."



(Photo by Sgt. Brandon Julson)



(Photo by Sgt. Brandon Julson)



(Photo by Sgt. Brandon Julson)



(Photo by Sgt. Brandon Julson)

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Staff Sgt. Cory Cody, 211th Engineer Company, is named the 2018 SDARNG Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year receiving the award from State Command Sgt. Maj. James Hoekman.

Pfc. Nicholas Rios, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 109th Regional Support Group, is named the 2018 SDARNG Soldier of the Year receiving the award from State Command Sgt. Maj. James Hoekman.

Sgt. Beau Manning, Company A, 139th Brigade Support Battalion, shoots a Berretta M9 pistol during weapons qualification at the SDARNG Best Warrior Competition at West Camp Rapid, Sept. 7.

Spc. Tyler Pepper, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, applies a bandage to a casualty during the SDARNG Best Warrior Competition at Fort Meade, Sept. 8.

Heritage, tradition and service in the South Dakota National Guard



Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Austin Pearce - 129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

For one South Dakota Army National Guard Soldier, service to her state and country is just one reason she decided to join the military. Spc. Tatiana Lafferty, a carpentry masonry specialist with the 155th Engineer Company out of Rapid City, always had the vision to serve in the armed forces like several of her family members but life's hindrances complicated that decision.

“My mother used to be in the active duty Army, and I always wanted to serve in the Army, but my cousin was in the Guard a few years before I joined and he made it sound pretty cool,” said Lafferty. “I decided to join the Guard too because you can still have your civilian self and go to school while serving in the military.”

Although she wanted to follow in the footsteps of her mother, Lafferty is a single mother and the choice to serve and not affect her son’s life dramatically is what led her to join the Guard.

“Another reason I didn’t go active duty is because I didn’t want to drag him all over,” said Lafferty. “I get the opportunity to serve at home and still be near my son – that’s important to me.”

With it being Native American Heritage Month, Lafferty reflects on what it means to her to be Native American and to serve her community, state and nation.

“It makes me feel proud because there’s not many Native Americans that actually join the military,” said Lafferty. “I wish more Native Americans would serve so they can see how the military could make their life better.”

On the civilian side, Lafferty works full-time with Indian Health Services in Rapid City as a dental technician and really enjoys the aspects of her job because it brings her comfort to help other Native Americans in her community.

“It’s nice to help Native Americans because being Native myself, I think they feel more comfortable,” said Lafferty. “It’s a really cool job because we mainly perform oral surgeries and I get to make incisions and drill bones.”

Her experience with IHS inspired her to take her profession to the next level and go back to school full-time.

“I thought about becoming a dentist but I didn’t want to be that old when I got my degree,” said Lafferty. “For the short-term, I picked nursing and I want to be in the ER scene because I like to work with trauma and the excitement of it.”

Even though she is a single mother, full-time student and employed full-time, Lafferty says she feels her part-time service with the SDARNG doesn’t interfere with her other obligations.

“I feel the Guard doesn’t impact my personal life at all – I have a really supportive employer and my family is so supportive and ready if I have to leave for anything,” said Lafferty. “It is pretty hard balancing it all but things seem to fall into place – it’s made me appreciate my family a ton because they help watch my son while I’m at school or work.”

While she works in a largely male-dominant



Sp. Tatiana Lafferty studies for English 103 at the He Sapa College Center at Oglala Lakota College in Rapid City as she pursues a degree in nursing.



Sp. Tatiana Lafferty works full-time with Indian Health Services in Rapid City as a dental technician while also attending to her duties as a single mother, full-time student and an Army National Guard Soldier.

unit with the Guard, she doesn’t feel different by those she works with, as she is one of two females in the unit that participates with engineer projects.

“It’s a hard trade, but the unit doesn’t back down from letting me do the tough jobs – I’m treated like one of ‘the guys,’” said Lafferty. “I also thought it’d be cool to learn skills that can be used at home too; it’s just a really cool trade.”

Lafferty also likes how the unit does projects that support the community and state.

“It makes me feel happy that we get the chance to help out with our projects so that others don’t have to,” said Lafferty. “The civilians greatly appreciate the National Guard and they’ll bring us coffee and donuts or open up their shops so we can use their restrooms; it’s really neat.”

She also puts in as much time as she can with community service.

“I help feed the homeless on Sundays,” said Lafferty. “I first started because it was a requirement for one of my classes, but I took it upon myself to continue to do it and now my coworkers are involved and they’ll bring coats and other donations – it’s awesome to see the involvement.”

Ultimately, Lafferty attributes the person she has become today to the Guard and how it’s shaped her both personally and professionally.

“The Guard has helped me as a leader and now at work, I’ve picked up a lot of additional duties; like timekeeping, tracking everyone’s leave and scheduling,” said Lafferty. “The Guard has made me a better person overall – I’m braver, stronger and kinder – and the benefits don’t hurt.

“If you are able to, I would say to join because it makes you a better person and teaches you how to appreciate more things in your life.”

2018 Red Ribbon Week poster contest winners

Congratulations to the winners and participants of the 2018 Red Ribbon Week poster contest. Josie Williamson (10 years old and younger category) and Tehya Beck (11-15 years old category) were this year's winners. The theme for this year's Red Ribbon Week was "Life is a Journey - Travel Drug Free!" Thank you to all the participants!

10 YEARS OLD AND UNDER:

- 1st Place: Josie Williamson - 10 years old
- 2nd Place: Kabella Rowett - 10 years old
- 3rd Place: Jackson Baumgarn - 9 years old
- 4th Place: Cybel Huxford - 9 years old
- 5th Place: Landon Watkins - 7 years old

HONORABLE MENTION:

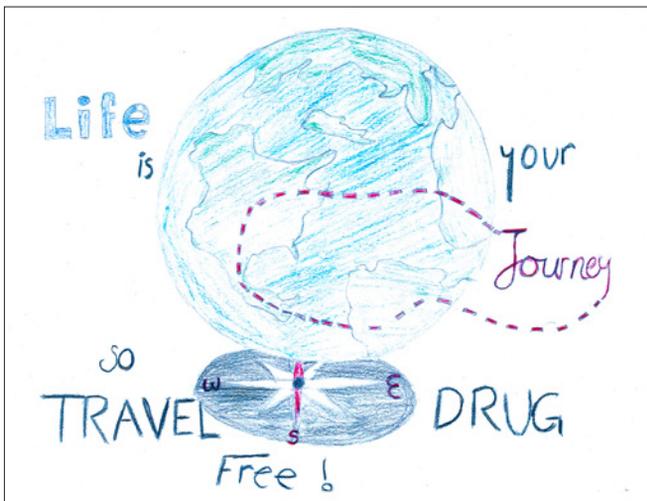
- Caleb Brickey - Age 5
- Ryan Brickey - Age 7
- Evan Brickey - Age 8

11-15 YEAR OLDS

- 1st Place: Tehya Beck - 14 years old
- 2nd Place: Laura Neugebauer - 15 years old
- 3rd Place: Taliyah Hamilton - 11 years old



1st Place: Josie Williamson - 10 Years Old & Younger Category



1st Place: Tehya Beck - 11-14 Years Old Category

Substance Abuse Program receives SecDef Community Drug Awareness Award



The South Dakota Army National Guard Substance Abuse Program receives the Secretary of Defense Community Drug Awareness Award in the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes, in Arlington, Va., Oct. 18

By SDNG Public Affairs Office

The SDARNG Substance Abuse Program received the Secretary of Defense Community Drug Awareness Award at the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes, in Arlington, Va., Oct. 18. The award, established in 1990 in an effort to promote community drug awareness efforts in the DoD community, is presented annually to the best drug demand reduction program for the previous fiscal year within each service, the National Guard, the defense agencies and field activities.

While the SDARNG SAP target audience is military service members, it has expanded to a diverse population of youth and adults throughout the state through its involvement with military families, military youth and community coalitions.

Program staff is involved with youth K-12 in Character Counts initiatives, Students Against Destructive Decisions and Red Ribbon Week activities.

Support is provided to adults through town hall events and coalition partnerships. Engaging with the elderly occurs during Prescription Drug Take Back events in communities across South Dakota.

"Receiving this award is significant to the South Dakota Army National Guard Substance Abuse Program because it shows how important it is that to truly combat the substance issues in your area it takes a community," said Kristi Palmer, alcohol and drug control officer with the SDARNG's SAP. "This award shows the collaboration with various community coalitions and community-based organizations is what it takes to create environmental change in the area of substance abuse."

Award criteria included: maximizing the use of department demand reduction resources to effectively reach the targeted audience; participation in Red Ribbon Week observances; and program impact and achievements.

"It's clear this program has implemented many activities that help keep our Soldiers and young children drug and alcohol free," Palmer said. "Although awards give some meaning for our efforts with the Soldiers and youth, the lasting award comes from the smile on the faces of the youth, showing a Soldier that what they do has made a difference."

Triumph & Tragedy

By Chaplain (Col.) Lynn Wilson – Joint Force Headquarters

As we come to the end of 2018, it is good to reflect on what has happened to our state and to our Guard. The SD Army and Air Guard continues to demonstrate its excellence, winning numerous awards this past year. We have every right to be proud! Even more than awards, some of the best people I've ever met in my lifetime have been members of the SDNG! But when I reflect upon 2018, I also think of some of the tragedies that have happened. Two of our great Soldiers committed suicide. Our deepest sympathy goes out to the families of Dakota Farias and Trevor Vaughn. In addition, some of our Soldiers have had members of their families who have taken their lives. Our deepest sympathy also goes out to the families of these Soldiers! With all of this in mind, I still want us to face 2019 not with discouragement but with hope! Here are a few thoughts that will provide some help for you.



1. A changing world does not mean a changing God. The one constant is that God loves you. There is nothing that can happen that will make Him love you less. As Pastor James Mizell writes in One Hundred and Three Devotions, "God's kind of love always seeks the very best for a person. God will never give you second best, nor will He lead you wrong. His nature will not allow it." If even the worst happens, know that God's love is constant, unchanging. There will **always** be someone who loves you, no matter what!

2. We're stronger when we're not alone. Perhaps the greatest myth is that we can be strong without the support of anyone else. We need each other! We need our family. We need our battle buddies. We need friends. We need God. As Rev. Mizell writes, life contains with it many mine fields, and we need the support of others to lead us through to safety. One of the strongest things anyone can say is "I need help." Reach out to our Behavioral Health Team (Lt. Col. Amber Heinert 390-5434), reach out to our Suicide Prevention Program Coordinator (Dr. Bill Meirose 737-6954), reach out to the Chaplain Corp (myself/431-5182 or I can get you another chaplain).

3. Develop an attitude of daily gratitude. I think too often we get into the habit of waiting to thank God or others for the 'big things.' But when I look back in history, we see that in 1620, the Pilgrims' first year, they had more graves than goods. On one occasion, after a scanty meal of clams and water, William Brewster thanked God "for the abundance of the sea and the treasures hid in the sand" (Hope for Each Day, Billy Graham). Speaking personally, I have a wonderful family I do not deserve, a job serving the greatest men and women on earth, enough health that I can get out of bed in the morning, the ability to see, the ability to hear (though not quite as good).

Perhaps our 2019 will be a year of triumph, or perhaps it will be a year of tragedy. Only God knows. But I do know that no matter what, God loves you. I do know we're stronger when we're not alone. And I know that, even like the Pilgrims who lost so many that first horrible winter, I can still thank God for the kindness He has shown in that He has blessed me with the gift of yet another day, a day I can chose to concentrate on what I don't have, or thank Him for what I do.

Chaplain Lynn Wilson
State/Full-time Support Chaplain

Did you know?

By Maj. Carol Jordan

Mentorship Committee Chair, Diversity Council - Joint Force Headquarters

Did you know that there is now a mentorship page on the SDNG Intranet Sharepoint site? This is a continually evolving page focusing on developing leaders and leadership opportunity. The first thing you will see when you click on the page is a statement from our adjutant general.

SDNG MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

"Every leader in our great organization has the duty, and the privilege to mentor the Soldiers and Airmen that they work with. Telling others about the potential that we see in them enhances their performance even more, which inevitably results in promotions and future leadership opportunities."

– Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch

MENTORSHIP DOCUMENTS

In this area you will find articles, inspiration and references on Army Mentorship. You will also find recommended reading lists.

MENTORSHIP LINKS

The links you find in this area include informational periodicals, videos and PDFs that are the pearls that have been found to be your own personal ODP/NCODP (Officer Development Program / Non-Commissioned Officer Develop Program). This does not take away from your unit's program but is an additional resource that individuals in the highest levels of the SDNG have found to be helpful.

MENTORS

Believe it or not! And not the Ripley's kind. People have been willing to put down their names as individuals willing to be mentors. Click on the branch and the list of names of those who have volunteered to be mentors will drop down. They have identified by branch but we could always use more career fields and MOSs (Military Occupation Specialties). I know there are a lot of really smart people out there. We will be happy to add more mentors. Just hop on and add your information.

MENTEES

We are really short on mentees. I have been in this organization long enough that developing and progressing your career has come up from time to time. This time of year, officer surveys are due. NCO's have new raters or are nearing the end of a rating period and being asked... what's next for you? Young Soldiers are getting their names added to the promotion lists. What does that look like for you? Would you like some guidance? On your career progression? On how to prepare for retirement? On making the military a career? How to manage military life? You don't have to stick with your branch either. Mentorship is really about developing a relationship of mutual respect and a willingness to share information and safe trustworthy discussion.

As noted at the beginning of the article, this page continues to develop and evolve. Your feedback matters. If there are items you would like to see on this page, please let us know. You can email me at carol.a.jordan8.mil@mail.mil or caroljordan@rocketmail.com. More mentoring opportunities to follow as we are piloting a trial of speed mentoring at Joint Force Headquarters in February. Keep watching!

