

South Dakota National Guard

Public Affairs Office

Phone: 605-737-6721 Email: ng.sd.sdarng.list.pao@mail.mil Web: sd.ng.mil



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SD battalion named most outstanding Army Guard unit

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 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

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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.

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



181003-Z-ZZ999-0001: The South Dakota Army National Guard’s 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, 2018. 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 2018. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Pete Morrison)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact the SDNG Public Affairs Office at (605) 737-6721 or e-mail ng.sd.sdarng.list.pao@mail.mil.