

South Dakota National Guard

Public Affairs Office

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 24, 2018

SD National Guard training battalion changes command

Story by Staff Sgt. Sarah Bierman – 2nd Battalion, 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute)

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. – Lt. Col. Martin Yost, of Sturgis, is the new commander of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) in Sioux Falls.

Yost assumed command of the battalion Oct. 1 from Lt. Col. LeeJay Templeton, who served in the position since Sept. 1, 2016.

“I am humbled and honored that the leadership of the South Dakota Army National Guard bestowed the privilege of commanding the outstanding Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 196th RTI,” Yost said after accepting command. “Lt. Col. LeeJay Templeton had an incredible command and I want to thank him for leading this battalion and exceeding the standards at every level.

“I look forward to serving with the men and women of the 2nd Battalion, as well as providing the very best training and education to all Soldiers to meet the ever-increasing demands that face our state and nation,” Yost continued.

Yost currently serves as the full-time director of construction facilities management officer for the SDARNG, which encompasses all construction and repairs for facilities managed by the SDARNG. He has been a member of the SDARNG since August 1985.

Templeton is being assigned to Joint Force Headquarters in Rapid City as the deputy construction and facilities management officer. He resides in Pierre and works as a civil engineer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The RTI provides a model environment for training future leaders for the Army National Guard and provides general instruction on a variety of military courses. This mission and operation increase readiness levels of units throughout the Department of Defense.



Lt. Col. Martin Yost, 2nd Battalion, 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute), South Dakota Army National Guard. (U.S. Army National Guard photo)

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181001-Z-ZZ999-0001: Lt. Col. Martin Yost, right, incoming commander of 2nd Battalion, 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute), South Dakota Army National Guard, receives the battalion guidon from Col. Joseph Eining, 196th Regiment commander, during a change of command ceremony in Sioux Falls, S.D., Oct. 1, 2018. Yost, of Sturgis, assumed command from Lt. Col. LeeJay Templeton, who has held command of the battalion since Sept. 1, 2016. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Sarah Bierman)

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