

# South Dakota National Guard

## Public Affairs Office

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## SD Guard Soldier sky dives with US Army Golden Knights

By Sgt. Dustin Jordan – SDNG Public Affairs Office

RAPID CITY, S.D. – The South Dakota Army National Guard’s Master Sgt. Casey Baumgarn preformed a tandem sky dive with the U.S. Army Golden Knights at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Florida, March 7.

Baumgarn, a team leader with the SDARNG’s Recruiting and Retention Battalion, earned the jump opportunity after receiving the Expert Seven Award for Region VI for recruiting excellence.

The Expert Seven is given annually to recognize the most outstanding recruiting team leader in the region’s Strength Maintenance Advisory Group that exemplifies superior leadership and strength maintenance skills in all functions of recruiting and retention.

“Every regions’ recruiting and retention NCO and NCOIC winners were awarded a tandem jump,” said Baumgarn. “I was the Strength Maintenance Advisory Group Region VI winner.”

The SMAG VI region also includes Alaska, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming.

Baumgarn received instructional training and watched a video before being driven to the airfield and performing the tandem jump.

“They drive you out to the airport and you get on a plane, that’s the nervous part of it,” said Baumgarn. “Then you just jump out the door.”

Baumgarn had an excellent time and was very appreciative of the opportunity to tandem jump with the Golden Knights.

“It was a phenomenal experience,” said Baumgarn. “The first second out of the plane was nerve racking then it was probably the coolest thing I have ever done.”

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High resolution photos available by request.



**190307-Z-ZZ999-0001:** U.S. Army Master Sgt. Casey Baumgarn, a team leader with the South Dakota Army National Guard’s Recruiting and Retention Battalion, tandem sky dives with the U.S. Army Parachute Team, nicknamed the Golden Knights, at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Florida, March 7, 2019. Baumgarn earned the jump opportunity after receiving the Expert Seven Award as the most outstanding recruiting team leader in the Strength Maintenance Advisory Group for Region VI. (Courtesy photo)



**190130-Z-FH778-1003:** U.S. Army Master Sgt. Casey Baumgarn, second from left, a team leader for the South Dakota Army National Guard's Recruiting and Retention Battalion, receives the Expert Seven Award from Lt. Gen. Timothy Kadavy, far left, director of the Army National Guard, at the Director's Strength Maintenance Awards Conference in Potomac, Md., Jan. 30, 2018. The award recognizes the most outstanding recruiting team leader in the Strength Maintenance Advisory Group VI that exemplifies superior leadership and strength maintenance skills in all functions of recruiting and retention. The SMAG VI is comprised of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington and Wyoming. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Peter Morrison)



**190307-Z-ZZ999-0002:** U.S. Army Master Sgt. Casey Baumgarn, a team leader with the South Dakota Army National Guard's Recruiting and Retention Battalion, tandem sky dives with the U.S. Army Parachute Team, nicknamed the Golden Knights, at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Florida, March 7, 2019. Baumgarn earned the jump opportunity after receiving the Expert Seven Award as the most outstanding recruiting team leader in the Strength Maintenance Advisory Group for Region VI. (Courtesy photo)

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