

South Dakota National Guard

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SD Guard Family Readiness Group receives national award

ARLINGTON, Va. – For the sixth time in seven years, the Department of Defense awarded a South Dakota Army National Guard unit with the Reserve Family Readiness Award for the Army National Guard.

The Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs presented the Rapid City-based Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment with the award for 2018 at the Pentagon, March 29.

The annual award is presented to one unit from each of the seven Reserve components that demonstrate excellence in engaging with and supporting their members' families. Units represented come from the Army National Guard, Army Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Navy Reserve, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve and the Coast Guard Reserve.

The award recognizes the top unit Family Readiness Groups with the best programs that support new and impactful ways to connect with families – especially while a unit is preparing to deploy, on deployment and after they return home.

Charlie Company deployed to the Middle East from September 2017-October 2018 and provided rapid response medical evacuations throughout the Middle East.

Before the deployment, the FRG ensured that volunteer orientation and training was completed for key unit leadership, and support services were in place.

During the deployment, many different forms of communication were utilized to keep the families connected including: FRG phone tree, e-mail and mailing lists, monthly newsletters, weekly email updates and monthly meetings.

After the deployment, the FRG provided the Yellow Ribbon post-mobilization event with childcare and multiple fun activities for the children.

Past winners include: the 153rd Engineer Battalion (2017); the 155th Engineer Company (2015); the 1742nd Transportation Company (2014); the 235th Military Police Company (2013); and the 842nd Engineer Company (2012).

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190329-A-NZ457-041: Members of the South Dakota Army National Guard's Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment and its Family Readiness Group accept the 2018 Reserve Family Readiness Award for the Army National Guard from Department of Defense officials at a ceremony March 29, 2019, at the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes. The Reserve Family Readiness Award is given to the unit in each of the seven services that demonstrates excellence in engaging with and supporting their members' families. (U.S. Army photo)

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