

# South Dakota National Guard

## Public Affairs Office

Phone: 605-737-6721 Email: [ng.sd.sdarng.list.pao@mail.mil](mailto:ng.sd.sdarng.list.pao@mail.mil) Web: [sd.ng.mil](http://sd.ng.mil)



### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

September 10, 2020

## SD Guard recruiters to provide water bottles for students

RAPID CITY, S.D. – The South Dakota Army National Guard’s Recruiting Command is helping to provide drinking water bottles for South Dakota students that are being impacted by COVID-19.

With drinking water fountains shutdown on high school and college campuses to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus, National Guard recruiters across the state will be distributing up to 28,000 water bottles to help keep students hydrated.

“The South Dakota Army National Guard has a strong relationship with South Dakota high schools and colleges, so when we were informed that schools would be shutting down their drinking fountains we wanted to help,” said Lt. Col. Tracy Graves, commander of the SDARNG’s Recruiting Command. “We have purchased and will be providing 28,000 water bottles to high school and college students across the state.”

Each of the SDARNG’s 32 recruiters will receive a portion of the 28,000 bottles to help support high schools and colleges within their recruiting area. The water bottles are designed to meet school specifications for use, such as having a clear exterior and secure lids.

“The SDARNG cares for our communities and high schools and will continue to stand with South Dakota in the fight against the spread of COVID-19,” said Graves. “Providing these water bottles to students who can use them is a small way we can help assist.”

###



**200909-Z-TW084-1086:** From left to right: South Dakota Army National Guard recruiters Sgt. Kayleigh Cihak, Staff Sgt. Chad Mercy, Staff Sgt. Marc Reed, and Sgt. 1st Class Lyn Waldie pose in front of pallets of boxes containing 28,000 drinking water bottles received at the Camp Rapid Warehouse in Rapid City, S.D., Sept. 9, 2020. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Officer Candidate Austin Pearce)



**200909-Z-TW084-1095:** The South Dakota Army National Guard’s Sgt. Wade Lockhart begins to unpack a box containing drinking water bottles received at the Camp Rapid Warehouse in Rapid City, S.D., Sept. 9, 2020. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Officer Candidate Austin Pearce)

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