

South Dakota National Guard

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Accomplished aviator retires from SDNG after 34 years of service

RAPID CITY, S.D. - Chief Warrant Officer 5 Michael Reindl retired from the South Dakota Army National Guard after 34 years of distinguished service as an Army aviator.

Reindl's career culminated as the SDARNG's aviation standardization officer, where he demonstrated outstanding professional skill, knowledge, and leadership as a helicopter pilot and in aviation operations.

During his career, Reindl was rated in three different airframes: UH-1 H/V Iroquis, H-60 Black Hawk A/L/M models and the LUH-72A Lakota helicopter. He flew a total of 6,066 flight hours, including 150 imminent danger and 90 combat hours.

Reindl held a number of flight duties including pilot-in-command, instructor pilot, instrument flight examiner, standardization officer and functional check pilot, making him a subject matter expert in aviation operations and instrumental in developing programs for SDARNG aviation units.

"CW5 Reindl's accomplishments have been critical to our aviation program," said Maj. Mike Flanery, supervisory instructor pilot for the SDARNG. "Everything we do in aviation in this state has the touch of Mike Reindl. He is by far the most experience and knowledgeable person about the South Dakota National Guard aviation program, and although we are glad to see him move on to the next phase of life, his knowledge, judgement and leadership will be missed."

Flannery also says Reindl developed wildland fire and hoist training programs that have been adopted by South Dakota and other surrounding states, which has led to some of the most competent air crews in the U.S. Army.

Reindl has been vital in supporting a number of state active duty missions over his career, responding to over 75 wildland fires, 11 search and rescues, three floods, and two tornadoes. His response to these missions resulted in lives saved and critical supplies delivered to disaster areas is support of the citizens of South Dakota. He also supported several missions to support law enforcement and counterdrug agencies to help keep South Dakota drug free.

Reindl has also served overseas four times in support of various humanitarian and combat operations. He has been deployed to provide humanitarian aid on three separate occasions: Operation Fuetos Caminos, Panama in 1993, providing support to U.S. forces stabilizing the area; Operation Joint Forge, Bosnia in 2002, providing medical evacuation to U.S. and NATO troops throughout the region; and Operation New Horizons, Nicaragua in 2009, providing general support and medical evacuation for Task Force Red Horse while they built schools, drilled wells and re-built roads.

In 2011, he was deployed in support of combat operations in Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn from 2011-2012. There he provided medical evacuation operations for U.S. and coalition troops.

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210416-Z-A3566-0001: U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 5 Mike Reindl.
(U.S. Army National Guard photo)



210416-Z-A3566-0002: U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 5 Mike Reindl speaks at his retirement ceremony at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Rapid City, S.D., April 16, 2021. (U.S. Army National Guard photo)



210416-Z-A3566-0003: U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 5 Mike Reindl.
(U.S. Army National Guard photo)