

# South Dakota National Guard

## Public Affairs Office



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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 29, 2021

## SD Army Guard units host recruitment event near Lake Oahe

By Sgt. Breanne Donnell – 129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

FORT PIERRE, S.D. – Potential future South Dakota Army National Guard soldiers participated in a recruiting event held at Oahe Dam, near Fort Pierre, April 24.

South Dakota recruiters coordinated with the 153rd Engineer Battalion and the 200th and 211th Engineer Companies during their units' field training exercise to host a recruiting event that demonstrated soldier tasks and skills for different military occupational specialties (MOS), giving potential recruits and newly enlisted soldiers a chance to get close and personal with equipment and operations.

“This is an opportunity for us to get into the field and do some rehearsals for our upcoming annual training,” said Lt. Col. Jason Thomson, 153rd Battalion commander. “We exercised a lot of different things and tied in really good MOS training with a recruiting event to give back to the community and to show our families what we do out in the field.”

This event was also supported by Company C, 1/189th Aviation Regiment who brought in HH-60 Black Hawk helicopters to support both the training units and the recruiting event with air support for medical evacuations and to display the helicopters for the community.

The host units provided weapons training with blanks, dismounted foot patrol training with paintballs, hands-on weapon and equipment displays.

“This event makes me feels like I’m part of something bigger, seeing that I can be out their building bridges and helping the community,” said Joshua Strand, recent recruit to the SDARNG. “I’m very excited.”

These events provide exposure to daily operations and military procedures, and helps those thinking about joining the National Guard see what a day in the life of a soldier would be like.

“This event has been tremendous and it helps to put the civilian right into the middle of the action of training operations. This is often their first experience in the military, and they are saying it is amazing,” said Sgt. 1st Class Dan Heil, SDARNG recruiter. “Often events are static displays of equipment and weapons to show them how they work but they aren’t as good as this. For them to see this in full play is what makes this opportunity truly tremendous.”

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**210424-Z-JK947-1930:** Potential and new recruits to the South Dakota Army National Guard stand by a HH-60 Blackhawk helicopter during a coordinated event near Oahe Dam, Fort Pierre, South Dakota, April 24, 2021. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Breanne Donnell)



**210424-Z-JK947-1869:** Potential and new recruits to the South Dakota Army National Guard, alongside their families, were able to float on a floating bridge segment on Lake Oahe during a coordinated event near Fort Pierre, South Dakota, April 24, 2021. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Breanne Donnell)



**210424-Z-JK947-1899:** Potential and new recruits to the South Dakota Army National Guard, alongside their families, were able to float on a floating bridge segment on Lake Oahe during a coordinated event near Fort Pierre, South Dakota, April 24, 2021. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Breanne Donnell)



**210424-Z-JK947-1816:** Two HH-60 Blackhawk helicopter from Company C, 1/189th Aviation Regiment touched down on a bridge constructed by the 153rd Engineer Battalion during a coordinated event near Oahe Dam, Fort Pierre, South Dakota, April 24, 2021. This is only the second time this maneuver has been conducted outside of combat operations. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Breanne Donnell)



**210424-Z-JK947-2040:** Potential and new recruits to the South Dakota Army National Guard were lead on foot patrol,s training with paintball guns during a coordinated event near Oahe Dam, Fort Pierre, South Dakota, April 24, 2021. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Breanne Donnell)