

# South Dakota National Guard

## Public Affairs Office

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## 114th Fighter Wing named most outstanding flying unit in Air National Guard

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. – The South Dakota Air National Guard’s 114th Fighter Wing received recognition as the top flying wing in the nation and was presented the Spaatz Trophy at the 2021 National Guard Association of the United States annual conference in Las Vegas, Aug. 30.

The Spaatz Trophy is presented to the most outstanding flying unit in the Air National Guard each year. This is the fifth time the 114th Fighter Wing has won the prestigious award. The 114th has consistently been recognized as one of the top Air National Guard wings in the nation and received a national award from NGAUS every year since 2014.

“We are extremely proud of the men and women of the 114th Fighter Wing,” said Maj. Gen. Jeff Marlette, SDNG adjutant general. “Time and time again, they have demonstrated their professionalism and ability to accomplish the mission. No other fighter wing in the Air National Guard has been recognized more times than the 114th Fighter Wing for their outstanding service.”

Selection for the Spaatz Trophy is based on overall combat readiness and the unit's performance with respect to all other Air National Guard flying units. Factors included in the evaluation are mission execution, safety and accident prevention, aircraft maintenance scheduling and effectiveness, unit manning and retention, resource utilization, inspection ratings, outstanding accomplishments and exercise involvement.

During the past year, the 114th Fighter Wing deployed over 400 Airmen to 19 countries providing forces to support stateside and global operations. The 114th also supported civil authorities by providing personnel for the state’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic, augmenting law enforcement agencies, and continuing its commitment to NORAD’s Aerospace Control Alert mission assuring 24/7 homeland defense.

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**210830-Z-A3566-0001:** Members of the South Dakota National Guard’s 114th Fighter Wing accept the Spaatz Trophy during the National Guard Association of the United States General Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 30, 2021. The Spaatz Trophy is presented to the overall outstanding flying unit in the Air National Guard each year. Presenting the award are Lt. Gen. Michael Loh, director ANG and Maj. Gen. Doug Farnham, NGAUS vice chair for Air. Receiving the award on behalf of the members of the 114th are Maj. Gen. Jeff Marlette, Brig. Gen. Greg Lair, Col. Mark Morrell and 1st Lt. Andrew Dellman. (Courtesy photo)



**210722-Z-WN050-1103:** Three F-16 Fighting Falcons assigned to the 114th Fighter Wing fly in a formation after refueling near the Powder River Training Complex during Combat Raider 21, July 22, 2021. Combat Raider is designed to train personnel on five real world, mission objectives: counter-air, strategic strikes, strike coordination and reconnaissance, close air support, and personnel recovery. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Jorrie Hart)



**210809-Z-SJ722-1010:** Staff Sgt. Mikayla Wilson, 114th Aircraft Maintenance crew chief, goes through launch procedures during the readiness exercise Aug. 9, 2021, Joe Foss Field, S.D. The readiness exercise is designed to enhance the warfighter ethos of mission-type orders, independent decision making, and risk management at the lowest competent level by testing the 114th Fighter Wing's ability to set up an alert sight and generate combat airpower on short notice. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Duane Duimstra)



**210813-Z-LQ671-3115:** Tech. Sgt. Derek Adams, 114th Security Forces Squadron combat arms instructor, teaches Airmen from the 114th Fighter Wing how to handle, fire, and clean a 9mm pistol during Multi-Capable Airmen (MCA) training at Joe Foss Field, S.D., Aug 13, 2021. This MCA training challenged 114th Fighter Wing Airmen to step outside their comfort zones and complete tasks outside their normal Air Force Specialty Codes. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Luke Olson)