

# South Dakota National Guard

## Public Affairs Office

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## Siemonsma takes command of 109th Regional Support Group

By Sgt. 1st Class Barb Jensen – 109th Regional Support Group

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Col. Steve Siemonsma, of Rapid City, took command of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 109th Regional Support Group during a change of command ceremony on Camp Rapid, Oct. 2.

Siemonsma assumed command from Col. Jeffrey Norris, of Rapid City, who served in the position since April 2019. The 109th RSG provides command and control for two battalions, which are comprised of 16 units totaling more than 1,200 soldiers in nine communities throughout South Dakota. The 109th RSG assists assigned units in meeting training, administrative, and logistical requirements to maintain the units' readiness in support of state and federal missions.

"I am humbled, honored and excited to be leading the 109th RSG as the next commander," Siemonsma said. "I couldn't think of a better command to take in this stage of my career."

"It's been an honor to serve in such an outstanding unit as the 109th RSG," Norris said. "I wish you all the best!"

Siemonsma began his military career in December 1995, enlisting into the 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion in Sioux Falls. He attended the Officer Candidate School at Fort Meade, gaining his commission in September 1998. During his staff time, he held positions in Joint Force Headquarters, 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 147th FA, and the Recruiting and Retention Battalion.

Siemonsma served as the battery commander for Bravo Battery, 2-147th FA, and served as the battalion commander for both the Recruiting and Retention Battalion and the 1-147th FA Battalion. Siemonsma has been full time for the guard for 20 years serving in the following positions; officer strength manager, operations and training officer, legislative liaison, administrative officer for the 1-147th FA, deputy construction and facilities officer, the state training officer, and he is currently serving as the G4 director of logistics.

Siemonsma earned a Bachelor of Science in Sociology and minor in Criminal Justice from South Dakota State University in 1996. He earned a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College in 2021. Siemonsma lives in Rapid City with his four children; Hanna, Holli, Holden, and Hadley.

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**Col. Steve Siemonsma:** Commander of the 109th Regional Support Group, South Dakota Army National Guard. (U.S. Army National Guard file photo)



**211002-Z-A3566-0001:** Incoming 109th Regional Support Group commander, U.S. Army Col. Steve Siemonsma, left, accepts the brigade colors from Brig. Gen. Michael Oster, assistant adjutant general, South Dakota Army National Guard, at a change of command ceremony in Rapid City, S.D., Oct. 2, 2021. Siemonsma took command from Col. Jeff Norris, who commanded the RSG since 2019. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Barb Jensen)