

DAKOTA PACK

MAGAZINE OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD • FALL 2018

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152nd CSSB participates in
warfighter exercise at
National Training Center

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- 114th Fighter Wing demonstrates preparedness in UEI
- 30 SDARNG units receive national Superior Unit Award

» DEPLOYMENTS

- 935th ASB deploys to the Middle East
- Airmen from 114th Fighter Wing deploy

» ACHIEVEMENTS

- SD Soldier named ARNG Best Warrior
- Guardsman joins NGB Innovation Team



FULL PAGE AD



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The Adjutant General

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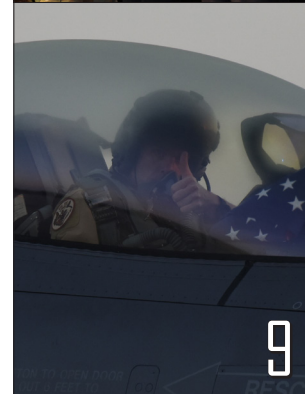
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On the Cover

Staff Sgt. Brayden Nelson, intelligence analyst with the 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, overlooks the unit's base location at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., Aug. 8. The 152nd participated in the warfighting exercise in preparation for future missions or deployments.



Message from the Adjutant General

As I type these words, we have over 450 Airmen and Soldiers deployed in six different countries around the world, so I want to begin by expressing my most sincere gratitude to our dedicated troops and their families. Your willingness to serve our great nation during these challenging times is a true demonstration of patriotism and selfless service.

Since publication of the last issue of the Dakota Pack magazine, both Detachment 1, Company B, 935th Aviation Support Battalion and a good portion of the 114th Fighter Wing have deployed for overseas missions. Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Hoekman and I are headed to that part of the world in mid-August and hope to see these units as well as Soldiers of Company C, 1-189th Aviation Regiment who will be finishing up their nine months in theater. Please keep all of our deployed Airmen and Soldiers in your prayers.

I'd like to congratulate Brig. Gen. Russ Walz who took over as the assistant adjutant general-Air effective May 12. As I stated during the transfer of authority ceremony in June, his 10 years of service as wing commander followed by two years as the director of the joint staff have laid the foundation for him to do an outstanding job in this new role. He replaces Brig. Gen. Joel DeGroot who has taken over as the chief of staff of the SD Air National Guard. General DeGroot did a great job as assistant adjutant general for over a year and will continue to provide outstanding leadership in this new role.

Congratulations also go out to Brig. Gen. Kevin Griesse who officially retired from the South Dakota National Guard on June 30. Nobody ever worked harder than Kevin Griesse, but it was NEVER about getting promoted or getting the next big job. It was always about making the South Dakota National Guard the best that it could be. It was about preparing units to respond to the call of the governor or the president, making sure they were combat-ready so they could perform their mission on the battlefield and come home safely. The beneficiaries of those

efforts of course has been this great organization that we all love - the South Dakota National Guard. I've been in the Guard 40 years. That's a heck of a long time. I can honestly say that I've never worked with a more competent, hard-working or professional officer than Brig. Gen. Kevin Griesse. You are going to be sorely missed.

I'd like to offer my personal congratulations to retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 William White who received the Military Meritorious Service Award from the Society of American Indian Government Employees at a ceremony conducted in Green Bay, Wisconsin, June 14.

White was involved in several projects directed toward enhancing relationships between the SDNG and Native American communities in South Dakota. The presentation of this award was a fitting tribute to a truly outstanding Soldier.

It was a huge honor to have the Honorable Heather Wilson, Secretary of the Air Force, visit the 114th Fighter Wing on June 26. She took the time to meet with the senior leaders, pilots and then to host a town hall



(Photo by Master Sgt. Christopher Stewart)

Senior leaders of the South Dakota National Guard had a unique opportunity to meet with the Honorable Heather Wilson, Secretary of the Air Force, at Joe Foss Field, June 26.

meeting open to all of our Airmen. I believe that this marks the first time we have ever had a Secretary of the Air Force visit the South Dakota National Guard. And believe me, she's the real deal! This nation is very fortunate indeed to have her at the helm.

I want to take a minute to praise both the Air and Army National Guard for their fantastic efforts throughout this year in recruiting and retention. Serving as a member of the armed forces during a time of war is a big deal and the training requirements placed on our Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen these days are more demanding than ever, so filling our ranks with new members can be extremely challenging. In spite of that, both the Air and the Army Guard are at 105 percent strength. This increases our readiness in a big way – being that many of our new members are not yet deployable – because they haven't yet completed their initial entry training requirements. I've always said that every member of the SD National Guard is a recruiter and your efforts are really paying off!

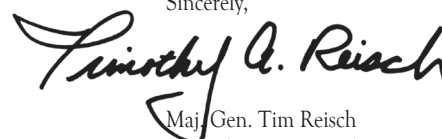
Just recently, we learned that after a week-long, grueling competition in Pennsylvania, our very own Spc. Bailey Ruff of the 842nd Engineer Company earned the title of Soldier of the Year for the entire National Guard. Regional finalists from New York, Virginia, Maryland, Kentucky, Georgia, Illinois, Wisconsin, Arkansas, Nebraska, Oregon, Colorado and Utah went up against one another for the title. The 13-event competition included formal board interviews, physical fitness challenges, written exams, warrior tasks and battle drills to test the whole Soldier concept. We are very proud of you Bailey, and we wish you the best of luck as you move on to compete against the Regular Army and Army Reserve winners at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia, and the Pentagon, Sept. 30 - Oct. 5.

We also just received word that our units have earned six more national awards that will be presented during the National Guard Association of the United States Conference in New Orleans. The 114th Fighter Wing will be

awarded the Distinguished Flying Unit Plaque, awarded to the top five ANG flying units in the nation; the William W. Spruance Safety Award, awarded to the unit with the most significant contribution to accident prevention; and the John J. Pesch Flight Safety Award, awarded to the top two ANG flying units with the highest standards of flight safety in the nation. The 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion will be awarded the Maj. Gen. Milton A. Reckord Trophy, awarded to the most outstanding battalion-sized unit in the nation. HHB, 1/147th Field Artillery Battalion will be awarded the Certificate of Victory (for excellence in unit marksmanship) and B Battery, 1/147th Field Artillery will be awarded the Gen. John J. Pershing Plaque for attaining the highest figure of merit in the nation during annual weapons qualification.

In closing, I ask that each of you make a special effort to look out for your fellow Soldiers and Airmen in the days ahead. If you see someone who appears to be out of sorts, please approach them in a friendly manner and make their acquaintance. Introduce yourself and ask if there is anything you can do to help. We are all in this thing together and sometimes challenges can seem overwhelming. You don't have to be a professional counselor to help make someone feel better about things, but we do have professionals available at any time if the challenge is significant. Please know that I am extremely grateful for your service as well as for the contributions that our families and employers make. Our state and nation are forever in your debt.

Sincerely,



Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch
The Adjutant General

1/2 PAGE AD

Brig. Gen. Walz named new SDANG assistant adjutant general

Story by Staff Sgt. Jorrie Hart – 114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

SIOUX FALLS – Brig. Gen. Russ Walz assumed duties as the assistant adjutant general for the South Dakota Air National Guard during a transfer of authority ceremony at Joe Foss Field in Sioux Falls, June 3.

Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, South Dakota National Guard adjutant general, presided over the ceremony where Walz assumed authority as the assistant adjutant from Brig. Gen. Joel DeGroot, who served in the position since March 2017. DeGroot is now the chief of staff, Headquarters, SDANG.

Walz is now responsible to the adjutant general for strategic planning, strength management, Airmen readiness and mobilization support of the state's nearly 1,100 Air National Guard Airmen. After the transfer of authority, Walz addressed members of the 114th Fighter Wing.

"It's truly an honor to be representing this unit in the new capacity as the assistant adjutant general and it's a big honor to represent the state of South Dakota," Walz said. "It's an honor and blessing to represent the 1,093 men and women who are unbelievable professionals.

"I look forward to seeing Airmen in action doing amazing things and being here from the headquarters perspective to help you push your mission," Walz continued.

During the ceremony, Reisch commented on DeGroot's time as assistant adjutant.

"He has done a fantastic job over the last year," said Reisch. "He stepped into leadership right away."

Reisch also commented on how DeGroot stepped up as a regional leader for the Joint Diversity Executive Committee nationally, which he stated was an amazing achievement for a new general.

Reisch spoke about Walz's leadership by saying, "He's the type of guy



Brig. Gen. Russ Walz

people like to work with and work for."

Reisch said that the 10 years Walz served as the 114th commander, followed by two years at state headquarters, makes him a perfect fit for this job. Prior to taking on this new position, Walz served as director of joint staff, Joint Force Headquarters, SDNG, and SDANG chief of staff. He primarily served as the principal advisor to the adjutant general on all joint issues and policies relating to defense support to civil authorities and homeland defense programs.

Walz enlisted in the SDANG in 1980. He later commissioned at the Academy of Military Science in Knoxville, Tennessee, in 1989, earning distinguished graduate honors. He completed undergraduate pilot training

at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Walz assumed the position of director of joint staff in May 2016, having held previous command positions at the flight, squadron, group and wing levels. He is a command pilot with over 3,700 total fighter hours, including 70 combat hours enforcing no-fly zones over Southern and Northern Iraq.

Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, left, SDNG adjutant general, is saluted by Brig. Gen. Russ Walz as he assumes authority as the assistant adjutant general for the South Dakota Air National Guard, from Brig. Gen. Joel DeGroot, during a transfer of authority ceremony, June 3, in Sioux Falls. (Photo by Tech Sgt. Luke Olson)



Brig. Gen. Griese retires after 36 years of service

Story by SDNG Public Affairs Office

RAPID CITY – Brig. Gen. Kevin Griese, of Pierre, retired from the South Dakota Army National Guard after more than 36 years of military service to the state and nation. Griese retired as the Army assistant adjutant general and held numerous key leadership positions throughout his career.

Griese was honored for his service during a retirement ceremony July 15 at Joint Force Headquarters on Camp Rapid.

As the assistant adjutant, Griese served in the position since July 2013 and was responsible for strategic planning, strength management, troop readiness and mobilization support of the state's nearly 3,200 Army National Guard Soldiers. While serving as the assistant adjutant, Griese also served as the deputy commanding general for the Army National Guard, U.S. Army Maneuver Support Center of Excellence at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, from Dec. 2, 2016, until his retirement.

Griese began his military career in January 1982 enlisting in the Headquarters and



Brig. Gen. Kevin Griese

Headquarters Battery of the 147th Field Artillery Brigade. He received his commission

as a second lieutenant through the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology ROTC program in May 1986 and was branched as an engineer officer.

Griese has held numerous command and staff positions within the 109th Engineer Battalion, the 153rd Engineer Battalion and the 109th Engineer Group. He also commanded the 153rd Engineer Battalion during its deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004-2005.

After returning from the U.S. Army War College in 2008, Griese served briefly at Joint Force Headquarters before being assigned as the commander the 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) and commander of the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade.

Griese holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology and a Masters in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. In his civilian career, Griese continues to work as a geotechnical engineer for the South Dakota Department of Transportation.

1/2 PAGE AD

30 SD Army Guard units receive national Superior Unit Award

Story by SDNG Public Affairs Office

RAPID CITY – Thirty out of 42 South Dakota Army National Guard units received the National Guard Bureau's Superior Unit Award in recognition of outstanding achievement during training year 2017.

The Superior Unit Award is presented to units who meet highly-enforced military standards in the areas of personnel, training and readiness.

"The South Dakota Army National Guard makes up only 9/10ths of one percent of this nation's National Guard, but we earned 97 percent of the Superior Unit Awards for training year 2017," said Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general of the South Dakota National Guard. "This is yet another example of how the South Dakota National Guard stands head and shoulders above our contemporaries."

In order to earn the SUA, units must achieve 95 percent in unit strength, monthly drill attendance, annual training attendance and weapons qualification. In addition to meeting these readiness goals, units must also achieve 90 percent in physical fitness tests and duty-qualified Soldiers. Unit admin and maintenance inspections also factor into the awards' requirements.

"We are a metrics-driven organization and paying close attention to the most important readiness metrics has earned 30 of our units the distinction of earning the coveted Superior Unit Award," said Reisch.

The top award for the state went to Company C, 1-189th Aviation Regiment of Rapid City, which received the Eisenhower Trophy for the most exceptional SDARNG unit. The Eisenhower Trophy is named in honor of former General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower and awarded by the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to the ARNG unit in each state rated the most outstanding during the training year.

More than half of the SUA units are continuing consecutive years of training excellence – with six units receiving the award for the second time in a row, four units for a third straight year, four units for four consecutive years, four more for five consecutive years, and the 211th Engineer Company has earned the SUA six years in a row.

This year's recipients of the Superior Unit Award include:

- Battery A, 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion *****
- Company A, 139th Brigade Support Battalion
- Headquarters Company, 153rd Engineer Battalion *****
- Forward Support Company, 153rd Engineer Battalion *****
- 211th Engineer Company *****
- 740th Transportation Company ***
- 147th Army Band **
- Company B, 139th Brigade Support Battalion **
- 200th Engineer Company *****
- Detachment 1, Company B, 1-112th Aviation Battalion **
- Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment **

1/4 PAGE AD

- Headquarters Detachment, 109th Regional Support Group
- Joint Force Headquarters
- 82nd Civil Support Team ****
- 216th Firefighter Headquarters
- SDARNG Recruiting and Retention Command
- SDARNG Training Center ****
- SDARNG Medical Command ****
- 451st Engineer Detachment (Firefighters) **
- 155th Engineer Company *****
- 235th Military Police Company **
- 2nd Battalion, 196th Regional Training Institute
- 1742nd Transportation Company
- 1st Battalion, 196th Regional Training Institute
- 881st Troop Command
- 842nd Engineer Company ***
- 730th Area Support Medical Company
- Forward Support Company, 147th Field Artillery Battalion
- Headquarters Battery, 147th Field Artillery Battalion ***
- Battery B, 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion ***

** Denotes second straight year for receiving the award.

*** Denotes third straight year for receiving the award.

**** Denotes fourth straight year for receiving the award.

***** Denotes fifth straight year for receiving the award.

***** Denotes sixth straight year for receiving the award.

FULL PAGE AD

935th ASB deploys to the Middle East

Story by By Staff Sgt. Kayla Morris
129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



U.S. Congresswoman Kristi Noem, Rapid City Mayor Steve Allender, South Dakota National Guard Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch and State Command Sgt. Maj. James Hoekman greet Soldiers of Detachment 1, Company B, 935th Aviation Support Battalion, during a deployment ceremony, June 8. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Lucas Ballock)

RAPID CITY - A deployment ceremony was held for 26 Soldiers of the South Dakota Army National Guard's Detachment 1, Company B, 935th Aviation Support Battalion, June 8.

Family, friends and community supporters gathered at Rapid City's Rushmore Plaza Civic Center to support their loved ones as the unit deployed to the Middle East for nine months.

The Rapid City-based 935th is providing aviation maintenance and repair support for U.S. Army rotary aircraft and avionics systems.

"We will be conducting phase maintenance on helicopters," said Staff Sgt. Calvin Schmidt, detachment sergeant for the 935th. "Phase maintenance inspections are conducted every 480 flight hours. It consists of two PMI's that each take in-depth looks at the aircraft."

This will be the second mobilization for the 935th, which deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from 2012-2013.

"About half of our unit has never deployed," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Seth Mendel, commander for the 935th. "We have eight Soldiers that specifically came to this unit to deploy. I've been very impressed with the quality of individuals we have."

Speakers for the ceremony included U.S. Congresswoman Kristi Noem, Rapid City Mayor Steve Allender and Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, SDNG adjutant general.

"It is incredibly humbling for me to be here today, I don't know if I can ever truly understand what the families are thinking or feeling," said Noem. "It is the courage that has made our country great throughout history, and that is evident right here today in this room. It is on the faces of those being deployed and also in the hearts of the families that will be left behind during this deployment."



With the overwhelming support of their families and the community they leave behind, the Soldiers of the 935th are prepared and ready to accomplish the mission.

"We have a variety of experience in our unit and have some Soldiers that have been doing aviation maintenance for over 15 years and some that have just gotten back from school," said Mendel. "That's what is great about this deployment, this will be great on-the-job training for Soldiers that are newer. We are ready to do the job by all means and ready to gain some more experience."

"Our National Guard lineage traces back to 1862," said Reisch. "One hundred years ago today, the whole SDNG was deployed in World War I. Just about 20 years after the end of that war, they were ready to start World War II, another total mobilization of the SDNG. This mobilization here today is just as historic, just as important and just as much a part of our history and legacy."

Airmen from 114th Fighter Wing deploy



Airmen with the 114th Fighter Wing in Sioux Falls load a plane as unit members deploy in support of an Air Expeditionary Force rotation to Southwest Asia.

Story and photos by 114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

SIOUX FALLS – Members of the 114th Fighter Wing recently deployed to Southwest Asia as part of an Air Expeditionary Force rotation.

The unit's primary mission will provide F-16 capabilities needed to maintain a deterrent against threats to regional security and stability.

The aviation package consists of Airmen, aircraft and equipment necessary to sustain operations for the duration of the deployment. This force package consists of Airmen from across all four groups of the 114th Fighter Wing.

Not only will deployed Airmen from the Operations Group be responsible to execute directed tactical sorties, but Airmen from the Maintenance Group must also ensure that assigned aircraft and equipment are safe, serviceable and properly configured to meet those mission requirements.

Airmen from the Mission Support Group will be directing supply and transportation activities while overseas, and members of the Medical Group will provide expeditionary health services.

Senior leaders from the South Dakota National Guard and 114th Fighter Wing gathered to speak with Airmen and their families on departure day.

"This is a big deal. This is what we do," said Col. Nathan Alholinna, 114th Fighter Wing commander. "I am extremely proud of our Airmen. They've spent a great deal of time training and preparing for this deployment. Now it's time to focus on our deployed mission."

The AEF deployment structure is used by the U.S. Air Force to provide readily trained operational and support forces to combatant commanders on a rotational and dependable basis. The 114th Fighter Wing has previously deployed under the AEF construct to various locations in the Southwest Asia region since September 11, 2001.



ABOVE: A C-5 Galaxy aircraft prepares to load equipment from the 114th Fighter Wing in Sioux Falls. BELOW: A member of the 114th Fighter Wing hugs his family as the unit prepares to deploy in support of an Air Expeditionary Force rotation.



114th Fighter Wing demonstrates preparedness in Unit Effectiveness Inspection

Story by Master Sgt. Chris Stewart
114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

SIoux FALLS – The 114th Fighter Wing participated in a Unit Effectiveness Inspection capstone event at Joe Foss Field in Sioux Falls, June 1-3.

The purpose of these inspections is to show how effective and prepared the unit is for any scenario.

The South Dakota Air National Guard's foremost responsibility is to deliver ready, trained and equipped forces to meet the operational demands put before it and possess the capabilities to be prepared to fight across multiple domains.

"This capstone is part of a continuous inspection process called a Unit Effectiveness Inspection," said Capt. Nilofar Johnson, 114th Fighter Wing director of inspections. "As part of the Air Force Inspection System, UEIs and the capstone inspection give us a framework to identify shortfalls or anything that's critical that may be a limiting factor for us to be mission ready."

The UEI capstone measured four areas which show how effective a unit is operating.

"The ratings and findings are based on four major grade areas," said Johnson. "Managing resources, leading people, improving the unit and executing a mission."

UEIs differ from other types of inspections in that they assess a unit on a continuous basis for effectiveness. Previous inspections, such as the Operational Readiness Inspection, were large singular exercises evaluating how the unit performed during a specific event.

On June 4, the 114th Fighter Wing was awarded an overall score of effective.

"We did very well and we validated that we know how to do the mission," said Col. Nate Alholinna, 114th Fighter Wing commander. "We should be proud of what we have done and what we have accomplished."

Both Johnson and Alholinna emphasized that every area did very well, but one group that stood out was the ammunition section of the 114th Maintenance Squadron.

"Our ammo area really shined this time around," said Johnson.

Alholinna concurred, "One group that



jumps out at me right off the bat is our Ammo Flight. Go back four years, they were mentioned as needing help; this time around they had zero deficiencies," he stated.

"This inspection validated what I already knew. That we do our jobs well and we do it right. I am extremely proud of our unit."

With its distinguished history, the 114th Fighter Wing continues to prove we are proud, prepared and professional, and this UEI was no exception.

ABOVE: Staff Sgt. Aaron Hanson and Airman 1st Class Matthew Raak, 114th vehicle maintenance mechanics, change the transmission filter on an MB-4 aircraft towing vehicle at Joe Foss Field, June 2. A large part of the UEI capstone is verifying that Airmen are ready to meet operational demands put before them. (Photo by Master Sgt. Christopher Stewart).

BELOW: 114th Maintenance Squadron munitions Airmen inspect and sort 20mm rounds before placing them in their designated munitions storage at Joe Foss Field, June 5. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Duane Duimstra)

Sexual Assault Prevention and Response victim advocates from across DoD train at Joe Foss Field

Story by Senior Master Sgt. Nancy Ausland
114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

SIoux FALLS – Members of several DoD organizations, including the 114th Fighter Wing, trained collectively in their role as sexual assault prevention and response victim advocates at Joe Foss Field, July 13.

Victim advocates must have reoccurring training on advocacy prevention and ethics every two years they serve as a volunteer victim advocate.

This training, conducted by Rick Goodwin, a training consultant with 1in6 Training Initiatives, was used to meet that requirement and focused specifically on issues experienced by men.

Goodwin's area of expertise is with men's mental health, more specifically, male sexual trauma.

"What we know statistically is that one in six child-aged males will experience sexual trauma," said Goodwin. "We also know that one in eight men will experience a sexual assault."

Goodwin went on to say that research suggests that the male military population has about twice the prevalence of childhood sexual abuse among its male members.

"This would make the one in six figure now one in three for military males," Goodwin said.

Goodwin's one-day training focused on the differences between male and female victims and offenders which in turn helps victim advocates to identify the best way to help their victims.

"Victim advocates play a critical role in our Sexual Assault Prevention Response Program," said 2nd Lt. Emily Rollason, 114th Fighter Wing SAPR coordinator. "Our hope is that by having as many victim advocates, trained and ready, we can make it easier for members to come forward."

"One thing I would like our members to know is that you don't have to file a report to receive assistance," continued Rollason. "Victim advocates are available just to talk and a report can be filed even if the incident happened prior to a member's military service."

Present for the training were members of the South Dakota Air and Army National Guard and active duty personnel and civilians from



Mr. Rick Goodwin speaks to members of the 114th Fighter Wing and Ellsworth Air Force Base during victim advocate training held at Joe Foss Field, July 13. (Photo by Master Sgt. Christopher Stewart)



Ellsworth Air Force Base.

One of the four members who traveled to Sioux Falls from Ellsworth was Bernie McFarling, Ellsworth Air Force Base sexual assault response coordinator.

"Lt. Rollason has been on our distro list for about a year and a half, so she has been invited to attend whatever training we have available," said McFarling. "In turn, she let us know about this opportunity for this unique training. We do have male members report, but it's not nearly as many as are actually being

assaulted and we'd like to learn what we can do to get the message out there to men that we are available to them as well."

1in6 Training Initiatives is a non-profit organization with a mission to help men who have had unwanted or abusive sexual experiences live healthier, happier lives. Their mission also includes serving family members, friends, partners and service providers with the information and support resources they need to assist these victims. This is where unit victim advocates come in.

SDANG, SDF conduct Women in the Military Conference

Story by Staff Sgt. Duane Duimstra
114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

PARAMARIBO, Suriname – Four members of the 114th Fighter Wing travelled to Suriname for the Women in the Military Conference in Paramaribo, May 14-19.

The conference allowed for the exchange of ideas on promoting the importance of women in the U.S. and Suriname militaries.

One of the primary goals for the acting commander of the Suriname Defense Force, Col. Robert Kartodikromo, is to improve the working conditions and opportunities available to women in the SDF within the next three to five years. The women from the 114th Fighter Wing talked to and exchanged ideas with approximately 20 female members of the SDF, as well as some of the men in leadership positions. The members of the SDF looked to the South Dakota National Guard for guidance in developing a more modern and professional military force.

“We were able to talk about the policies, guidelines and programs in place that are available to women in the U.S. military,” said Master Sgt. Jayme Warren, 114th Medical Group bio-environmental engineering non-commissioned officer in charge.

Throughout the conference, Airmen talked about their experiences in the U.S. military in both large and small group settings. The small group discussion proved to be beneficial for both the Airmen and members of the SDF.

“The small group discussion was the best part for us because we really got to talk to them in a more intimate setting and learn more about what changes they want to see in the future,” said Warren.

The SDF plans to take the core ideas given by the 114th Fighter Wing Airmen, as well as feedback provided by their own members during the conference and implement them in their daily operations.

“Both parties were very receptive of all the information that was provided by the Suriname Defense Force,” said Capt. Betsy Suhr, South Dakota Army National Guard bilateral affairs officer. “The conference really helped foster and build on the relationship between the U.S. and Suriname militaries, which is what the State Partnership Program is all about.”

Through the State Partnership Program, the SDNG and SDF will continue to develop insight and foster ideas to better incorporate women in the SDF ranks.



(Photo by Capt. Betsy Suhr)

Tech. Sgt. Rachael Bjerke, 114th Medical Group dental assistant, talks about her experience in the South Dakota Air National Guard to Suriname Defense Force members during the Women in the Military Conference.



(Photo by Capt. Betsy Suhr)

Women from the 114th Fighter Wing and Suriname Defense Force exchange ideas on promoting the importance of women in the U.S. and Suriname militaries in Paramaribo, Suriname.



(Photo by Capt. Betsy Suhr)

114th Fighter Wing Airmen answered questions and listened to women of the Suriname Defense Force during the National Guard State Partnership Program's Women in the Military Conference, May 14-19.

Warrant Officer cohort celebrates 100th anniversary

Story by SDNG Public Affairs Office

RAPID CITY – Soldiers with the South Dakota Army National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters came together at Camp Rapid in Rapid City to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the warrant officer, July 9.

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Todd Dressler, the SDARNG command chief warrant officer, hosted the celebration which included opening remarks, a video featuring current and retired SDARNG warrant officers highlighting the history of the warrant officer and their roles throughout the SDARNG, and a cake cutting ceremony.

The military grade of warrant officer dates back two centuries before Columbus, during the years of the British Navy. At that time, nobles assumed command of the new Navy, adopting the Army ranks of lieutenant and captain.

"These officers often had no knowledge of life aboard a ship and relied on the technical experts and cooperation of a senior sailor who tended to the technical aspects of running and fighting the ship," Dressler said. "These indispensable sailors were rewarded with the rank of royal warrant."

In the Act of August 1916, the U.S. Congress authorized the Army Field and the Field Clerk Quartermaster Corps. The Act of July 1918 introduced the rank and grade of warrant officer and Congress established the Army Mine Planters, making the official birth date of the Army Warrant Officer cohort July 9, 1918.

The Act of 1920 expanded use of warrant officers, authorizing appointments in clerical, administrative and band-leading activities.

"The first South Dakota National Guard warrant officer was WO Earl E. Flanders, he was appointed on May 1, 1924, in the band section of Headquarters, 109th Engineer Regiment, in Rapid City," said retired CW5 Duke Doering, command historian for the SDNG.

In 1939, warrant officers who were qualified as pilots were declared eligible for appointment as Air Corps lieutenants in the Army. In 1940, warrant officer appointments began occurring in significant numbers.

From 1939 to the present, warrant officers have continued to adapt and respond to the Army's technical and tactical needs.

"Currently, the Army Warrant Officer



(Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Heather Trobee)

Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general of the SDNG, left, and Chief Warrant Officer 5 Todd Dressler, state command chief warrant officer, cut a cake to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Warrant Officer cohort, July 9.

Corps is comprised of 21 branches with 72 different career fields," said CW5 Sandra Norris, G1 personnel branch. "South Dakota is currently authorized 12 of those branches with 25 career fields. Our most prevalent career field is aviation – with aviators having 24 of the 109 warrant officer authorizations in the state. Maintenance, supply, administration and signal (career fields) dominate the majority of our other authorizations in the state."

"We are the 'Quiet Professionals.'"

– CW5 Todd Dressler

By January 1944, the authorization came to appoint women as warrant officers and by the end of World War II, 42 female warrants were serving on active duty. The SDARNG's first woman warrant was retired CW5 Darla Crown, appointed in October 1985.

"Warrant officers are technical experts in their field and it does not matter whether they

are male or female," said Crown, who also served as the state's first female state command chief warrant officer.

Changes over the last decade have led to the introduction of the top rank of chief warrant officer five and warrant officer representation at the senior levels of leadership.

In 1999, the command chief warrant officer was approved for implementation by the National Guard Bureau. One command chief warrant officer position was added to each state area command headquarters. Since then, the SDARNG has had seven CCWO.

"The duties of the CCWO were to address warrant officer strength and to serve as a technical advisor to the state adjutant general on warrant officer management and career development, to include readiness, education, performance and training," said Dressler, the 7th CCWO for the SDARNG.

"I'm very proud of the 100 years the Warrant Officer cohort has been in the Army inventory," Dressler added. "We are the 'Quiet Professionals.'"

SD Soldier wins Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition

Story by SDNG Public Affairs Office

RAPID CITY- A South Dakota Army National Guard Soldier was named the 2018 Soldier of the Year for the Army National Guard during its Best Warrior Competition at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, July 22-27.

Spc. Bailey Ruff, of Sturgis, and a member with the Sturgis-based Detachment 2, 842nd Engineer Company, competed against the top National Guard Soldiers from across the country in a six-day, 13-event competition that tested them physically and mentally.



Spc. Bailey Ruff

The competition included formal board interviews, physical fitness challenges, written exams and warrior tasks and battle drills to test the whole Soldier concept.

Ruff is the first Soldier from South Dakota to win Soldier of the Year honors at the both the Regional and the Army National Guard level.

"To win the national competition is a humbling experience," Ruff said. "The competitors at every competition I've been in thus far are great Soldiers, and I'm honored to serve with them. Being able to walk away as the victor is an honor."

During the competition, Soldiers were asked to demonstrate their proficiency in a variety of categories, to include: weapon systems, physical strength and endurance, land navigation and map reading, first aid, general Army knowledge and their ability to perform a variety of warrior tasks and battle drills throughout different scenarios.

"The most difficult aspect was the training leading up to the competition," Ruff said. "I train with an underdog mentality knowing my competitors ability level, so overcoming self-doubt and trying to convince myself I was good enough to deserve a place alongside the other Soldiers was truly testing. I have the utmost respect for those I have competed against."

Ruff moves on to represent the Army National Guard in the Department of the Army's Best Warrior Competition at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia, from Sept. 30 - Oct. 5.

"I look forward to representing the National Guard," Ruff said. "I hope to show how amazing the Guard organization is through my performance."

SD National Guard contracting office wins national award

Story by Staff Sgt. Austin Pearce – SDNG Public Affairs Office

RAPID CITY - The South Dakota National Guard's Purchasing and Contracting Office and 114th MSC Base Contracting Office received the 2018 National Guard Bureau's Excellence in Contracting Award for competition in contracting at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, July 12.

South Dakota competed against contracting offices from all 54 states and territories to receive the award, which is based on the highest competition achievement rate among vendors.

"Competition helps ensure the cost of meeting our requirement needs are fair and reasonable and provides the best value to the government," said Monty Eisenbraun, supervisory contract specialist for the Purchasing and Contracting Office. "Achieving the best value doesn't mean that it's always the lowest value, just that we were able to get the best product at the lowest price."

To receive this award, contracting personnel must ensure they receive multiple quotes from various vendors. This creates a challenge at times because many requirements for supplies and services are identified with little notice before the required delivery date.

A high competition achievement rate means there is fair competition among vendors to purchase quality supplies and services at the lowest cost to the taxpayer.

"Funding saved through competed actions can be used to support other unit requirements," said Eisenbraun. "This award signifies the commitment our team in South Dakota has to supporting state requirements by achieving the best value and stretching our budget dollars."

The South Dakota Air National Guard's 114th MSC Base Contracting Office received the National Guard Bureau's Excellence in Contracting Award. Pictured left to right: Tech. Sgt. Jeremiah Minter, Senior Master Sgt. Kurt Lunstra, Tech. Sgt. Eric Comes and Tech. Sgt. Mark Jarding.



The South Dakota Army National Guard's Purchasing and Contracting Office team stands for recognition with this year's National Guard Bureau's Excellence in Contracting Award. Pictured left to right, back row first: Matt Symonds, Tim Andersh, Doug Harding, Staff Sgt. Jesse Ross, Monty Eisenbraun and Shawn Harwood.

SDNG commissions five new Army lieutenants



(Photo by Sgt. Daniel Ward)

Newly promoted South Dakota Army National Guard officers take the Oath of Office at their commissioning ceremony led by Brig. Gen. Thomas Croymans, SDARNG assistant adjutant general, at Camp Rapid, Rapid City, Aug. 17

Story by Sgt. Daniel Ward – 129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

RAPID CITY- The South Dakota Army National Guard inducted five new second lieutenants during a commissioning ceremony at Camp Rapid, Aug. 17.

The ceremony commemorated the five officers' completion of Officer Candidate School, which consisted of 16-18 months of drill weekends and two, two-week training periods.

"A lot of time, effort and hard work has been put in by each one of these candidates to get to this stage to be commissioned," said Lt. Col. Troy Ness, commander of 1st Battalion, 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute). "This is just the beginning of their careers and from this point, there's going to be many more challenges and leadership opportunities."

The evening's ceremony included several traditions, including the pinning of rank on the officers' uniform, their first salute and taking the Oath of Office led by Brig. Gen. Thomas Croymans, SDARNG assistant adjutant general.

"It's an honor for me to be here – we're looking forward to their commissioning and seeing them move on to be great leaders in the South Dakota National Guard," said Croymans. "The RTI has done a fantastic job bringing these candidates up, taking them through the course and getting them qualified; I think they're doing a fantastic job."

The commissioning officers get to choose who pins on their rank and receives their first salute, and many selected family members and military friends that have had an impact on their lives and careers. Newly promoted 2nd Lt. Leslie Wangeman chose Sgt. Maj. Phil Lakner, G3 aviation operations sergeant major for Joint Force Headquarters, for her first salute.

"Sgt. Maj. Lakner has been a huge influence for me – his actions speak louder than his words and that's the kind of leader I hope to be," said Wangeman.

The second lieutenants of OCS Class 62, their hometowns, and South Dakota Army National Guard assigned units are:

- 2nd Lt. Kory Bromley, Yankton, 211th Engineer Company
- 2nd Lt. Nicholas Dumke, Volga, Bravo Battery, 1/147th Field Artillery Battalion
- 2nd Lt. Mackenzie Foss, Milbank, Alpha Company, 139th Brigade Support Battalion
- 2nd Lt. Joshua Wangeman, Spearfish, 200th Engineer Company
- 2nd Lt. Leslie Wangeman, Spearfish, 842nd Engineer Company



(Photo by Sgt. Daniel Ward)

Officer Candidate Leslie Wangeman has the rank of second lieutenant pinned to her uniform by her uncle, retired U.S. Navy Adm. Glenn Feldhuhn, and brother, Keith Graul, at her commissioning ceremony at Camp Rapid.

DESERT COYOTES

152nd CSSB Soldiers sharpen warfighting skills at National Training Center

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Austin Pearce
SDNG Public Affairs Office

A South Dakota Army National Guard unit set to deploy to the Middle East trained at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, July 27-Aug. 22. The training is vital for improving logistics missions of moving supplies through tough, realistic joint and combined-arms scenarios in preparation for the 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion's deployment scheduled for July 2019.

"We're focusing on our mission command process in order to get prepared for future missions and our upcoming deployment," said Lt. Col. Timothy Schlotterback, commander of the 152nd. "This NTC rotation has provided us with the opportunity to train in an unforgiving environment against a near-peer enemy, allowing us to validate our tactical proficiency and synchronize our capabilities to conduct sustainment operations in very demanding conditions."

Staff Sgt. Brayden Nelson, intelligence analyst with the 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, overlooks the unit's base location at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., Aug. 8. The 152nd participated in the warfighting exercise in preparation for future missions or deployments.



Capt. Richard Bauman, 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, delivers an operations brief to Lt. Col. Tim Schlotterback, commander of the 152nd, during the commander's update brief at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., Aug. 7.

NTC provides a decisive action training environment, which creates training scenarios in a setting that can't be replicated at a unit's home station and that simulates what units would potentially face on their hardest day of combat overseas.

The 28-day training rotation is matched with a world-class opposing force, formed by the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, which is known for their competent and ruthless enemy tactics that tests every capability of the units that come to NTC. Some of the scenarios they employ are chemical attacks, aerial attacks, base-defense operations and convoy attacks.

"This has allowed us to perform our mission-essential tasks in a decisive action training environment and test our abilities to operate as a team and a staff under a variety of stressors like sleep deprivation, the intense heat

[average high temperature during the exercise was 108 degrees] and tough enemy combatants in the battlefield in an extreme environment," said Capt. Jason Kimura, plans officer for the 152nd. "This harsh training

environment gives a lot of Soldiers the opportunity to see what it's like to perform a variety of different tasks in these conditions.

"With the Army changing how we view logistics and war, we are now

required to fulfill our job duties concurrent with self-defense," said Kimura. "If we encounter an enemy that can fight back with a force similar to or better than ours, the warfighters won't have the ability to give us protection any more – so every Soldier should know how to defend themselves, which changes the mindset for those who are outside of the warfighting field."

Between the demanding climate, terrain and an unrelenting enemy, NTC replicates the conditions Soldiers may face overseas.

"It's as similar here as you could possibly get to going to war without leaving the United States, and there's a lot of

places that troops are getting deployed to these days that looks just like this," said Maj. James Neill, support operations officer for the 152nd. "I can't tell you how many Soldiers have said how this place reminds them



Staff Sgt. Brayden Nelson, intelligence analyst for the 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, delivers the intelligence brief to members of the 1067th Composite Truck Company, Pennsylvania Army National Guard, during a convoy brief at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., Aug. 8.



Sgt. Rachael Whaley and Pfc. Alyssa Juelfs, 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, South Dakota Army National Guard, pull security during a simulated chemical attack at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., Aug. 8



A mine resistant ambush protected vehicle drives en route during a convoy at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., Aug. 7.

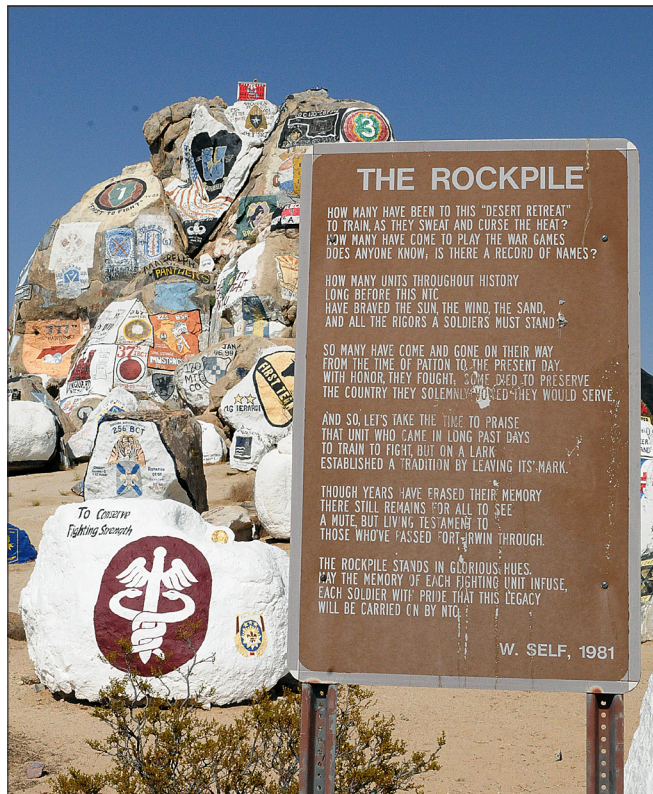
of Iraq or Afghanistan.”

The overall mission for the 152nd while at NTC was to provide multiclass logistics and support operations for the 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team using subordinate units from both active duty and the National Guard specialized in ordnance disposal, transportation, signal and medical.

“It’s been a great opportunity to recognize our ability to work with various other units that we’ve never worked with before,” said Staff Sgt. Aaron Sterud, communications section chief with the 152nd. “It’s been challenging but it’s also been really nice to see how other organizations run their operations. This has really allowed us to do a lot of cross training and to provide mentorship to our lower enlisted Soldiers that haven’t been in these kind of situations.”

The opportunity to train at NTC has given Soldiers of the 152nd a first-hand look at the missions they may face next year and how to overcome them.

“I’m extremely proud to be the commander of this unit and am very pleased with the progress that we’ve made working with our subordinate



The Rockpile outside the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., Aug. 9, 2018, showcases the various units that have reported to NTC for warfighter training since the site opened 29 years ago.

units from across the United States that we have here during this rotation,” said Schlotterback. “We’ve established our communication systems, our battle rhythm and our sustainment operations in a very short period of time. I’ve continued to see improvements each and every day in developing and finalizing our processes for making our command post more efficient.”

What does mentorship look like in the current operational environment?

By Maj. Carol Jordan

Mentorship Committee Chair, Diversity Council - Joint Force Headquarters

With advances in technology, changes in the 'optempo' and the drive to be a superior military force for our nation's defense, mentorship is a powerful way to engage and retain top service members. As mentioned in the article in the summer edition of the Dakota Pack, forming lasting and lengthy relationships as mentor/mentee in the current environment is a challenge.

Are there different methods to mentorship in consideration of our current operating environment? I say the answer is yes. Are there multiple considerations when determining how mentorship occurs? Yes!

Many may have a perception that what is meant by the mentorship program is only the traditional one-to-one mentoring model, older experienced individual to younger inexperienced individual. However, the field of mentorship is evolving as is the work force. Other types of mentoring include co-mentoring or reverse mentoring, micro mentoring, group mentoring and situational.

Co-mentoring or reverse mentoring is effective because both sides have the opportunity to learn and grow. Art of Mentoring's definition: "Rather than having a senior player take a less experienced player 'under their wing,' reverse mentoring relationships place the more senior person as the primary learner and emphasizes the experience of the junior person. The objective of reverse mentoring is primarily to enable leaders and senior managers to stay in touch with their organizations and the outside world. But the advantages go both ways as more junior personnel have an opportunity to understand and be heard by more senior and experienced people." Trust and mutual respect is given and earned.

Micro mentoring tends to be more informal and can evolve from the formation of multiple connections as a mentee is seeking resources, relationships and networking. A way to stimulate this type of brief encounter is through a 'speed mentoring' event.

Group mentoring utilizes multiple experts and multiple learners in a group setting. This can occur formally in an organized event, or more loosely as may occur at a conference. Mentorship can be situational, meaning, your mentor may be the subject matter expert for a particular time frame in your career or for a specific mission. So is there still a place for a traditional one-to-one mentoring model that pairs a senior member of the organization with a junior member, or experienced with inexperienced member? Again, the answer is yes.

Mentorship occurs across generations as well. It is anticipated that, "By 2020, five generations will be represented in the workplace. Source: FutureWorkplace." So, 'don't throw the baby out with the bathwater.' Many service members may appreciate the familiarity of a more traditional model. With that said, no one type of mentorship will fit every individual and is constantly evolving as careers evolve. So to build and retain a superior military force and develop top talent, we need to consider all the different ways mentorship can occur.

"What's most important is that we all seek out mentors who practice good mentorship, regardless of their age, and seek to practice good mentorship ourselves at all stages of our careers." – Everwise: May 26, 2016

Society of American Indian Government Employees recognize SD Guardsman

By SDNG Public Affairs Office

The Society of American Indian Government Employees presented their Military Meritorious Service Award to a South Dakota Army National Guard Soldier during the 15th Annual SAIGE National Training Program in Green Bay, Wisconsin, June 14.

Retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 William White, of Rockyford, South Dakota, received the award honoring military members and Department of Defense civilian employees who have supported the DoD mission, overseas contingency operations, or whose attributes best epitomized the qualities and core values of their respective military service or other DoD component.

White, who retired from the SDARNG in October 2017, received the award for exceptional meritorious service to the United States, the South Dakota National Guard and the Native American veterans and their families representative of the Great Native American Tribes of Cheyenne River, Crow Creek, Oglala, Standing Rock, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate, Rosebud and Yankton.

"Being recognized from an indigenous group was rewarding," White said. "My hope is other people were able to see what we are doing in South Dakota and it gives them ideas on directions to go."

White was involved with various projects that assist in relationships with the SDNG and Native American communities in South Dakota during his more than 38 years with the SDARNG, 31 of which he spent full-time as a technician.

His most recent project, and one he took the lead on, was a Native American Cultural Day held during the Golden Coyote training exercise in June 2017. The event included dancer and drum groups, dream catcher and bow maker hands-on activities, a buffalo historian and food samplings showcasing Native American culture. Another event White was involved with was the Oceti Sakowin Code Talker Congressional Medallion Exhibit, which toured several South Dakota cities in 2015 in observance of Native American Heritage Month.

SAIGE is a national non-profit organization advocating for American Indian and Alaska Native people in the government workforce by providing them the necessary tools in their efforts to reach their full potential.



Retired CW4 William White, center left, receives the 2018 Society of American Indian Government Employees Military Meritorious Service Award in Green Bay, Wis., June 14. Presenting the award were Brig. Gen. Thomas Croymans, SDARNG assistant adjutant general, SAIGE Chair Fredericka Joseph, and F. Michael Sena, deputy director, Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity, Office of Under Secretary of Defense. (Photo by Danny Garcia/SAIGE)

114th Fighter Wing Crew Chief AIC
Trevor Sik changing a F-16 tire during his on-the-job training. Routine maintenance is performed on various parts of the jet to ensure high quality performance.

(Photo by Staff Sgt. Jorrie Hart)

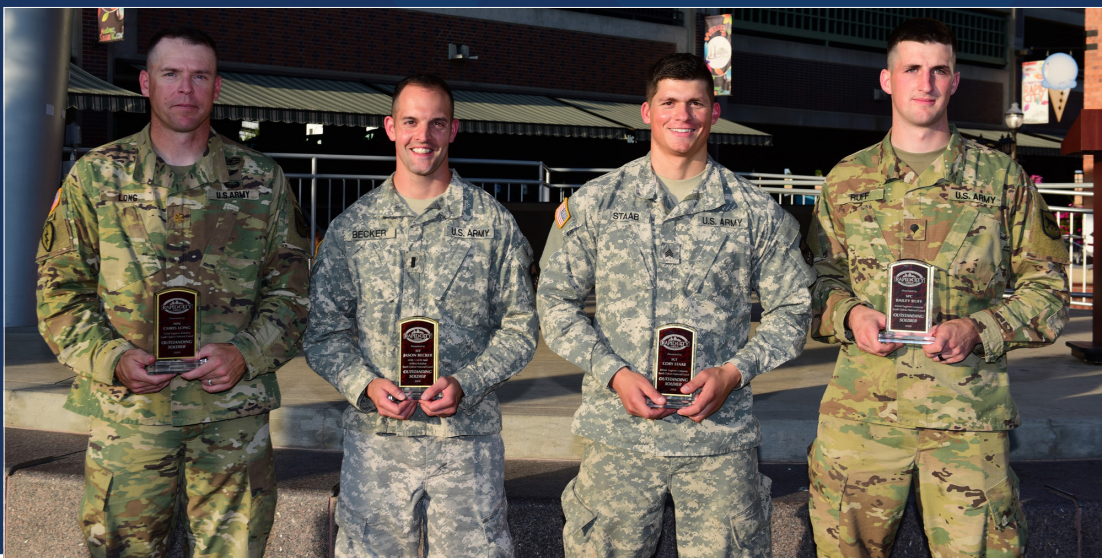


A pilot with the 175th Fighter Squadron gives the thumbs up, signaling all systems go prior to launch, July 21. The 114th Fighter Wing deploys fighter aircraft to regions around the world to provide combatant commanders with the capabilities needed to maintain a deterrent against threats to regional security and stability. Unit members are currently deployed to Southwest Asia in support of an Air Expeditionary Force rotation.

(Photo by Master Sgt. Christopher Stewart)

The Rapid City Chamber of Commerce held its 32nd Annual Military Appreciation Night at Main Street Square in Rapid City, July 31. The annual event recognizes five South Dakota National Guardsmen and five Airmen serving at Ellsworth Air Force Base. This year's SONG honorees included: Maj. Chris Long, 153rd Engineer Battalion; Capt. Jared Bloomgren, 216th Engineer Detachment (not pictured); 1st Lt. Jason Becker, HHB, 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion; Sgt. Cory Staab, 842nd Engineer Company; and Spc. Bailey Ruff, 842nd Engineer Company.

(Photo by Senior Airman James Miller)





Capt. Joshua Nelson, 114th Logistics Readiness Squadron plans officer, explains to the Honorable Heather Wilson, Secretary of the Air Force, the process of logistical movement of personnel and equipment for an upcoming deployment. Secretary Wilson visited the unit on a recent stop to South Dakota.

(Photo by Master Sgt. Christopher Stewart)

Army National Guard officer candidates stand at attention to be recognized at their graduation ceremony at Mount Rushmore near Keystone, July 27. Ninety-nine candidates successfully completed phase three of Class 18-01 Officer Candidate School conducted by the South Dakota Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute). The ceremony signifies their transition to becoming an officer in the U.S. Army.

(Photo by Staff Sgt. Austin Pearce)



(Photo by Spc. Joshua Boisvert)

Gun crews of Battery B, 1/147th Field Artillery Battalion, fire their Multiple Launch Rocket System at varying distances, Aug. 10, at Camp Grayling, Mich. South Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers are participating in Northern Strike, a joint multinational combined arms live-fire exercise at Camp Grayling.

