

# DAKOTA PACK

MAGAZINE OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD • SPRING 2019

## TWO-PART HARMONY

147th Band participates in partner state celebration

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- 1-147th Field Artillery units deploy to Europe
- Cyber Protection Team deploys stateside
- 114th Airmen welcomed home from tour
- Helicopter crew departs for southern border

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- Army recruiting and construction management programs win awards





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# DAKOTA PACK

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## On the Cover

Members of South Dakota Army National Guard's 147th Army Band practice with members of the Suriname Army Band in preparation to play together during Suriname's National Day Parade, Nov. 24. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Mike Beck)

# Message from the Adjutant General

I considered it an honor to be seated with my fellow cabinet members beneath the rotunda of South Dakota's state capitol building to witness Gov. Kristi Noem's inauguration as the 33rd Governor of South Dakota on Jan. 5. That evening I carried on the tradition of escorting Gov. Noem and First Gentleman Bryon down the white marble staircase during their entrance into the Capitol Ball. This historic distinction (to serve as escorts for the constitutional officers during inaugural events) has been reserved for members of the South Dakota National Guard for generations. It most certainly ranks among my proudest moments of my 40 years in uniform. Gov. Noem has already made it a priority to reach out to Soldiers and Airmen who are deploying and returning home. She will be a fantastic commander in chief!

In spite of challenging winter weather, we hosted the 2019 South Dakota National Guard Dining-Out in Pierre on Feb. 7. During the evening's festivities, we presented three prestigious awards for outstanding support. Sanford Health was recognized by the South Dakota Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve as the recipient of this year's Pro Patria Award for its exceptional support to national defense through leadership practices and personnel policies that support employees serving in the National Guard or Reserve.

Master Sgt. Nathan Peterson, chief of staff and vice president of strategic planning for Sanford Health and a member of the South Dakota Air National Guard's 114th Fighter Wing, nominated his employer for the award. Sanford Health has nearly 50,000 employees based in 26 states. They established the Sanford Department of Veteran and Military Services, to actively recruit service members and veterans. Their leave policy provides its deployed employees with differential pay for up to one year if military pay is less than their salary at Sanford. Service members are also provided the option of continuing healthcare, dental and life insurance benefits for up to one year while deployed, mobilized or serving on state or national emergencies.

Over the years, numerous service member employees have nominated Sanford Health for 70 Patriot Awards, the Above and Beyond Award and the 7 Seals Award. They were also a Department of Defense semi-finalist for the Freedom Award. All of these awards are prominently displayed in public areas of Sanford facilities for all to see.

U.S. Sen. John Thune received the coveted Williamson Militiaman Award. This award, established in 1987 by Maj. Gen. Ronald F. Williamson, recognizes an individual who exemplifies the spirit of the citizen-Soldier or Airman as shown by their community leadership, their support of the National Guard and the defense of the country. Sen. Thune has been an ardent supporter of the National Guard throughout his days as a congressman in the U.S. House of Representatives and as a U.S. senator. He is a perennial supporter and advocate for the U.S. Armed Forces, the National Guard and for the veterans of South Dakota.

Throughout his political career, Thune has fought for the modernization of equipment and facilities required to ensure the success of the National Guard responding to emergencies here at home, as well as serving in combat missions abroad. He supported the elevation of the Chief of the National Guard to a four-star position and inclusion as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, which is considered one of the most significant steps forward for the National Guard in our history.

Thune has also committed countless hours of his time demonstrating his personal support time and time again, attending nearly every deployment or welcome home ceremony for South Dakota Army and Air National Guard units since 9/11. Thune continues to demonstrate his support for veterans and has been a tireless advocate to sustain operations

at the Hot Springs Veterans Home. He is a strong proponent for the Veterans History Project, where he was able to interview his father, Harold Thune, who served in World War II as a fighter pilot.

The Adjutant General's Family Award was presented to Kayla and Tech. Sgt. Zane Nightingale with the 114th Fighter Wing. This award recognizes family members who support their service

members in a truly exemplary manner while managing family, careers, or even hardship, all the while not seeking recognition for their sacrifices.

During the past year alone, Kayla dedicated over 125 hours attending meetings and making phone calls to family members of deployed Airmen, which included her husband Zane. She was on the phone almost daily with Airmen and family members and pulled in new volunteers, building the Family Volunteer Group. She arranged the first 'coffee and conversation' event, where families could visit with each other, leadership and with an Airman who returned from deployment to begin the transition process.

Zane and Kayla were also instrumental in helping set up two self-defense classes for wing families prior to and during the Air Expeditionary Force deployment last year. Kayla also engaged directly with the Family Volunteer Group, the Airman and Family Programs office, and with the wing during the Yellow Ribbon programs, military send offs, family day events, and the SDNG Family & Youth Symposium. Without the support of our families, we cannot perform our mission. From the bottom of my heart I want to thank Kayla, Zane and all of our family members who go the extra yard to support the South Dakota National Guard. We are forever in your debt!

Since the last issue of the Dakota Pack, we deployed Bravo Battery and the Forward Support Company of the 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion, the 174th Cyber Protection Team, three Soldiers and an LUH 72 helicopter to the Southwest Border, and six more Airmen from the 114th Security Forces Squadron. Please keep these and all of our deployed Soldiers and Airmen in your daily prayers.

I thank God that we have so many dedicated men and women who are willing to serve in uniform to defend our way of life, and to help others who are unable to do so. I am so proud of you all, and consider it the honor of my life to serve as your leader.

Sincerely,

*Timothy A. Reisch*  
Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch  
The Adjutant General





# Cyber Protection Team deploys stateside

Story by SDNG Public Affairs Office

RAPID CITY – The South Dakota Army National Guard held a deployment ceremony for seven Soldiers with its cyber protection team at Camp Rapid, Dec. 14.

The Rapid City-based Detachment 2, 174th Cyber Protection Team, departed for a yearlong, state-side deployment in the U.S. Capital region.

The Soldiers will be heading to the Washington, D.C. area to protect critical infrastructure for U.S. Cyber Command.

The Soldiers are part of a nearly 40-member team and includes detachments in North Dakota, Utah and Colorado, which focuses on protecting the nation's critical cyber infrastructure and addressing emerging cyber threats.

"We're going to move out there as a team, but while we're there, we're all going to be part of different sections so we may not see each other for a week or two at a time," said 1st Lt. Chris Wenk, member of the 174th.

Also attending the ceremony was U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds, Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, the SDNG adjutant general, and Lt. Gov. Matt Michels.

Wenk said the armed forces have an increased need for cyber protection. Rounds also emphasized the importance of cyber protection for the armed forces to deter emerging threats in today's operational environment.

"For these individuals who are going to be going to the East Coast, they will be actively engaging individuals trying to do harm to our forces through the use of cyber materials," said Rounds.

"Cyber security is a critical part of defense of this country today. These young men and women that are leaving are cyber warriors. They've been trained. And we do not go to war today. We do not involve our armed services unless we also have the cyber front protected," Rounds added.

"Keep us in your thoughts and prayers," said Staff Sgt. Michael Reiprich, 174th information technology specialist. "We are a small team but five of us have small children and the sixth one has their first child on the way. The families will need support just as well as the troops."



(Photo by Capt. Chad Carlson)

Seven Soldiers from Detachment 2, 174th Cyber Protection Team, stand during the unit roll call during the unit's deployment ceremony at Camp Rapid in Rapid City, Dec. 14 .



Warrant Officer 1 Ashton Hanish, member of the 174th Cyber Protection Team, hold his daughter during the deployment ceremony for the unit at Camp Rapid in Rapid City, Dec. 14 .

(Photo by Capt. Chad Carlson)



# 1-147th Field Artillery units deploy to Europe

Story by SDNG Public Affairs Office

YANKTON – The South Dakota Army National Guard held a deployment ceremony for nearly 115 Soldiers with Bravo Battery, 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion and the 147th Forward Support Company in Yankton, Dec. 15.

The units departed for an eight month tour in European Command's area of responsibility in support of allied nation partnerships and regional security and stability goals.

The Yankton-based Bravo Battery is equipped with the Multiple Launch Rocket System, or MLRS, and is capable of providing artillery support to a brigade, division, corps or coalition task force. The Watertown-based Forward Support Company is a multifunctional logistics unit which provides supply and maintenance support.

The unit will be supporting Operation Atlantic Resolve, which builds readiness, increases interoperability and enhances the bond between ally and partner militaries using multinational training events in Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Romania.

"Our battery is taking part in a large, multinational exercise, allowing us to work with our active-duty counterparts," said Capt. Daniel LaMaack, battery commander. "It also provides something they have been missing in the theater, which is the long-range rocket artillery. We provide them with that capability, and they provide us the opportunity to train and become extremely proficient with our equipment."

LaMaack said the unit will be working with nearly every major country in Europe, as well as with some Canadian artillery units.

"This is truly a multinational exercise and will be a big deal for us," he said. "It also means a lot to the people over in Europe, for them to see that kind of support from us."

The non-combat deployment will be a first for the unit and for most of its members, but its mission the unit is ready to execute.

"There always has to be someone standing there to answer the call and this time it was our turn. We're all ready for it and we're all willing," LaMaack said.

"These ceremonies aren't necessarily for the Soldiers," added LaMaack. "It's for the community, it's for the family, and being here today that really rings true. It's great to see all of the family and community members that came out in support of this and it's just really great to see."



(Photo by Capt. Chad Carlson)

**Soldiers from the 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion's Bravo Battery and Forward Support Company stand during the unit roll call during the unit's deployment ceremony in Yankton, Dec. 15.**

**Staff Sgt. Jeff Wendling holds his child during the deployment ceremony for the 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion's Bravo Battery and Forward Support Company in Yankton, Dec. 15.**  
(Photo by Capt. Chad Carlson)





# 114th Fighter Wing Airmen welcomed home from tour



South Dakota state government, congressional and National Guard leaders welcome home members of the 114th Fighter Wing in Sioux Falls, Feb. 3. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jorrie Hart)



(Photo by Tech. Sgt. Duane Duimstra)

Gov. Kristi Noem and members of South Dakota's congressional delegation welcome home members of the 114th Fighter Wing in Sioux Falls, Feb. 3.



(Photo by Tech. Sgt. Duane Duimstra)

Gov. Kristi Noem speaks with 114th Fighter Wing Airmen and their families after the welcome home ceremony, Feb. 3, for unit members who deployed overseas.

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

SIOUX FALLS – The South Dakota Air National Guard held a welcome home ceremony at the Ramkota Inn Exhibit Hall in Sioux Falls, Feb. 3, to recognize 335 Airmen of the 114th Fighter Wing who deployed as part of the state's largest air and space expeditionary force mission.

The Airmen were deployed to Afghanistan, Qatar and Germany to provide over watch to coalition and Afghan forces in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel and NATO's Resolute Support Mission.

"The airpower the South Dakota Air National Guard brings to this area of responsibility will continue to assist the Afghan government and security forces in their fight against Taliban, Al-Qaeda, ISIS and other insurgents, and prevent re-establishment of international terrorist safe havens," Lt. Col. Cory Kestel, 175th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron commander said, during the deployment.

Now that the Airmen are home, the ceremony provides an opportunity for state and local leadership to express their appreciation to those who contributed to the success of the mission, as well as their family members.

In attendance to welcome home and recognize the Airmen were Gov. Kristi Noem, Sen. John Thune, Sen. Mike Rounds, Rep. Dusty Johnson,

Mayor Paul TenHaken, SDNG Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, other military members and close family and friends.

Several spoke of the rich history and remarkable reputation the 114th FW has when it comes to deploying and how proud they are to be part of a ceremony to welcome members home.

"I just want you to know how much we appreciate you. How grateful we are to you for always being willing to answer the call to carry out your mission with proficiency, professionalism and dedication," said Thune. "Every time you deploy we are grateful for the opportunity to welcome you back and to thank you for a job well done."

As Rep. Johnson spoke, he emphasized the willingness to serve and the sacrifices made by the Airmen's support system.

"You served our country in profound and important ways," said Johnson. "The weight of that sacrifice has been felt by your families, your employers and your friends. Do you know what's most impressive about all of that to me? You do it voluntarily."

Johnson ended his speech by saying he had only one thing to do on a day as such when he has received a gift that could never be repaid.

"Friends, employers and especially families of the 114th, thank you."



# From South Dakota to around the world



Chief Master Sgt. Troy Erlandson, 114th Fighter Wing occupational safety manager, holds the South Dakota Air National Guard flag with another Airman during his trip to McMurdo Station, Antarctica, where he worked directly for Joint Force Antarctica to support their research mission. (Photo courtesy from U.S. Air National Guard)

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

WASHINGTON - The 114th Fighter Wing is a small unit, but their efforts span the globe. Airmen of the South Dakota Air National Guard travelled around the world accomplishing missions set before them.

Within a 12-month period, the 114th deployed as part of an Air Expeditionary Force package and travelled to support ongoing operations around the world and provided assistance following a natural disaster.

During the AEF rotation, members of the 114th Maintenance and Operations Groups deployed to three different countries in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel and NATO's Resolute Support Mission. Airmen from the 114th Security Forces Squadron were also deployed to different locations. These deployments saw Airmen travel to five different countries in Europe and Southwest Asia.

114th Airmen not only deployed and travelled to well-populated places, but also to more remote locations. Chief Master Sgt. Troy Erlandson, 114th Fighter Wing occupational safety manager, travelled to Antarctica. He was attached to the 109th Airlift Wing out of Glenville, New York. Erlandson worked directly for Joint Force Antarctica to support the research mission at McMurdo Station.

"I was part of the team that was in-charge of the overall safety of the mission from flight line to supply," said Erlandson.

This was Erlandson's second trip to



(Photo courtesy from U.S. Air National Guard)

**A 114th Fighter Wing advance team rests during their flight to an Air Expeditionary Force deployment location last July. From supporting contingency operations to helping with natural disasters, the 114th Fighter Wing's reach is seen and felt across the world.**

McMurdo Station where he ensured safety procedures were followed at the station as well as three air fields in the area.

South Dakota Air National Guard Airmen also volunteered to help with the clean-up efforts at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., after it was hit by Hurricane Michael. Three Airmen from the 114th Maintenance Squadron Munitions Element volunteered to help.

"We got to learn and experience new things when we helped during the clean-up," said Senior Airman Brianna Williams, 114th Maintenance Squadron munitions journeyman.

During the hurricane clean up, they

were able to clear the bomb dump quickly, efficiently and safely with the help of both active duty and National Guard Soldiers and Airmen, as well as contractors. They were able to also account for 99 percent of the munitions in the month they spent there.

"This was an eye opening experience for me," said Senior Airman Timothy Peterson, 114th Maintenance Squadron munitions line control.

In such a short amount of time, SDANG Airmen travelled the world and made lasting impacts. From supporting contingency operations to helping with natural disasters, the 114th's reach is seen and felt across the world.

# SD Army Guard to undergo force structure and stationing changes

Story by SDNG Public Affairs Office

RAPID CITY – The South Dakota Army National Guard will undergo unit force structure, task organization and relocation changes beginning this year to optimize its organizational readiness and capabilities to respond to state and federal missions.

As part of the reorganization, the SDARNG will deactivate three units, activate three new units, relocate six units to existing National Guard communities, and close its armory in De Smet.

The majority of the changes are expected to be completed by September 2020.

The changes are a part of U.S. Army Total Force initiatives and are an evolutionary response to an ever-changing operational environment characterized by emergent threats, changing force structure to meet operational needs, and greater reliance upon the National Guard as an operational force for the U.S. Army.

“We will plan for and implement these changes to ensure we maintain a high state of readiness with the right mix of capabilities across the state,” said Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general of the SDNG. “These changes will enhance the National Guard to meet the operational demands of the future in support of its war-time mission and response to state emergencies or natural disasters.”

The reorganization and relocation of units will maximize resources, training and facilities, ensure efficient mission command for operational readiness, develop more cohesive units, match units in communities that optimize recruiting demographics for future projected growth, and ensure coverage of state mission requirements.

The SDARNG will increase its overall force structure allowance from 3,012 to 3,097, adding 85 soldier positions and allowing more opportunities for people to serve.

The force structure changes include the deactivation of three units: 139th Brigade Support Battalion based in Brookings; Company A, 139th BSB in Watertown; and Company B, 139th BSB in Mitchell.

Replacing these units will be the activation of the 109th Engineer Battalion and a Forward Support Company to be based in Rapid City, and the 665th Surface Maintenance Company in Mitchell.

Scheduled unit relocations will take place for the following units:

- 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Bn. from Pierre to Brookings
- 115th Signal Company from Brookings to Sioux Falls
- 155th Engineer Company from Rapid City to Wagner
- Detachment 1, 155th Engineer Company from Wagner to Parkston
- Det. 1, 153rd Forward Support Company from Parkston to Huron
- Detachment 1, 211th Engineer Company from De Smet to Madison

As part of the reorganization, some units will be task organized under a different battalion headquarters to optimize stationing proximity and ensure effective command and control for operational, administrative, training and logistical support.

“We strategically position forces and capabilities in the state to maintain readiness and allow the National Guard to respond in support of civil authorities,” Reisch said. “As the National Guard continues to transform now and into the future, we will meet those changing needs and determine the best composition and locations to make us as efficient and effective as possible.”

The De Smet-based Detachment 1, 211th Engineer Company, will relocate and consolidate with its company headquarters in Madison. The unit armory is currently co-located with the high school and their lease with the SDARNG will be terminated. Exclusive use of the armory space will be turned over to the school district and is expected to be completed by December 2019.

While these changes will reduce the SDARNG’s community presence from 22 to 21 state locations, it will not impact the organization’s ability to respond to state mission requirements and support any community.

“It is with genuine sadness that we will be relocating from De Smet – a community that has supported the National Guard in a truly outstanding manner for decades,” said Reisch. “We will continue to maintain our ties to De Smet through recruiting and support of community events, and there will be no change in our ability to respond to their needs should an emergency occur.”

“The National Guard is dedicated to serving the citizens of South Dakota and support of all of our communities,” continued Reisch. “Never in our history, have we been better trained, equipped or more heavily relied upon than we are today.”

## SD National Guard helicopter, crew depart for Southwest border

Story by SDNG Public Affairs Office

RAPID CITY – A South Dakota Army National Guard UH-72 Lakota helicopter and crew departed for Arizona, Jan. 7, to provide aerial detection and monitoring for U.S. Customs and Border Protection along the Southwest border. The Soldiers will work with the Arizona National Guard, in coordination with U.S. Customs and Border Protection personnel, to bring additional air reconnaissance capability and capacity to enhance CBP’s border security operations. The three-person crew of pilots and an analyst is expected to support the mission for up to 90 days.

The request to provide aviation reconnaissance support came to the SDNG from the National Guard Bureau and approved by Gov. Kristi Noem. Multiple states are providing similar capabilities to the Texas, Arizona and New Mexico National Guard.

This is the fourth time the SDNG has sent aircraft and crews for Southwest border support, previously deploying in 2007, 2013 and 2015.



The SDNG also assisted in Southwest border operations with Operation Jump Start in 2006 and 2007, where it provided engineer and project management support in the construction of barriers and access roads along the U.S.-Mexico border. In all, about 570 Soldiers and Airmen from more than a dozen units participated in various missions.



# 1st ID commander preps 196th MEB for upcoming training

Story by Staff Sgt. Mark VanGerpén – 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade

SIoux FALLS – The commanding general for the U.S. Army's 1st Infantry Division, Maj. Gen. John S. Kolasheski, visited the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade in Sioux Falls, Jan. 5, as part of preparation for an upcoming multinational training mission this spring.

The 196th MEB is set to support the 1st ID at Warfighter 19-4, a joint training exercise slated for March 31 to April 15, in Fort Riley, Kansas. The exercise will test multiple organizations' abilities to effectively and efficiently function in a simulated wartime scenario.

"We need to be prepared to deploy, fight and win in a multinational environment in support of national military objectives," Kolasheski said. "We need to look at how we can optimally integrate together to be successful."

The visit marked the first time a U.S. Army division commander has come to South Dakota to visit the 196th.

"I'm really honored to be here, to spend some time laying the foundation for how we plan to approach the warfighter," Kolasheski said. "This maneuver enhancement brigade has a long history, and how we organize and integrate elements like this brigade is critically important. We can't do this alone."

The mission of the 196th MEB is to enable, enhance and protect operational and tactical freedom of action for a supported maneuver force, such as armor, striker or infantry units. With about 190 Soldiers in its ranks, the unit commands and controls the forces necessary to conduct security and functional operations in a designated area on the battlefield.

The warfighter exercise presents a unique opportunity for the 196th. More complex than a typical two-week annual training, a warfighter enables the unit to train side-by-side with a division-sized force.

Working within that larger context means the 196th will have the chance to iron out its role in a true-to-life wartime scenario.



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark VanGerpén)

**Maj. Gen. John Kolasheski, 1st Infantry Division commander, addresses members of the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade in Sioux Falls, Jan. 5. The 196th is scheduled to participate in an upcoming multinational training exercise.**

"A warfighter is an opportunity for a division commander to train his staff, as well as brigade staff, on operations that are hard to replicate at a training center," said Maj. Jason Thomson, executive officer with the 196th. "It forces division and brigade staffs to work out field problems that enhance their knowledge base."

It also gives the two units the chance to develop a working rapport, which will help increase the efficiency and effectiveness of both units in training and mission readiness.

"We can't do this alone," Kolasheski said. "We have to integrate all players on the battlefield in all warfighter functions."

"Having a relationship with them is extremely convenient," Thomson said. "It makes it easier for us to network, communicate and train together."

## SD Guard receives regional Best Installations Program Award

Story by SDNG Public Affairs Office

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. – The South Dakota Army National Guard's Construction and Facilities Management Office received the 2018 Best Installations Program Award for FEAC (Facilities and Engineering Advisory Council) Region VI, Feb. 12, for having the most effective CFMO program in the region.

The award was presented by the Army National Guard at the Professional Education Center at Camp Robinson in Little Rock, Arkansas, during the Fiscal Year 2019 Program Guidance Course.

The award is presented annually to one of the eight states in the region, which also includes North Dakota, Montana, Washington, Alaska, Idaho, Wyoming and Oregon.

"This award is part of a team effort from all the state and federal employees in the CFMO all across the state of South Dakota," said Lt. Col. Martin Yost, construction and facilities management officer.

Criteria for the award includes: timely and accurate response to all required submissions and data calls, accurate and timely programming of sustainment, restoration and modernization projects, and military construction programming.

The successful execution of these programs allows for the accurate and



(Photo by Lt. Col. Anthony Deiss)

**Members of the South Dakota Army National Guard's Construction and Facilities Management Office receive the 2018 Best Installations Program Award for FEAC (Facilities and Engineering Advisory Council) Region VI, Feb. 12, in Rapid City.**

judicious execution of state and federal funding. Successful execution of the CFMO program provides modern and highly-maintained facilities for the South Dakota Army National Guard that directly supports mission readiness.





Airman 1st Class Charlotte Ekeren



Tech. Sgt. Mathieson Smith

# 114th Fighter Wing announces Airmen of the Year

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

SIoux FALLS – The South Dakota Air National Guard announced its Outstanding Airmen of the Year during an annual awards ceremony, Jan. 6, at Joe Foss Field.

Airman 1st Class Charlotte Ekeren, 114th Maintenance Squadron munitions specialist, was recognized as the SDANG Outstanding Airman of the Year. “A1C Ekeren always looks out for her wingman, displayed outstanding follower-ship and leadership skills, and went above and beyond what was needed to accomplish the mission,” said her supervisor, Master Sgt. Nick Blumer, 114th Maintenance Squadron, munitions specialist.

Tech. Sgt. Mathieson Smith, 114th Maintenance Squadron quality assurance inspector, was recognized as the SDANG Outstanding Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year. “Mathieson’s continuous work at improving himself, others around him, and the maintenance group as a whole has made him a standout among his peers,” said Smith’s supervisor, Chief Master Sgt. Brett Cownie, 114th Quality Assurance superintendent.

Chief Master Sgt. Daniel McNeil, 114th Civil Engineer Squadron operations superintendent, was recognized as the SDANG Outstanding Senior NCO of the Year. “I nominated Chief McNeil for Airman of the Year for one reason, impact. He has impact on our squadron processes, our Airmen, and our deployments,” said McNeil’s supervisor, Maj. Lance Niewenhuis, 114th Civil Engineer Squadron commander. “He impacts me as a commander with strategic insight from the enlisted perspective and demands honesty and integrity from all our Airmen. The excellence of the CES is directly attributable to Chief McNeil’s leadership.”

Master Sgt. Carmen Taylor, 114th Security Forces Squadron first sergeant, received the SDANG Outstanding First Sergeant of the Year award. “First Sergeant Taylor quickly took advantage of formal training,

education, and deployment opportunities to secure subject expertise in her recent career field assignment,” said Senior Master Sgt. Shawn Greer, 114th FW first sergeant. “She has inserted herself as an instrumental leader in her organization’s daily mission. She flawlessly executed duties on two separate deployments within months of leadership assignment and she serves as a mentor to her squadron and fellow first sergeants.”

Selected from more than 1,000 Airmen, the four recipients represent the top performers at the wing level. Nominations are based only on the member’s performance and achievements from the prior year.

A wing selection board reviewed nomination packages and conducted formal in-person interviews for all group-level nominees during November’s unit training assembly. Selections were made based on superior leadership, job performance, community involvement and personal achievements.

“With the quality of Airmen that we have at the 114th Fighter Wing, these boards can become extremely difficult to determine and often come down to a matter of points where not just the package and interview content is the deciding factor,” said Chief Master Sgt. Zona Hornstra, 114th Fighter Wing command chief. “We need to go back and review personal appearance, military bearing, communication skills, professional military education, other civilian education, fitness history, and career opportunities that have influenced the service member for the nomination period from 1 Jan. to 31 Dec.”

Each year, the states and territories select their top performers from the Air Guard’s more than 105,000 Airmen. The 114th Fighter Wing’s Outstanding Airmen of the Year will represent South Dakota when their award packages are forwarded to the National Guard Bureau for





**Chief Master Sgt. Daniel McNeil**



**Master Sgt. Carmen Taylor**

consideration as the overall 2018 Air National Guard Outstanding Airmen of the Year.

From there, the Air Force Outstanding Airmen program annually recognizes 12 enlisted members for the same criteria as above. The 12 selectees are awarded the Outstanding Airmen of the Year.



(Courtesy photo)

**Lt. Col. Corey Norris, right, and Command Sgt. Maj. Corey Rabenberg, middle, Recruiting and Retention Battalion, receive the Director's Cup for the small state category from Lt. Gen. Timothy Kadavy, left, director of the Army National Guard.**

## Army Guard recruiting force receives national recognition

**Story by Staff Sgt. Austin Pearce – 129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment**

POTOMAC, Md. – The South Dakota Army National Guard's Recruiting and Retention Battalion recently received a newly recognized award for outstanding achievement in 2018 at the Director's Strength Maintenance Awards Conference in Potomac, Maryland, Jan. 30.

The award is the Director's Cup, which recognizes the top adjutant general of a small, medium or large state or territory based on the strength maintenance of the three tenet mission of the recruiting battalion (recruiting, retention and attrition) and meeting overall end strength. The SDARNG took home the Director's Cup for the small state category.

"A state recruiting and retention battalion doesn't win this award by themselves; having high quality, successful units and unit leaders who believe in our mission to provide ready forces to support global and domestic requirements is a huge factor," said Lt. Col. Corey Norris, commander of the SDARNG's Recruiting and Retention Battalion. "Living in a state where the government and citizenry supports the National Guard in the manner that South Dakota does, we know that we're expected to excel and this is just one of the many areas in which the SDARNG does just that."

All states and territories that meet end strength are eligible to compete for the Director's Cup, and the grading criteria is based upon 50 percent of the recruiting mission, 25 percent of the retention mission and 25 percent of the attrition mission. The Director's Strength Maintenance Awards Program determines the overall winner in each category based on a detailed analysis of these reports.

"When crunching the numbers, I'm quite positive we're number one overall across the entire nation, regardless of size," said Command Sgt. Maj. Corey Rabenberg, senior enlisted leader of the SDARNG's Recruiting and Retention Battalion. "Recognition like this doesn't come easy and when I travel to events like the DSMAC, it doesn't take long to realize that South Dakota is the state that others aspire to be. Congratulations to the recruiting force on this outstanding achievement – this doesn't happen without each and every one of you having pride in what you do and choosing to make a difference."

Each year during the DSMAC, the Director's Cup will be passed from the previous winner's adjutant general to the current winner's adjutant general in a ceremonious fashion.



# SDNG announces annual Dining-Out Awards

Story by SDNG Public Affairs Office

PIERRE – The South Dakota National Guard hosted its 2019 Dining-Out in Pierre, Feb. 7, and during the event recognized a family, an employer and a public servant with awards recognizing their contributions to the SDNG mission.

## Pro Patria Award – Sanford Health

Sanford Health was presented with the South Dakota Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Pro Patria Award. The award is presented annually to one South Dakota employer who provides exceptional support to national defense through leadership practices and personnel policies that support employees serving in the National Guard or Reserve.

Master Sgt. Nathan Peterson, chief of staff and vice president of strategic planning for Sanford Health and a member of the South Dakota Air National Guard's 114th Fighter Wing, nominated his employer for the award.

## The Williamson Militiaman Award – Sen. John Thune

The 2019 Williamson Militiaman Award was presented to Sen. John Thune. The Williamson Militiaman Award, established in 1987 by Maj. Gen. Ronald F. Williamson, recognizes an individual who exemplifies the spirit of the citizen-Soldier or Airman as shown by their community leadership, their support of the National Guard and the defense of the country.

## The Adjutant General's Family Award – The Nightingale Family

The Adjutant General's Family Award was presented to Kayla and Tech. Sgt. Zane Nightingale with the 114th Fighter Wing. The award recognizes family members who support their service members in a truly exemplary manner while managing family, careers, or even hardship, all the while not seeking recognition for their sacrifices.



(Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Heather Trobee)

Sanford Health receives the South Dakota Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve Pro Patria Award during the South Dakota National Guard Dining-Out in Pierre, Feb. 7. Pictured left to right is: Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, SDNG adjutant general; Gov. Kristi Noem; retired U.S. Navy Capt. Paul Weckman, Sanford Health director of diversity, inclusion, veterans and military services; and Jim White, ESGR-SD chair.



(Photo by Tech. Sgt. Duane Duimstra)

U.S. Sen. John Thune receives the Williamson Militiaman Award from Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, SDNG adjutant general, and retired Maj. Gen. Ronald Williamson in Sioux Falls, Jan. 18.



(Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Heather Trobee)

Tech. Sgt. Zane Nightingale, 114th Fighter Wing, receives the Adjutant General's Family Award from Gov. Kristi Noem and Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, SDNG adjutant general, during the South Dakota National Guard Dining-Out.



# Army Guard receives award for environmental program, initiatives

Story by SDNG Public Affairs Office

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. – The South Dakota Army National Guard received a 2018 Environmental Security Award for outstanding program and initiatives in environmental excellence in Little Rock, Feb. 12.

The SDARNG's Construction and Facilities Management Office received a third place finish in the Team/Individual – Sustainability Award category for significant progress in implementing environmentally responsible practices.

"Receiving this award demonstrates that our efforts towards waste stream reduction, increased waste diversion and systems management has made a significant impact on the culture of the SDARNG to create a greener, more resilient state," said Lt. Col. Tom Nelson, SDARNG Environmental Program manager.

The CFMO's Sustainability Team is charged with maintaining compliance and improving sustainable management throughout the state. Their gains in diversion and compliance have saved the SDARNG in disposal costs, generated recycling revenue, and avoided costly censures or impediments to training.

"The SDARNG has saved over \$15,000 in tipping fees by diverting solid waste from the landfill," said Emily Beck, SDARNG environmental compliance and conservation manager. "A total of 25.76 tons of material was recycled from Rapid City area buildings and from outlier camps during the Golden Coyote training exercise."

Beck also said the team sustained a diversion rate over 56 percent in the last two years. The Sustainability Team is also working with the community to help achieve their goals. By integrating community outreach into their efforts, the team has fostered volunteerism and donations to get new projects off the ground.

"We worked with the Rapid City Solid Waste Division to determine where our efforts could best be focused for Rapid City's Clean-Up week, as we had a unique force of volunteers that could assist in more difficult areas," Beck said. "We also coordinated with Pacific Steel and Recycling to negotiate a no-cost option for obtaining containers for recycled materials."

"For outreach, the environmental office partners with a local school to recycle in their classroom," added Beck. "This arrangement allows for SDARNG to recycle markers back through a school-based program. We also partner with a school for their clean-up project near Earth Day each year."

Beck and Nelson also highlighted other sustainment initiatives that are having an impact with the assistance of SDARNG units.

These efforts include inspections, compliance and accountability



(Photo by Lt. Col. Anthony Deiss)

**Lt. Col. Tom Nelson, South Dakota Army National Guard Environmental Program manager, center, and Matraysa Punderson, environmental compliance support, left, and Emily Beck, environmental compliance and conservation manager, hold a 2018 Environmental Security Award presented to the SDARNG for outstanding program and initiatives in environmental excellence at Camp Rapid, Feb. 21.**

in support of the Environmental Performance Assessment System; enhanced spill control and prevention training; workspace evaluations to identify facility risks and liabilities; collaboration on hazardous materials planning, and assistance visits to find unconventional solutions in communities with limited recycling vendors.

"Over the past two years, this team has achieved outstanding, measurable results – as it has pursued waste stream reduction, increased waste diversion, compliance training improvement, and systems management," said Nelson. "A vibrant program of community outreach and public education also distinguishes the team's strategies."

Beck says some of the smallest acts contribute in the biggest ways.

"Every Soldier contributes when they take those extra few steps to place a recyclable in the correct container," she said.

"The command's emphasis, provided through the Environmental Quality Control Committee, led to our team's success," Beck added. "The adjutant general provided policy through SDARNG's environmental management system. Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch set a significant aspect as solid waste reduction, and the environmental office focused on recycling as our first task to meet that goal. We had begun the first recycling initiative on Camp Rapid in 2008, and it was time to stand recycling up as a statewide initiative."

## Pierre National Guard unit to deploy to the Middle East

Story by SDNG Public Affairs Office

PIERRE – Nearly 70 Soldiers with the South Dakota Army National Guard's 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion have received a mobilization order for deployment to the Middle East beginning in July.

The Pierre-based unit is scheduled for a nine-month deployment where they will provide multifunctional logistics and support operations.

The unit will report to Fort Hood, Texas, to complete several weeks of theater-specific training prior to deployment overseas.

This will be the second mobilization for the 152nd CSSB since the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The unit first deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2013.







# ECHOES FROM THE DESERT

## 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion conducts live-fire exercises

Two M270A1 Multiple Launch Rocket System crews with Bravo Battery, 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion, fire rockets from their respective loader launcher modules during the unit's validation training exercises conducted at Orogrande Range Complex, New Mexico, Jan. 4.

Story and photos by **Sgt. Christopher Hernandez**

210th Regional Support Group – Mobilization and Deployment Brigade/Fort Bliss

In the vast expanse of the Orogrande Range Complex, New Mexico, an assemblage of uniformed personnel and military tactical vehicles comprise of the scene. Despite the frigid climate on the morning of Jan. 4, Army National Guardsmen of Bravo Battery and Forward Support Company, 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion, of Yankton and Watertown, stood outside in eager anticipation to witness an awe-inspiring spectacle. Suddenly, a deafening roar temporarily disrupts the stillness of the desert landscape. Volleys of rockets have been launched from a group of M270A1 Multiple Launch Rocket Systems, propelling in convergence toward the sun-drenched sky.

This training event was one of the 1-147th FA's pre-mobilization exercises conducted to strengthen their readiness and lethality postures.

"We are here for mobilization validation," said 1st Lt. Jessie Park, operations officer for Bravo Battery, 1-147th FA. "The South Dakota Army National Guard is one of two MLRS battalions in the United States, so it's really important that we keep up on our platforms and training."

The above-mentioned volley of rockets is called "time on target" (ToT), a critical artillery technique in which an area or target is completely saturated by munitions. ToT is one of several tasks performed by the 1-147th FA, under direct scrutiny and evaluation by observer, controller/trainers of the 5th Armored Brigade, Fort Bliss, Texas.

"We did three types of fire missions: fire when ready, at my command...and then ToT," said Sgt. Dillyn Thompson, MLRS

crewmember and seven-year veteran of 1-147th FA. "It's a little different this year, the way they have us doing this live fire. We have (the MLRS vehicles) all lined up, with four to eight rockets in a row."

According to Sgt. 1st Class James Meyer, master gunner for Bravo Battery, the M270A1 MLRS can launch over a dozen types of disparate munitions.

"We can shoot multiple rockets from the MLRS, depending on the setup and whatever mission requirements are, such as M28/M28A1 training rounds, M30/M31 guided rockets, and ATACMS (Army Tactical Missile System) guided missiles," Meyer said.



Sgt. Steve Trautner, wheeled vehicle mechanic for Forward Support Company, 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion, performs troubleshooting procedures for a M270A1 Multiple Launch Rocket System's loader launcher module prior to the unit's validation training exercises conducted at Orogrande Range Complex, New Mexico, Jan. 4.





Sgt. Steve Trautner and Sgt. Chris Ewalt, respectively a wheeled vehicle mechanic and tracked vehicle repairer for Forward Support Company, 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion, rotate a loader launcher module of a M270A1 Multiple Launch Rocket System during troubleshooting procedures prior to the unit's validation training exercises at Orogrande Range Complex, New Mexico, Jan. 4.

Thompson further elaborated on the destructive power of the MLRS, touching upon the weapon platform's moniker: "Grid Square Removal System."

"The maximum load is 12 rockets or two missiles total," Thompson said. "If we have a full load of rockets, we can take out an entire grid square on a map."

These validation and military rehearsal exercises have been vital to the preparation for the 1-147th FA's upcoming mobilization.

"Under Operation Atlantic Resolve, we're going to participate in exercises in Germany, Poland, Hungary, Romania, Lithuania, and Latvia," said 1st Sgt. Dusty Kiner, first sergeant for Bravo Battery. "Whoever wants assistance or wants artillery support for their exercise, they will call us, and we go out to that location."

Taken into consideration the joint nature of this deployment, Kiner asserts that mission requirements principally depend on multi-national collaboration.

"The way we understand it for our first exercise, we will be falling under a Canadian DIVARTY (Division Artillery)," Kiner said. "We'll be acting as the DIVARTY support for the Canadian division. It's kind of a new experience for us, as we will be functioning multi-national and multi-echelon all the way through the entire phase."

For junior enlisted Soldiers like Spc. Micah Miller, an automated logistical specialist for the FSC, 1-147th FA, these training exercises have ventured outside the proverbial comfort zone.

"One of the biggest challenges is this different climate and terrain here," Miller said. "There's a lot more mountains here than there back in South Dakota, which is a lot flatter."

Nevertheless, Thompson stated that he and his unit have been primed and ready for this occasion.

"I was in Saber Guardian in Romania, where I was able to jump in with Alpha Battery out of Aberdeen and go over there with them,"



Spc. Geoff Adler, wheeled vehicle mechanic for Forward Support Company, 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion, South Dakota Army National Guard, utilizes a socket wrench to tilt the cab into a M270A1 Multiple Launch Rocket System in order to access the engine prior to the unit's validation training exercises.

Thompson said. "But with this mobilization, I think that we can get a little more in-depth, which will be nice in being able to train with other countries. It's all pretty new to me, and I'm excited about it."

Bravo Battery/FSC elements of the 1-147th FA will sustain their pre-mobilization training scenarios until their eventual flight to Eastern Europe.

"We're looking forward to moving out to Eastern Europe and making this stuff happen and get some rockets downrange in Europe," Kiner said. "Supposedly, we are going to be the first heavy MLRS unit in Eastern Europe since 9/11. We're going to help write new doctrine as to how heavy artillery operates in Europe. This is a cool mission for us."



# TWO-PART HARMONY

## 147th Band participates in partner state celebration



Members of the 147th Army Band practice with members of the Suriname Army Band under direction of Lt. Stephan Apiani in preparation to play together during Suriname's National Day Parade, Nov. 24, 2018, in Paramaribo, Suriname. The 147th traveled to Suriname to participate in the parade as a part of a musical performance event series with its state partnership country in support of community and public outreach objectives.

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Mike Beck – 129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Members of South Dakota Army National Guard's 147th Army Band traveled to South America to participate in a musical performance event series with its state partnership country of Suriname, Nov. 18 – Dec. 1. About 35 147th members conducted professional development training with the Suriname Army Band and played at a variety of events in support of community and public outreach objectives.

The musical events culminated with both groups marching together during Suriname's National Day Parade. The overall goal of the event was to further enhance the Suriname and SDNG partnership in support of US Southern Command cooperation objectives.

The band traveled from their home station of Mitchell to Sioux Falls to meet a West Virginia Air National Guard C-17 Globemaster cargo aircraft for the trip to Paramaribo.

Upon arrival, the 147th and the Suriname Army Band practiced together for four days prior to the National Day Parade. The practices included learning new music, integrating the two bands into one and



Children from Kinderhuis Leliendall, a children's home near Paramaribo, Suriname, pose with members of the 147th Army Band, Nov. 21, 2018, following a concert played at the home.

Marching. The Soldiers of the 147th learned to play Surinamese music, as well as marching style and commands in a few short days.

Suriname has, in recent years, moved the parade from the capital of Paramaribo to other communities to allow more people to attend. This year, the parade was held in Saramacca, a district west of the capital.

The entire parade route was lined with onlookers, vendors and media. "It was amazing to see how many people came (to the parade)," said





**A combined band, consisting of members of the 147th Army Band and members of the Suriname Army Band, practice marching together in preparation of Suriname's National Day Parade in Saramacca, Suriname, Nov. 25, 2018. The 147th traveled to Suriname to participate in the parade as a part of a musical performance event series with its state partnership country in support of community and public outreach objectives.**

Spc. Brooke Bigge, member of the 147th. The President of Suriname, Desiré Bouterse, attended the National Day Parade, as well as senior leaders of the Suriname Defense Force, and dignitaries from Brazil, Guiana, French Guiana and the South Dakota National Guard. Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, SDNG adjutant general, Brig. Gen. Russ Walz, assistant adjutant general for South Dakota's Air National Guard, and Command Sgt. Maj. James Hoekman were among the dignitaries viewing from the grandstand.

Members of the 147th also performed at multiple venues outside of the parade. Music performance teams performed at the United States Embassy, a local shopping mall, two children's homes, and several other locations. These performances were the highlight of the trip for many members of the band.

"Watching the kids sing along, and get up and dance was heartwarming," said 1st Sgt. Kristen Soukup, 147th senior

noncommissioned officer. "They knew most of the (popular) songs we played, despite the songs being American."

Other members of the band had similar experiences.

"Whether it was us, the 147th playing, or the Suriname band, those concerts were really impressive," said Spc. Jordan Hoffman.

Crowds were very receptive to the bands, as were the local musicians. Local musicians frequently joined in playing with members of the band.

"Playing with the Surinamese musicians was a lot of fun," said Spc. Craig Kolasch, with the 147th. "We were able to jam with them - they do a lot of freestyling."

"Overall, it was a very worthwhile trip," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Terry Beckler, 147th commander. "An annual training like this is a once in a lifetime opportunity."



**A combined band, consisting of members of the 147th Army Band and members of the Suriname Army Band, practice marching together in preparation of Suriname's National Day Parade in Saramacca, Suriname, Nov. 25, 2018.**



## Four Lessons from the Four

By Chaplain (Col.) Lynn Wilson - Joint Force Headquarters

Let me tell you the true story about the Four Chaplains and the four lessons we can learn from them that will help us today. The American Legion February 2019 magazine had a tremendous article entitled "Lore of the Legion," that shared the story of the Four Chaplains as well as I've ever heard it shared. Four First Lieutenants who trained together and became friends at Army Chaplain School were assigned to serve aboard what had previously been a civilian liner, the USAT Dorchester. Lesson #1: Character Means More than Rank. The four were all 01's. But it wasn't their rank we remember but their character of sacrifice.

The chaplains were Rev. George Fox, Methodist, Dr. Alexander Goode, Jewish rabbi, Rev. Clark Poling, Reformed Church, and Father John Washington, a Roman Catholic priest. This leads us to Lesson #2: Unity does not depend on uniformity. Their doctrines couldn't be more diverse. But what led to their friendship was not the similarity of their belief but the similarity of their purpose: to bring God to Soldiers and Soldiers to God.

The month was February, the year 1943, and 902 full-to-capacity on board the Dorchester sailed through the North Atlantic 34 degree water. German U-Boat 223 spotted the Dorchester at 12:55 on Feb. 3 and fired a torpedo that struck the ship. Many on board were trapped below deck and panic set in. Lesson #3: The Time to Prepare for Disaster is long before 'the torpedo hits.' The four Chaplains worked to organize an orderly evacuation. Their faith had taught them long ago this vital truth: if the ship goes down, they go up!

Suddenly a voice rang out: "Chaplain, I can't find my life jacket! What am I going to do!" Quickly his chaplain responded not by saying, "Oh, things, will be fine!" No! The Chaplains took off his life jacket and put it on the panic-ridden Soldier. Soon the rest of the chaplains had done the same! This leads to our fourth truth: Lesson #4: The Greatest Proof of Love is Sacrifice. The chaplains were chaplains far more than in word but in deed. They were living proof of that saying "I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day. I'd rather one should walk with me than merely tell the way."

U.S. Coast Guard cutters Escanaba and Comanche rescued most of the 230 survivors, many of whom tell of their last memory seeing the four chaplains, arms linked, singing hymns to Almighty God in Hebrew, Latin, and English. One of them, John Ladd, wrote: "It was the finest thing I have seen, or hope to see, this side of heaven." American Legion posts recognize the first Sunday of February as Four Chaplains Day. But the lessons they leave are for far more than a certain month or designated Sunday. The lesson they leave us is that: #1 Character will always mean more than Rank. #2 Unity doesn't mean agreeing with everything someone believes, but in respecting their views and they doing the same. #3 Preparing for the worst of times must be done today, not tomorrow. And #4 The proof that we love others is seen, like the Four Chaplains, not merely in what we say, but in what we do. When we live these truths, the spirit of the Four Chaplains still lives today!



Chaplain Lynn Wilson  
State/Full-time Support Chaplain



## Speed Mentoring

By Maj. Carol Jordan

Mentorship Committee Chair, Diversity Council - Joint Force Headquarters

What in the world is "speed mentoring?" Is it anything like "speed dating?" Actually, it is based on a similar concept and is continuing to evolve as we progress with the South Dakota Army National Guard Mentorship Program development.

Basically, speed mentoring involves a mentee rotating between a number of different mentors, with a limited time available to meet each mentor and garner some knowledge or advice. One of the key goals of the Mentorship Committee is to educate Soldiers on what mentorship really is. Real and meaningful mentoring is founded upon a relationship. It is not necessarily something that can be provided in a quick 5-10 minutes.

However, the intent with this introduction by way of speed mentoring is to do just that, explain what mentoring is, how it involves relationships, how it can be mutual mentoring as everyone has something of value to share, etc. The pilot speed mentoring session was conducted at Joint Force Headquarters as part of a round robin, basic Soldier-skills training event during February drill.

Participants were educated on the purpose of mentorship and were given a brief explanation/definition of mentorship vs. career development. They were then given a list of prompting questions from "The 13 Must-Ask Questions for your Mentor" by John Maxwell. Then the participants broke up into groups of two to three and took turns answering these questions for each other. They rotated about every 10 minutes or so, as some were having great conversations.

There was no differentiation by rank or career field but genuine honest sharing by individuals developing relationships, and hopefully walking away from the experience with a new nugget of information they can implement in their own lives. More prompting questions were given for the participants to take back to mentors they already have or could continue with in a new mentorship relationship.

The lessons learned with this event will be built upon for the upcoming Officer and Enlisted Conference in Sioux Falls in April. Look for more information as the event gets closer. Hope to see you there!





# SDNG Mentorship Program

The SDNG Mentorship Program is an opportunity for you to reach your full potential and is an extremely powerful tool for personal and professional development. Mentoring offers many opportunities for mentors and mentees to improve their leadership, interpersonal and technical skills, as well as achieve personal and professional goals.

The Mentor-Mentee Relationship can provide:

- Encouragement and support
- Honesty, candid information, advice and guidance
- "Big picture" view and help with "vision"
- Honest appraisal of capabilities
- Assistance in making "good" choices
- Advice on career paths or needs specific to MOS or Branch
- Officer or NCO Professional Development
- Advice on making the military a career
- How to manage military life
- How to prepare for retirement

Sign up online at the SDNG Intranet homepage as a mentor or mentee. The site also contains information, articles and references on mentorship, and a recommended reading list.

<https://gko.portal.ng.mil/states/SD/NGSDHOME/default.aspx>



The screenshot shows the SDNG Intranet homepage. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links like BROWSE, PAGE, SHARE, FOLLOW, and a search bar. Below this is a banner for the South Dakota National Guard Intranet. The main content area features the "SDNG Mentorship Program" section. It includes a quote from MG Reich: "Every leader in our great organization has the duty, and the privilege to mentor the Soldiers and Airmen that they work with. Telling others about the potential that we see in them enhances their performance even more, which inevitably results in promotions and future leadership opportunities." Below the quote is a list of "Mentorship Documents" with columns for Type and Name. To the right, there are two tables: "Mentors" and "Mentees", both with columns for MOS, Rank, Name, and Other Information. The "Mentors" table lists various branches and their counts, while the "Mentees" table lists specific individuals.

**"Every leader in our great organization has the duty and the privilege to mentor the Soldiers and Airmen that they work with. Telling others about the potential that we see in them enhances their performance even more, which inevitably results in promotions and future leadership opportunities."**

**- Maj. Gen. Tim Reich**



