



# Coyote Courier

*Celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Golden Coyote training exercise*

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## Golden Coyote 2009



*Foreground: Sgt. 1st Class Shawn Siemonsma from the Headquarter Headquarters Detachment 139th Brigade Support Battalion, Brookings, S.D., pounds away on a tent peg as his fellow Soldiers work on other parts of the tent they are erecting in the set-up of Forward Operating Base Custer State Park Airport.*

By Staff Sgt. Stephanie Abdullah/Army Photographer

## Rapid Creek source of sustainment

*By Staff Sgt. Carlos Lazo  
302nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Providing potable water to more than 3,600 servicemembers for two weeks is more than a full-time mission.

Members of the Army National Guard were seen working feverishly on June 6 to jumpstart the water purification process, which will provide clean drinking water for the duration of the Golden Coyote training exercise in the Black Hills.

“The plan is to have 20,000 gallons of potable water by the time the exercise starts,” said Sgt. 1st Class Richard L. Schultz, platoon sergeant, Company A, 139th Brigade Support Battalion (BSB), of Redfield, S.D.

His platoon, along with Guardsmen from Company A, 311th Brigade Support Battalion, of Lexington, Mo. are charged with supporting this year’s Golden Coyote.

There are 62 units participating in this year’s training event, and both companies want to ensure all the units have a depend-

able, potable water supply. After setting up a distribution point near the Central States Fairgrounds, these units began purifying water from Rapid Creek Thursday.

“Today is the first production run,” said Schultz. The 20,000 gallons they hope to produce will be stored in several 3,000-gallon water storage units commonly referred to as onion skins, as well as a 10,000-gallon tank.

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# WATER: HYDRATION IS THE KEY TO SURVIVAL

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Once the exercise begins, units will be able to draw water at the distribution point, said Schultz.

“Usually units come here and fill up before they set up at the FOB (forward operating base),” said Sgt. 1st Class Alan C. Clapper, platoon sergeant, Co. A, 311th BSB.

There are multiple FOBs this year, according to Clapper, and supplying them with water provides the transportation personnel in those units an opportunity to drive and learn how to transport bulk water.

Along with the distribution point, both units will provide water to units out in the field throughout the exercise with their 2,000-gallon portable water systems or “Hippos.” Hippos come equipped with their own pumping unit and heater, not to warm the water, but to keep it from freezing, according to Schultz.

All the potable water used for Golden Coyote will be purified utilizing a Tactical Water Purification System or TWPS, explained Schultz.

The first step in the water purification process is drawing water from a reliable source, such as a creek, then feeding it into a raw feed tank.

This is used to extract leaves and other large debris and passed through the TWPS, where it undergoes two stages of purification. The first passage is through filtration systems that remove additional debris, and the second is a reverse osmosis system or RO.

“Upon completion of RO, sodium hypochlorite is added to the water to kill any bacteria,” said Schultz. “Once this is completed, the purified, potable water is pumped into the onion skins and water tanks for distribution later.”

“It’s actually cleaner than your average bottle of drinking water,” said Spc. Matthew D. Bickett, water purification specialist, Co. A, 139th BSB, referring to the quality of the water being stored.

Before any water is consumed, medical personnel test samples to ensure the proper amount of chlorine exists. These tests can take up to 24 hours to “give us the green



By Staff Sgt. Carlos Lazo/Army Photographer

*Sgt. 1st Class Alan C. Clapper (left), platoon sergeant, oversees Pfc. Garrett C. Hopkins, both with Company A, 311th Brigade Support Battalion of Lexington, Mo., as he rinses out debris from a metal basket strainer on June 7 in Rapid City, S.D. Co. A, 311th BSB is conducting water purification operations near the Central States Fairgrounds to support servicemembers in the Black Hills of South Dakota as part of the Golden Coyote training exercise.*

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light that the water we're producing is safe to drink," said Schultz.

Medical specifications are used to determine the safe amount of chlorine in the water, maintained through testing every hour. "Typical safety amounts are one part per million, or the equivalent of one milligram of chlorine to every liter of water," said Schultz.

Occasionally, two parts per million is maintained in water that is to be stored over long amounts of time since chlorine can dissipate over time.

Schultz explained that under perfect conditions, it takes approximately two hours to fill an onion skin, meaning this is a water source with a low level of contamination.

The more contaminated the water source, the slower the flow of potable water. "The dirtier the water the more downtime you have for maintenance," said Schultz.



By Staff Sgt. Carlos Lazo/Army Photographer

*Spc. Matthew D. Bickett (left), water purification specialist, Company A, 139th Brigade Support Battalion of Redfield, S.D. and Pfc. Garrett C. Hopkins, Company A, 311th Brigade Support Battalion out of Lexington, Mo. clean a metal basket strainer during maintenance checks and cleanup on June 7 in Rapid City, S.D. Both Guardsmen are part of a joint effort to provide potable water for more than 3,600 personnel in the Black Hills of South Dakota during the Golden Coyote training exercise.*

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## Tips for media interviews

### Interview Do Not's

- Don't lie.
- Don't speculate.
- Don't say "no comment," explain why you can't answer a question.
- Don't carelessly speak "off the record," you are always on the record.
- Don't repeat negative words or statements – make the correction.
- Don't lose your temper, pause, breathe – then answer.
- Don't use acronyms, keep it simple and use language understandable to the general public.
- Don't simply answer the question, respond to the question and add your message.

### Interview Do's

- Do use the same rules as when you are on the record.
- Do stay in your lane – talk about what you know.
- Do project a positive image – be confident and relaxed.
- Do be animated – express energy.
- Do correct misstatements.
- Ask a reporter to restate confusing questions.
- Do set ground rules for the topic and length of interview.
- Do pause and think about your answers – silence is usually edited.
- Do say "I don't know that answer." You can get back to them later.



*Staff Sgt. Abator Cheedy, of the 347th Regional Support Group, of Roseville, Minn., briefs Lt. Col. Ronald Makela and Sonny Magnuson of Joint Force Headquarters, Camp Rapid, Rapid City, S.D. on Golden Coyote training exercise check-in procedures June 5.*

By Staff Sgt. Carlos Lazo/Army Photographer

# Welcome all to Golden Coyote 2009

*By Staff Sgt. Stephanie Abdullah  
302nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE, S.D. – Every unit leader who checks into the Golden Coyote training exercise is greeted by the smiling face of Staff Sgt. Abator Cheedy, R5 (Reception, Replacement, Rest and Relaxation, Redeployment, and Return to Duty) squad leader from the 147th Human Resources Company in Roseville, Minn.

Cheedy and her welcome staff from the 347th Regional Support Group (RSG) help units in-process as smoothly and quickly as possible at the Reception Staging Onward Movement and Integration (RSOI) section located at Ellsworth Air Force Base.

Having worked in a similar capacity in Kuwait for a year, she's more than qualified for the job. "My real-world experience is really helpful in this position," Cheedy said

about her deployment to Kuwait. "I'm able to provide valuable feedback about how to make this training environment more like what would happen in theater."

Integrating into a multi-service exercise can be a lengthy process, with 62 units coming into a new place and trying to get settled in. Not so for the leaders in-processing more than 3,600 Soldiers who will be training in the Black Hills of South Dakota for the next two weeks.

Unit leaders provide information to Cheedy and the 347th RSG staff including a personnel roster of everyone here, "on the ground." Cheedy said her deployment experience taught her how important it is to accurately track Soldiers and she's able to share that knowledge with unit leaders when they in-process.

The section also ensures that leaders are aware of reporting requirements that are due

throughout the exercise. Cheedy and other 347th staff teach them how to properly complete and submit these reports.

"We've yet to have anyone arrive in the middle of the night," Cheedy said. "But units are arriving via various means of transportation and this is the first place they stop. We don't want there to be any reason they couldn't get through the process properly, so, we always have someone available."

Cheedy also has a team at the billeting office on Camp Rapid who is responsible for checking units in and out of housing.

When units leave the 347th RSOI area, Cheedy and staff make sure that participating unit leadership has information to complete their missions while at Golden Coyote. Ensuring all units are in-processed correctly to begin training requires a lot of organization and teamwork, and the 347th has met the challenge.