

DAKOTA PACK

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



BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION

SDARNG Announces NCO and Soldier of the Year

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- SD Army & Air units receive national awards
- Soldier assigned as ARNG deputy senior bandmaster

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- Morrell, Cownie welcomed in new Air Guard leader roles

» DEPLOYMENTS

- 147th Field Artillery Soldiers deploy for Europe
- 152nd CSSB Soldiers deploy for the Middle East



Maj. Gen. Jeffrey P. Marlette
The Adjutant General

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Magazine of the South Dakota Army and Air National Guard

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On the Cover

Staff Sgt. Jacob Killoran, 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion, South Dakota Army National Guard, runs through the obstacle course during the Best Warrior Competition at West Camp Rapid, Sept. 6. (Photo by Spc. Tyler O'Connell)



Message from the Adjutant General

The South Dakota National Guard is truly a dynamic, fast moving organization. Over the past few months, we have welcomed Brig. Gen. Mike Oster as our new assistant adjutant General – Army, Col. Mark Morrell as the 114th Fighter Wing commander and Command Chief Master Sgt. Brett Cownie as the new 114th Fighter Wing state command chief. We have installed numerous new battalion commanders and command sergeants major and new key leaders across the force. During this time we have also said farewell and thank you to leaders who have served our organization well.

Over the past few months, the South Dakota National Guard has continued to bring home the nation's highest honors in both the Army and Air National Guard. The 114th was named the most outstanding Air National Guard flying unit in the nation and the 139th Brigade Support Battalion was named the most outstanding Army National Guard battalion in the nation. We are very proud of your accomplishments.

As all of this has been occurring, the South Dakota National Guard has continued to deploy and prepare for deployments all around the world. Today, we have Soldiers and Airmen serving or preparing to serve in every geographical combatant command theatre of operations in the world. The South Dakota National Guard continues to prove they are a capable and ready force, ready to meet our state's and nation's call.

Lastly, fall has definitely arrived and winter is already peaking around the corner. It is hard to believe we have already had several snow storms

this season. As we wrap up fall and head into the holidays, I urge you to take time for your families and friends. Take time to appreciate all the blessing we have living here in the United States. We are blessed to live in a country where we can worship as we desire, to live free, and to have true control over our own lives. We are also blessed to serve alongside our fellow Soldiers and Airmen, who are willing to fight to protect these blessings. Thank you for serving in the South Dakota National Guard.



Sincerely,

Maj. Gen. Jeffrey P. Marlette
The Adjutant General



(Photo by Sgt. Dustin Jordan)

South Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers, along with Ellsworth Air Force Base Airmen, were honored for outstanding service during the annual Rapid City Military Affairs Committee Military Appreciation Pig Roast in Rapid City, July 30. Recognized for their accomplishments from the SDARNG were 1st Lt. Matt Scharn, Master Sgt. Lee Behl, Master Sgt. Kristi Ortiz, Staff Sgt. Lisa Murphey and Spc. Chrystal Stephenson.

Message from the Senior Enlisted Leader

The South Dakota Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition was held Sept. 6-8. The BWC brings together the best junior enlisted and noncommissioned officers to compete for the title of Best Warrior and the opportunity to represent South Dakota in the Region VI competition in May 2020. During the BWC, competitors are challenged with various warrior tasks and events. One of the many tasks was a written essay. I decided that the subject for the written essay would be mentorship. For the most part, many competitors understood mentorship and could name mentors in their lives and careers. I wanted to use our warriors to see where we were at as an organization on mentorship.

Mentoring is important, not only because of the knowledge and experiences Soldiers and Airmen can learn from mentors, but also quality mentoring greatly enhances a service members chances for success and opportunities for growth. As a mentor, we are part counselor, coach and teacher all rolled into one. An effective mentor can smoothly transition from one role to another based upon the mentees needs.

A mentor should also be ready and willing to go all in. Mentorship should be a continuous dialogue, not a checklist that both mentor and mentee can learn and grow from. Just the fact that a Soldier or Airman is asking, means that you have been recognized by an impressionable subordinate for their mentorship potential and should be prepared to act accordingly.

Senior NCOs have a great deal of experience that is not only valuable to enlisted Soldiers and Airmen but to officers as well. An officer who has a NCO as a mentor is taking advantage of that experience and also of the unique perspective NCOs develop in leadership, training and professionalism. A great example of a unique mentorship relationship is the one between a platoon sergeant and his or her young platoon leader. This is really important in their early years, young officers as well as junior enlisted Soldiers and Airmen need to be paired with experienced NCOs and leaders.

Mentorship also offers tremendous opportunities to build a strong SDNG. If officers and NCOs are not mentoring several promising young leaders, we are missing an incredible opportunity to contribute to the strength and growth of our organization. Mentorship is our best glide path to develop our future leaders.

Questions for Leaders:

- Do you use mentorship as part of your interactions with your team?
- Are there people who have served as a mentor to you?
- Was mentorship beneficial to you?
- And are you now providing mentorship to someone else?
- What ways can we increase mentorship relationships at all levels in the SDNG?

"Mentoring is a key part of our talent management strategy. It is one of our most important leader development initiatives for both mentors and mentees. In fact, developing others is a core principle of leadership. Mentoring is also about leaving a legacy and preparing for the future at the same time. It is an important part of how our organizations pass knowledge from one generation to another." – Michael E. Williamson, Lt. Gen., USA (Ret.), former Army DACM.

Finally, do not confuse career development and mentorship. Remember that career development is just that- it is about developing a career whereas mentorship is about relationships and developing a person (Airmen and Soldiers). As a member of the SDNG, you are a leader, a trainer and a mentor. You embody the SDNG's past, present and future. Keep up the great work and moving forward. I am so proud to be your senior enlisted leader. Thank you for all that you do!



Sincerely,

Pat Couser

Command Sgt. Maj. Pat Couser
Senior Enlisted Leader

"Good NCOs are not just born – they are groomed and grown through a lot of hard work and strong leadership by senior NCOs."

**Former Sergeant Major of the Army,
William A. Connolly**



Oster assumes duties as assistant adjutant for SDARNG



Brig. Gen. Michael Oster, incoming assistant adjutant general of the South Dakota Army National Guard, speaks to Soldiers and guests during an assumption of command ceremony at Joint Force Headquarters at Camp Rapid, Oct. 5.

(Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Barb Jensen)

Story by SDNG Public Affairs Office

RAPID CITY – South Dakota National Guard Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Jeff Marlette has announced Brig. Gen. Michael Oster as the next assistant adjutant general of the South Dakota Army National Guard.

Oster, of Rapid City, is responsible to the adjutant general for strategic planning, strength management, troop readiness and mobilization support of the state's more than 3,100 Army National Guard Soldiers.

"I could not be more excited about this opportunity, and I'm absolutely honored by the privilege to serve in such an important capacity for such an amazing organization," Oster said.

"General Oster is an outstanding leader, a strategic thinker and extremely qualified individual to take over this position," said Marlette. "He will do a tremendous job as the assistant adjutant general."

Oster is looking forward to the many opportunities that come with the position.

"Knowing that you serve each and every Soldier in the Army National Guard is an amazing responsibility," said Oster. "I am excited to take that on and work as an advocate to ensure our Soldiers, their families, and their employers have what they all need to continue the level of excellence that has become the standard in our organization."

Oster assumed responsibilities from interim assistant adjutant, Brig. Gen. Marshall Michels.

Oster began his military service in 1986 enlisting as a combat wire installer with Battery A, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery in Mitchell. He received his commission through the Officer Candidate School program in 1990.

He earned his Bachelors and Master of Science degrees from South



(Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Barb Jensen)

Brig. Gen. Michael Oster, incoming assistant adjutant general of the SDARNG, receives the unit colors from Maj. Gen. Jeff Marlette, far right, SDNG adjutant general, along with Command Sgt. Maj. Pat Couser, SDNG senior enlisted leader.

Dakota State University and is a graduate of the U.S. Army War College. Oster has served at nearly every staff level and command position throughout his career.

Oster has commanded the 665th Maintenance Company, 727th Transportation Company, Recruiting and Retention Battalion the 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion and the 109th Regional Support Group. Oster has also completed two tours of duty: one to Iraq in 2004-2005 with the Rapid Fielding Initiative, and his second tour to Afghanistan with the 152nd CSSB in 2013.

114th Fighter Wing welcomes new commander

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Jordan Hohenstein
114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

SIoux FALLS – Col. Mark Morrell, 114th Fighter Wing incoming commander, assumed command of the 114th Fighter Wing from Col. Nathan B. Alholinna, at Joe Foss Field, Sioux Falls, Sept. 7. Morrell is the 12th commander of the 114th Fighter Wing which began in 1946.

Brig. Gen. Russ Walz, assistant adjutant general for the South Dakota Air National Guard presided over the ceremony.

Walz and Alholinna both expressed that Morrell was the right man in the right place at the right time.

“That was an action packed three plus years,” said Walz, referencing a record number of unit awards under the helm of Alholinna. “I have the utmost confidence that Col. Morrell will take the 114th Fighter Wing to even greater highs.”

After officially assuming command, Morrell addressed his family and a crowd of military



Col. Mark Morrell

members as he explained his reason for excitement, was them.

Morrell is a 20-year member of the U.S. Air Force who has held a variety of positions in fighter aviation throughout his military career. Morrell’s previous role was vice wing commander. He has accumulated nearly 2,500 flight hours in the F-16 aircraft and has been on several deployments. Most recently, Morrell led 335 Airmen during a deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom’s Sentinel.

“My focus points are culture, mission, and community,” said Morrell, who described each point and how they will guide the members of the 114th while he is in command.

Morrell thanked the Airmen for living a life of service to our communities and our nation as citizen-Airmen.

“It is my joy and honor to be your commander,” said Morrell. “I commit to you that you will get my full effort and my very best attitude in service to you, our teams, and your families.”



Col. Mark Morrell, 114th Fighter Wing incoming commander, salutes Brig. Gen. Russ Walz, assistant adjutant general for the South Dakota Air National Guard, during the 114th Fighter Wing change of command ceremony at Joe Foss Field, Sept. 7. Morrell becomes the 12th commander of the 114th Fighter Wing which began in 1946.



Col. Nathan Alholinna accepts a retirement flag from Brig. Gen. Russ Walz, for his service as the outgoing commander of the 114th Fighter Wing, Sept. 7.

114th FW welcomes new state command chief

Story by Airman 1st Class Taylor Solberg
114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

SIoux FALLS - The 114th Fighter Wing welcomes Command Chief Master Sgt. Brett Cownie as the incoming state command chief for the South Dakota Air National Guard. Command Chief Master Sgt. Jeanne Gacke, outgoing state command chief, relinquished the responsibility to Cownie, Sept. 7, at Joe Foss Field.

Brig. Gen. Russ Walz, assistant adjutant general for SDANG, presided over the ceremony. Cownie was previously the 114th Fighter Wing's Quality Assurance Superintendent for five years.

After assuming his new role, Cownie addressed the crowd as the new state command chief. He expressed some of his goals were to find more effective solutions to matters such as Sexual Assault Prevention and Response and resiliency training, as well as getting junior enlisted members more involved within the Enlisted Field Advisory Council. By seeking



Command Chief Master Sgt. Brett Cownie

out junior enlisted members, Cownie hopes to effectively address the needs of Airmen at every level while serving in this position.

"My goal is to get young Airmen more involved in helping us find more solutions," said Cownie.



Command Chief Master Sgt. Brett Cownie, South Dakota Air National Guard incoming state command chief, salutes Brig. Gen. Russ Walz, assistant adjutant general for the SDANG, as he assumes the responsibility of state command chief during a change of responsibility ceremony at Joe Foss Field, Sept. 7.

(Photo by Tech. Sgt. Duane Duimstra)



Brig. Gen. Russ Walz, presents Command Chief Master Sgt. Jeanne Gacke, South Dakota Air National Guard outgoing state command chief, her retirement flag. Gacke relinquished responsibility of state command chief to Command Chief Master Sgt. Brett Cownie, as the new incoming state command chief.

(Photo by Tech. Sgt. Duane Duimstra)

1-147th FA Battalion changes command

WATERTOWN -

Lt. Col. Steve Siemonsma took command of the 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion from Lt. Col. Phillip Stiles during a change of command ceremony in Watertown, July 13.



"I'm extremely excited to be taking command of one of two MLRS (Multiple Launch Rocket System) battalions in the Army National Guard," said Siemonsma. "It is an honor and privilege to be able to follow behind a lot of great leaders, and I look forward to the challenge of living up to the high standards they have left behind."

The 1-147th FA provides mission command and supervision for three units with approximately 400 Soldiers in three communities throughout South Dakota. They assist assigned units in meeting training, administrative and logistical requirements to maintain unit readiness in support of their state and federal missions.

"I've spent a majority of my career in the field artillery, and I am excited to be going back to work with such a great group of Soldiers," said Siemonsma. "I have the distinct honor and privilege of being part of a great field artillery legacy."

Siemonsma began his SDNG career in December of 1995 when he enlisted in Service Battery, 1-147th FA. By September 1998, he received his commission as a second lieutenant and was assigned as a platoon leader in Charlie Battery, 1-147th FA. Siemonsma has held a variety of staff and command positions throughout his career within Joint Force Headquarters, 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 147th FA, and Recruiting and Retention Battalion. He served as a commander with Bravo Battery, 2-147th FA and the Recruiting and Retention Battalion.

Siemonsma was mobilized in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom with the 2-147th Field Artillery Battalion from December 2003 until February 2005, where he served as commander of Bravo Battery. Siemonsma also works full-time for the SDARNG as the state training officer with Joint Force Headquarters.

153rd Eng. Battalion changes command

HURON - Lt. Col. Jason Thomson took command of the 153rd Engineer Battalion from Lt. Col. Dennis Bickett during a change of command ceremony in Huron, Sept. 7.



As commander, Thomson is responsible for the command and control of about 840 Soldiers in 5 units across South Dakota. The 153rd assists assigned units in meeting training, administrative and logistical requirements to maintain the unit's readiness in support of their state and federal missions.

"I'm excited about the future of the engineer organization with South Dakota," said Thomson. "The quality of Soldiers and leaders that we have in this organization is second to none."

Thomson has over 23 years of service in the SDARNG. He first enlisted in December 1996 as a 12B combat engineer in Madison. In August 2002, he received his commission as a second lieutenant through the Officer Candidate School and assigned as an engineer officer.

Over the course of his career, Thomson has served in a variety of leadership and staff positions within the 153rd Engineer Battalion and 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, to include 153rd executive officer and S3 training and operations officer, and the 196th executive officer and personnel officer.

Thomson also served as commander for both Company C and Headquarters Company for the 153rd Eng. Bn. He is also a combat veteran deploying with Company C, 153rd, as a platoon leader in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from December 2003 - February 2005.

On the civilian side, Thomson works as a full time federal technician for the SDARNG as the administrative officer for the 196th MEB in Sioux Falls. Thomson holds a Bachelor of Science degree in economics from South Dakota State University and a Master of Science degree in strategic leadership from Black Hills State University.

196th MEB receives new senior NCO

SIOUX FALLS - Command Sgt. Maj. Alan Meyer is the new senior noncommissioned officer for the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade after a change of



responsibility ceremony at the National Guard Armory in Sioux Falls, Sept. 7.

Meyer, of Sioux Falls, assumed responsibility from Command Sgt. Maj. Todd Mettler, who served in the position since 2016.

As the unit's senior NCO, Meyer is responsible for advising the unit commander, Col. David Daily, on all aspects of the brigade's enlisted Soldiers, providing guidance and mentorship to those Soldiers, and assisting in ensuring the brigade is prepared to handle all missions it is assigned.

The 196th MEB is a multifaceted unit responsible for enhancing and protecting operational and tactical freedom of action for a supported maneuver force.

"It is an honor and a privilege to be your command sergeant major," Meyer said. "Command Sgt. Maj. Mettler is leaving the brigade in a great place, and I look forward to the chance to help continue to improve it."

Meyer emphasized the need to focus on Army standards and discipline in order to excel in times of increasing operational tempo. He also stressed the need to keep service members' families informed of military events and training, as their support is integral to the success of the unit.

"I want to say thank you to everybody," Mettler said, who is now assigned to Joint Force Headquarters as the G3 operations command sergeant major. "We've built a great brigade here; we truly have. I look forward to working with you all in the future."

Meyer enlisted in the military in 1986 as a field artilleryman at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Since then he has served in multiple assignments across South Dakota to include units in Sioux Falls, Canton, Salem, Mitchell, Fort Meade and Watertown. He also deployed to Iraq in 2007 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

JFHQ receives new det. commander



RAPID CITY - The South Dakota Army National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters received a new detachment commander during a ceremony in Rapid City, Oct. 5. Capt. Kristian Ellendorf took command from Maj. Sarah Jensen who served in the position since Aug. 2017.

With about 200 members assigned, the main focus for JFHQ is to support the more than 3,100 Soldiers of the SDARNG, and provides command and control of essential services in administration, training, logistics, Soldier and family services and other functions to support state and federal missions.

"When I reflect on my military ambitions thus far, this is the command opportunity I had been searching for," said Ellendorf. "I want a command where I can be involved in the organization, better understand the functions of the National Guard and the missions of each individual unit and empower our Soldiers."

Ellendorf credits her family and friends for her ability to serve in the SDARNG.

"Without our family and friends and the support they give us, we cannot do what we do," said Ellendorf. "We have been blessed with some pretty amazing children that make our job easier too."

Ellendorf began her SDARNG career in April of 2007 when she enlisted in the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade. In May 2010, she received her commission as a medical service officer and was assigned to the 730th Area Support Medical Company.

Ellendorf has held a variety of positions throughout her including 730th platoon leader and executive officer and 129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment team leader and executive officer.

On the civilian side, Ellendorf is a partner in Mumford Protsch LLP, in Howard where she is an attorney for the school district, the city attorney and the deputy state's attorney for Miner County.

SD Air, Army National Guard units receive national awards



(Courtesy photo)

The 114th Fighter Wing was presented the Winston P. Wilson Trophy as the most outstanding Air National Guard flying unit of the year equipped with jet fighter or reconnaissance aircraft. Pictured left to right: Chief Master Sgt. Ronald Anderson, Command Chief Master Sergeant for the Air National Guard; Lt. Gen. L. Scott Rice, director, Air National Guard; Capt. Guy Bauermeister, 114th Fighter Wing pilot; Brig. Gen. Russ Walz, South Dakota Air National Guard assistant adjutant general; Maj. Gen. Jeff Marlette, South Dakota National Guard adjutant general.

Story by SDNG Public Affairs Office

DENVER – South Dakota Air and Army National Guard units continue to earn top honors for performance excellence as they brought home four awards from the 2019 National Guard Association of the United States annual conference in Denver, Aug. 31-Sept. 2.

The S.D. Air National Guard's 114th Fighter Wing was the recipient of Winston P. Wilson Trophy, presented to the most outstanding Air National Guard flying unit of the year equipped with jet fighter or reconnaissance aircraft.

S.D. Army National Guard units once again received awards in all three of the Army categories.

The 139th Brigade Support Battalion received the Maj. Gen. Milton A. Reckord Trophy as the most outstanding Army National Guard battalion in the nation for achieving the highest standards in training and readiness.

The Forward Support Company of the 153rd Engineer Battalion received the General John J. Pershing Plaque for weapons marksmanship. The unit attained the highest figure of merit (highest percentage of assigned members qualified) during annual weapons qualification firing with assigned individual weapons.

The 730th Area Support Medical Company received the Certificate of Victory for having the highest overall figure of merit in the nation.

"Once again the men and women of the South Dakota National Guard have shown they are among the best units across the country," said Gov. Kristi Noem. "Receiving these awards is a testament to their commitment, dedication and hard work in maintaining their operational readiness for our state and nation."

"Units from the South Dakota Air and Army National Guard continue to demonstrate their outstanding performance and excellence in readiness by receiving these prestigious national awards," said Maj. Gen. Jeff Marlette, SDNG adjutant general. "I couldn't be more proud of the Soldiers and Airmen of the South Dakota National Guard!"



(Courtesy photo)

The 139th Brigade Support Battalion was presented the Maj. Gen. Milton A. Reckord Trophy, as the most outstanding Army National Guard battalion in the nation for achieving the highest standards in training and readiness. Pictured left to right: Lt. Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson, director, Army National Guard, Lt. Col. Michael Webb, 139th BSB commander, and Maj. Gen. Jeff Marlette, SDNG adjutant general.



(Courtesy photo)

The Forward Support Company of the 153rd Engineer Battalion was presented the General John J. Pershing Plaque for weapons marksmanship. Pictured left to right: Lt. Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson, Maj. James Forbes, 153rd En. Bn. S3 operations officer, and Maj. Gen. Jeff Marlette.



(Courtesy photo)

The 730th Area Support Medical Company was presented the Certificate of Victory for having the highest overall figure of merit in the nation. Pictured: Lt. Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson, 1st Sgt. Adam Myer, 730th ASMC, and Maj. Gen. Jeff Marlette.

SD Army National Guard commissions seven officers



(Courtesy photo)

Newly promoted South Dakota Army National Guard officers pose for the last time as a class at Camp Rapid, Aug. 16. The new second lieutenants will begin their officer careers in five units throughout the state, taking with them 18 months of lessons and training to lead and support their Soldiers through their careers.

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

RAPID CITY – Seven South Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers ascended to the officer corps as second lieutenants during a commissioning ceremony at Camp Rapid, Aug. 16. The ceremony commemorated the completion of Officer Candidate School, which consisted of a year and a half of drill weekends and two, two-week training periods.

“When commissioning traditional candidates, it is rewarding to see their excitement,” said Maj. Michael Bierle, company commander for 1st Battalion, 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute). “It’s

a great culmination after a long, grueling and grinding year to see the candidates’ excitement at commissioning.”

The ceremony included several traditions: the pinning of rank on the officers’ uniform, their first salute and taking the Oath of Office led by SDNG Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Jeff Marlette. Marlette chose to introduce each candidate individually with a short bio during the ceremony.

“It isn’t just about us, but about family,” said Marlette. “It takes more than just the Soldiers – it takes the support from our families to accomplish the mission.”

Class 63 was unique in the history of South Dakota’s OCS program.

“We were the first graduating class made up entirely of married Soldiers,” said 2nd Lt. Tyler Gregor, 109th Regional Support Group. “This experience solidified the importance of building camaraderie as you see in separations such as deployments.

“The OCS program was a real eye-opener,” said Gregor. “It really focused on mentoring us to become better leaders and making sure we can withstand the stressors of being an officer.”

The graduates were not the only honorees of the ceremony. One of their instructors, Sgt. 1st Class Chad Hartley, was named Instructor of the Year.

“I am honored and humbled to receive this award,” said Hartley. “I have 22 years in the National Guard, and I was considering retirement but this class made me realize how much I enjoyed instructing and mentoring, so I decided to reenlist for another six years.”

The second lieutenants of OCS Class 63 are:

- 2nd Lt. Steven Edoff – 842nd Engineer Company
- 2nd Lt. Zachary Erickson – 665th Maintenance Company
- 2nd Lt. Tyler Gregor – 109th Regional Support Group
- 2nd Lt. Erin McGaugh – 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade
- 2nd Lt. Jarod Morken – 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion
- 2nd Lt. Katie Mack – 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion
- 2nd Lt. Matthew Nedved – 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion

First course held for Soldiers interested in warrant officer school

FORT MEADE – The 1-196th Regional Training Institute conducted the state’s first ever Pre-Warrant Officer Candidate School course in May designed for Soldiers interested in attending WOCS, held each year at Fort Meade. Warrant Officers are highly skilled professionals and considered keepers of Army knowledge and procedures.

The course provides an introduction to what the qualifications are, path to become a warrant officer and gives information on the physical and mental requirements, as well as the education experience.

Enlisted Soldiers between the ranks of specialist and sergeant major under 46 years old and with an approved predetermination from the Army may attend the course. Warrant officers are the Army’s technical experts, combat leaders, trainers and advisors, serving in 17 branches and 44 warrant officer specialties. While they can be traced as far back as 1896, the Warrant Officer Cohort was not officially recognized until Congress passed legislation to form the organization on July 9, 1918.

“This rank, position and its longevity gives warrant officers the opportunity to effectively support the commanders in our areas of expertise, thus enhancing the mission capabilities of any command,” said CW5 Todd Dressler, SDARNG state command chief warrant officer.

“The Army relies on the unique skills warrant officers possess. The



creation of the Warrant Officer Corps has been one of the greatest assets to the U.S. military and our mission has become extremely important and essential to the nation’s armed forces.”

The next class will be held April 4-5, 2020 at Fort Meade. Soldiers should contact their training NCO for enrollment. If interested in learning more about becoming a warrant officer, please contact CW3 Brenda Laurenti: 605-737-6230/brenda.l.laurenti2.mil@mail.mil or CW5 Todd Dressler: 605-737-6672/howard.t.dressler.mil@mail.mil

SD Officer Candidate School awards first instructor badge



Story by Capt. Amber Symonds – 1-196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute)

SIoux FALLS – 1st Battalion, 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) awarded its first Basic Army Instructor Badge to Sgt. 1st Class Chad Hartley at Fort Meade, June 26. The purpose of the BAIB is to provide recognition to certified Army instructors who meet and exceed standards and requisites established in Army Training and Doctrine, or TRADOC, regulation. The badge was awarded by 1-196th leadership during its accelerated Officer Candidate School program, which takes place at Fort Meade every summer.

“I’m very passionate about teaching and developing future officers,” said Hartley, OCS instructor and a Spearfish native. “This is a tremendous honor to receive the badge, but the real reward for me is seeing officer candidates rise to the challenge, and grow and gain confidence in themselves.”

Hartley has been teaching courses at OCS since 2015. He plans to wear the badge proudly and hopes to promote and inspire other noncommissioned officers, as well as officers, to come to the RTI and teach future leaders. In order to receive the BAIB, instructors must meet a checklist of TRADOC requirements, but most importantly they must successfully teach at least 80 hours of instruction as a primary instructor and be evaluated twice against the Instructor Observation Rubric.

“With the changes in the classroom environment, developing and retaining dynamic Army instructors is essential,” said Lt. Col. Troy Ness, 1-196th commander. “The badge program helps bring credit and validation to the new Army learning concept and promotes instructors to become better.”

In recent years, Army learning has changed from the instructor-lead, didactic training model to one that is more peer-to-peer learning – Army instructors must promote facilitation, critical thinking and problem solving, rather than lecturing and giving students information to memorize. This learning environment requires a more adept instructor.

Instructors can also work toward the Senior Army Instructor Badge and the Master Army Instructor Badge (the top badge). To maintain qualification for this voluntary program, the instructor must continue to meet all requirements of the badge previously awarded, including physical fitness and the Army height and weight standards. They must also attend various facilitation and instructor development courses, and again be evaluated twice per badge.

Soldier assigned as ARNG deputy senior bandmaster

ABERDEEN – Chief Warrant Officer 4 Terry Beckler is assigned as the deputy senior bandmaster working in a variety of areas affecting operations and training for Army National Guard bands and musicians across the country. Beckler began his official duties Sept. 1 and will serve for a minimum of three years in the position. The assignment will also bring a promotion to the rank of chief warrant officer 5 later this year.



“Being selected for

the position of deputy senior bandmaster is a huge honor and responsibility,” said Beckler, who has over 33 years of service in the SDARNG. “I feel very grateful to have made it this far in my career and have this opportunity.”

Beckler is the commander of the SDARNG’s 147th Army Band in Mitchell, where he will continue to serve in conjunction with his ARNG duties. On the civilian side, Beckler also serves as the professor of percussion and associate director of bands at Northern State University in Aberdeen. Beckler has more than 20 years of experience as a band commander and conductor. In January of 2006, the 147th Army Band was awarded the Howard Citation of Musical Excellence from the John Philip Sousa Foundation.

One of Beckler’s new duties includes leading one of the two Operational Readiness Evaluation Teams. The teams visit all 51 Army National Guard bands on a five-year rotation to evaluate the bands’ musical support areas – visiting about six to eight bands each year.

“As part of the Operational Readiness Evaluation process, I get to see other musicians perform and offer assistance to their groups,” Beckler said. “It is also a very valuable thing for my Soldiers, as I see best practices from throughout our field. I’m looking forward to mentoring younger band commanders and their Soldiers, while learning from them too.”

Beckler will also serve on the Army Band Steering Group, which is made up of leaders from all three components of the U.S. Army’s active duty, National Guard and Reserve. Beckler says the group works to further initiatives in all areas of band operations and training and meets quarterly.

Additionally, Beckler will assist with organization and planning the annual ARNG Bands Leader Training, and he will serve as the National Guard liaison for the Army Music Mentorship Program.

Beckler says he is excited to use his years of experience in musical training and performance, and is looking forward to the opportunity to meet Soldiers from almost every state and share good things he has learned visiting other units.

“Early in my career as commander of the 147th Army Band, I was made more aware of the stewardship concept: taking something and leaving it better than you found it,” said Beckler. “I feel like this is a great way to share the things I’ve learned in over 20 years as a band commander and help Soldiers across our field. I’m hoping I will be able to assist with positive change in some way.”

Battery A & FSC, 1-147th FA Soldiers deploy for Europe



(Photo by Sgt. Dustin Jordan)

Gov. Kristi Noem, along with U.S. Sen. John Thune, U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson, and Aberdeen Mayor Travis Schaunaman greet Soldiers from Alpha Battery and the Forward Support Company of the 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion, during the unit's activation ceremony in Aberdeen, Sept. 1.

Story by SDNG Public Affairs Office

ABERDEEN – A deployment ceremony was held for 114 Soldiers with the South Dakota Army National Guard's Alpha Battery, 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion and 147th Forward Support Company, Sept. 1, as the unit departed for a 10-month deployment to Europe. More than 1,000 family, friends and community members gathered at the Aberdeen High School gymnasium to wish the Soldiers well and see them off as they depart for their mission.

The unit deployed in support of 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.

The Aberdeen-based Alpha 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.

Speakers for the event included Gov. Kristi Noem, U.S. Sen. John Thune; U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson, Aberdeen Mayor Travis Schaunaman and Maj. Gen. Jeff Marlette, SDNG adjutant general.

"I know I cannot truly understand what you and your families are thinking about and feeling right now, but I am certain about one thing - we are among heroes who stand ready to serve," said Gov. Noem, during



(Photo by Sgt. Dustin Jordan)

Soldiers stand to be recognized during the unit roll call during the activation ceremony for Alpha Battery and the 147th Forward Support Company.

the ceremony. "The Airmen and Soldiers of the South Dakota National Guard are the most dedicated, capable, and reliable men and women I've ever known. Whether it's a time of war or a disaster in our state, you have proven that we can count on you."



(Photo by Sgt. Dustin Jordan)

Sgt. Christopher Loof with the 147th Forward Support Company sits with his family during the activation ceremony for the unit's deployment to Europe, Sept. 1.



(Photo by Sgt. Dustin Jordan)

Sgt. Sean Devries holds his daughter during the activation ceremony for the 114 Soldiers of Alpha Battery and the 147th Forward Support Company.



(Photo by Sgt. Dustin Jordan)

Staff Sgt. Shane Glover with Alpha Battery, 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion holds his son during the activation ceremony for the unit, Sept. 1, in Aberdeen.



Deployment ceremony held for Soldiers of the 152nd CSSB

Members of the 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion line the court of the T.F. Riggs High School gymnasium during the unit's deployment ceremony, July 27, in Pierre. The 152nd is scheduled to deploy to the Middle East for a nine-month tour, providing multifunctional logistics and support operations.

Story and photos by Sgt. Carl Johnson - 129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

PIERRE - A deployment ceremony was held to honor about 70 Soldiers with the 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion and their families, July 27, at T.F. Riggs High School in Pierre. The unit departed for a nine-month deployment to the Middle East to provide multifunctional logistics and support operations.

Gov. Kristi Noem, Sen. John Thune, Sen. Michael Rounds, Rep. Dusty Johnson and Maj. Gen. Jeff Marlette, SDNG adjutant general, all gave remarks in support of the Soldiers and their families.

"Before I served in the House of Representatives and before I became governor, I was a mom," said Gov. Kristi Noem. "From that perspective, I am very thankful for those who give up their lives to protect me and my family."

Rep. Johnson also related his comments to family and being thankful for the sacrifices of others.

"What can you say when the sacrifice is so great that it rises above any words that might be said?" said Johnson. "So, I'll just say thank you!"

This is the second mobilization for the 152nd CSSB since the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Lt. Col. David Moore, commander of the 152nd, expressed his appreciation of the sacrifice of Soldiers he will lead during the battalion's overseas mission.

"Greater love hath no man than this; that he gives up his life for his friend," said Moore. "The men and women of the 152nd CSSB exemplify the sentiment of that verse. The verse does not just describe physical death but also being willing to give up your time to serve and protect those we leave behind."

Maj. Gen. Marlette also addressed the families of those deploying.

"It is not just the person in uniform who does the serving," he said. "Every family of every Soldier here is serving this country as well."



Lt. Col. David Moore, commander of the 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, addresses the audience during the deployment ceremony.

As a part of that service, the 152nd has a unique mission in support of U.S. objectives in the Middle East.

They act as a courier of personnel, equipment and other supplies that keep armies running. Within the 152nd is the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, which facilitates the Soldier training and administrative functions of the battalion.

"We (the 152nd) essentially operate as a UPS," said Capt. Richard Bauman, HHC commander. "We make sure everything gets where in needs to go. Our objective for this mission is less to be front and center and more to provide support to our allies."



Capt. Jason Kimura shakes Gov. Kristi Noem's hand as he moves down the receiving line following the deployment ceremony for the 152nd CSSB. U.S. Sen. John Thune, U.S. Sen. Michael Rounds, and U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson were also in attendance to show their support as the Soldiers of the 152nd deploy to the Middle East.



U.S. Sen. John Thune greets Capt. Waylon Skelton and his son during the ceremony.



Maj. Gen. Jeff Marlette, SONG adjutant general, presents a South Dakota state flag to Lt. Col. Dave Moore, 152nd commander, while the unit serves overseas.



Capt. Paul Rodriguez holds his son prior to the 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion's deployment ceremony, July 27.



SD Army Guard names Soldier, NCO of the Year

(Photo by Pfc. Alexis Stevens)

SD Guard Soldiers participate in the pistol portion of weapons qualification during the state's Best Warrior Competition at West Camp Rapid in Rapid City, Sept. 6.

Story by Pfc. Alexis Stevens – 129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

RAPID CITY – The South Dakota Army National Guard selected four enlisted Soldiers and six non-commissioned officers to compete in the state's Best Warrior Competition in Rapid City and Sturgis, Sept. 6-8, to identify the next Soldier and Non-commissioned Officer of the Year.

At the conclusion of the three-day competition, two individuals were named victors. Sgt. 1st Class Brian Voight, 109th Regional Support Group, was named the SDARNG's Non-commissioned Officer of the Year and Spc. Dominick Schoeberl, 235th Military Police Company, was named the SDARNG Soldier of the Year.

"The Best Warrior Competition is a phenomenal event," said Command Sgt. Maj. Patrick Couser, senior enlisted leader for the South Dakota National Guard. "We have the best warriors from across the state competing against each other for two and a half days, with the best Soldiers at the end prevailing."

The BWC challenges Soldiers academically, mentally, physically and technically using multiple tasks focused on key areas.

"It was very demanding physically and as difficult as I thought it was going to be," said Voight. "But the guys I participated with were excellent and it was enjoyable overall."

The Army Combat Fitness Test is set to replace the Army Physical Fitness Test within the next year and the competitors experienced how challenging the new test will be.

"The Soldiers are put in a position where they're up early and staying up late," said Couser. "It keeps them on their toes, makes them think and gets them sharp."

Voight and Schoeberl will advance to the Region 6 Best Warrior



(Photo by Spc. Tyler O'Connell)

Staff Sgt. Jacob Killoran runs the obstacle course at West Camp Rapid, Sept. 6.



(Photo by Spc. Tyler O'Connell)

Spc. Kendall Roeder runs the obstacle course at West Camp Rapid, Sept. 6.



(Photo by Spc. Tyler O'Connell)

Pfc. Cooper Mueller performs the shuttle run during the Army Combat Fitness Test.



(Photo by Spc. Tyler O'Connell)

Spc. Dominick Schoeberl leads the pack during the ruck march on Sept. 7.



(Photo by Spc. Tyler O'Connell)

Spc. Dominic Schoeberl, far right, 235th Military Police Company, is named the 2019 SDARNG Soldier of the Year. Schoeberl received the award from Brig. Gen. Mike Oster, Sgt. 1st Class Josh Wermers and Command Sgt. Maj. Patrick Couser.



(Photo by Spc. Tyler O'Connell)

Sgt. 1st Class Brian Voight, center, 109th Regional Support Group, is named the 2019 SDARNG Non-commissioned Officer of the Year. Voight receives the award from Brig. Gen. Mike Oster and Command Sgt. Maj. Patrick Couser.

Competition, which is scheduled to be held in May 2020 in South Dakota. They will face competitors from Alaska, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming.

"I am excited to be able to further compete in regionals," said Schoeberl. "It is a chance to meet new people and grow in my training."

The competition and the training involved preparing for it provides the competitors not only with the opportunity to improve themselves, but also to improve their peers and subordinates as well.

"It gives me a better sense of a baseline of where Soldiers should be in their training," said Voight. "I know I have not been training them [in some of these tasks] and I need to work on that."

Like any event, the organizers also learn and grow as they try to make the competition more challenging each year.

"There is always room for improvement," said Couser. "I encourage these Soldiers to let us know what went good and what went bad because we want to make this bigger and better for future events."

SD Guard, Suriname soldiers partner to renovate school



(Courtesy photo)

Suriname Defense Force and South Dakota Army National Guard engineers conduct plumbing work at the Openbare School Mastklimmen in Latour, Aug. 20.

Story by SDNG Public Affairs Office

PARAMARIBO, Suriname – Soldiers from the South Dakota National Guard and members of Suriname's Armed Forces partnered to renovate parts of the Openbare School Mastklimmen in Latour, Suriname, Aug. 15-25. The renovation project was conducted as part of the Suriname and South Dakota State Partnership Program to provide training for military construction personnel while simultaneously assisting in a worthy community need.

A team of 12 Soldiers from the SDNG's 155th Engineer Company and 842nd Engineer Company worked alongside several Suriname Defense Force engineers on the renovation. Renovations included plumbing and electrical work, construction of a new bathroom and office, repair and replacement of rain gutters, ceilings and roof, and installation of a prefabricated office building for more administrative space.

Funding for the project was provided by U.S. Southern Command and all materials and supplies were purchased in Suriname.

U.S. Ambassador to Suriname Karen Lynn Williams joined Minister of Education Lilian Ferrier, as well as officials from the Suriname Defense Force and the South Dakota National Guard, for the ribbon cutting of the renovation project on Aug. 25.

For the past 13 years, the SDNG and SDF have successfully partnered together to established a security cooperation relationship in coordination with USSOUTHCOM under the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program. The partnership has flourished during the past decade becoming a model for mutual security cooperation.

Since 2006, Soldiers from both countries have conducted over 130 subject matter exchanges through the program, which have benefitted men and women from both organizations to gain knowledge and experience in both military operations and civilian culture.



(Courtesy photo)

A South Dakota Army National Guard Soldier conducts electrical work at the Openbare School Mastklimmen in Latour, Suriname.



(Courtesy photo)

Suriname Defense Force and South Dakota Army National Guard engineers conduct electrical work at the Openbare School Mastklimmen in Latour, Aug. 20.

SD Guard, Suriname soldiers partner on urban tactics



(Courtesy photo)

Suriname Defense Force and South Dakota National Guard Soldiers and Airmen discuss small unit urban tactics during a subject matter expert exchange in Paramaribo.

Story by SDNG Public Affairs Office

PARAMARIBO, Suriname – Soldiers and Airmen from the South Dakota National Guard and members of Suriname Defense Force trained together on small unit urban tactics during a subject matter expert exchange in Paramaribo, Sept. 16-21.

The exchange shared best practices on urban tactics for the purpose of civil disturbance mitigation and response during large-scale urban disasters in support of civil authorities. The exchange was conducted as part of the Suriname and South Dakota State Partnership Program.

The exchange benefits both the SDNG and SDF by better understanding each others' capabilities to respond in support of civil authorities, share procedures for responding to these types of events, and the importance of civil authority relationships.

A team of seven Soldiers from the SDNG's 1-196th Regional Training Institute and 114th Security Forces Squadron worked alongside about 30 Suriname Defense Force soldiers during the exchange. Participants from Suriname included soldiers from special forces, military police and infantry units.

The training focused on urban and disaster relief operations to include individual and team movement in an urban environment, entering a building, movement inside a building, and entering and clearing a room. The mission concluded with a practical exercise and cultural immersion event.



(Courtesy photo)

Two soldiers from the Suriname Defense Force practice small unit urban tactics during a subject matter expert exchange in Paramaribo, Suriname.

"The exchange was beneficial to all participants," said Capt. Jacob Vissa, 1-196th RTI. "Comments from participants on both sides were overwhelmingly positive and supportive of future joint operations. The joint Air and Army National Guard team enhanced the experience by providing diversity and an opportunity to work together in a foreign country."



SD Guard personnel receive training in traumatic event management

(Photo by Maj. Sarah Jensen)

Soldiers from the South Dakota Army National Guard go through a role playing practical exercise during the Traumatic Event Management, or TEM, course at Camp Rapid, Sept. 10. The TEM course helped to further develop the organization's response and support services throughout the state.

Story by SDNG Public Affairs Office

CAMP RAPID – The South Dakota Army National Guard hosted a Traumatic Event Management, or TEM, course at Camp Rapid, Sept., 9-13, to further develop the organization's response and support services throughout the state.

TEM is the official intervention model endorsed by the U.S. Army, and the course is designed to train facilitators – primarily behavioral health providers and unit ministry teams – on providing traumatic event management to units that are exposed to potentially traumatic events.

"The TEM course is an opportunity to train together to further develop and enhance our ability to provide support to individuals and groups who experience potentially traumatizing incidents during combat, peace-keeping, garrison, or humanitarian operations," said Lt. Col. Amber Heinert, director of psychological health and resiliency programs for Joint Force Headquarters, SDARNG.

The TEM course not only focused on training military behavioral health providers/specialists and unit ministry teams, but also included resiliency program personnel, medics, deputy state surgeons, unit victim advocates, administrative officers and command teams.

There were 34 participants for the course, which included 20 Soldiers from the SDARNG, 11 from the Arizona, Colorado and Virgin Islands National Guard, one Airmen from Ellsworth Air Force Base and two civilian behavioral health providers who support the military.

According to Heinert, the course provides standardized training to



(Photo by Maj. Sarah Jensen)

Attendees for the Traumatic Event Management course facilitate a small group discussion on behavior health topics, Sept. 10. The TEM course helped to further develop the organization's response and support services throughout the state.

all participants; resulting in a foundation of enhanced understanding, skill development, and response capabilities across the state, as well as preparation for deployment.

"These are universal skills that will enhance all of our abilities to provide support and stabilization, whether at home or abroad," Heinert said. "I have previously gone through the TEM course prior to



(Photo by Lt. Col. Anthony Deiss)

Attendees for the Traumatic Event Management course at Camp Rapid pose for a photo, Sept. 10. There were 34 participants, which included 20 Soldiers from the SDARNG, 11 from the Arizona, Colorado and Virgin Islands National Guard, one Airmen from Ellsworth Air Force Base and two civilian behavioral health providers.

mobilization and found it to be invaluable in preparation of deployment and subsequent support in our garrison environment.”

The course covered topics such as supporting individuals or groups, making referrals, applying prevention measures and conducting needs assessments after a potentially traumatic event; such as the death of a unit member or witness to a civilian mass casualty event.

This was the first time the course was held in South Dakota, and it was a joint effort between the Psychological Health Programs Office and the Chaplain Corps.

TEM has been offered in a few other states with mobile training teams, or MTTs, and the majority of courses are offered in Fort Sam Houston, Texas. However, Heinert believed having a MTT host a course in South Dakota would afford an opportunity for more participants here in the state.

“As I became more embedded in the SDARNG as the director of psychological health, and was engaged in providing support and follow up to individuals and units after a traumatic event, I saw a need to host this training opportunity to engage a variety of personnel in an effort to develop a more comprehensive network of support and

coordinated response in our state – along with cross-training with our EAFB counterparts and fellow Soldiers from other states,” Heinert said. By the end of the course, Heinert says the students learned a flexible

set of intervention tools and techniques. A few of the interventions that form the foundation of TEM include the unit needs assessment, command consultation and education, triage, stabilization and restoration procedures, psychological first-aid, and psychological debriefings.

With this knowledge, course participants are better prepared to help manage and transition service members, units and families through traumatic events and further strengthen the force.

“The intent is to encourage post-traumatic growth, which is an adaptive process whereby individuals exposed

to potentially traumatizing events can experience an enhanced sense of hope, a deepened sense of personal strength and resiliency and safeguard future mission effectiveness with enhanced individual, unit, and family well-being,” said Heinert. “The more we train together, the better prepared we are to provide support when needed – further strengthening our ready force.”



(Photo by Maj. Sarah Jensen)

Capt. Robert Lacey, a chaplain with the 109th Regional Support Group, facilitates a role playing exercise during the Traumatic Event Management course at Camp Rapid, Sept. 12.

A Purpose to our Pain

By Chaplain, Col. Lynn Wilson – Joint Force Headquarters

Some years ago, one of our Wilson family gatherings involved several family members who were very anxious to hear about my aunt whose health condition was so serious they nearly lost her on the operating table. As soon as this harrowing story was finished, another family member chimed in: "Well, I've got these socks I have to wear to help me with my circulation." Somehow, the contrast was so drastic it was almost funny.

What is not funny is the pain and challenges that happen with life. Divorce, arguments with children, promotions that never come. The list is endless, and in essence, every pain is worth our attention—even those who have to wear socks for circulation! But sometimes we are so intent on our own pain we forget that those who suffered even worse still found hope to survive. The Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 11 talks of his spending a full day on the open sea, being stoned, scourged, beaten with



fists, rods and often the focus of death threats. I read a tremendous article by Andy Cook and wish to draw some of his excellent points to share what might be "Purpose to our Pain."

1. Pain can teach us about the important concept called 'powerlessness.' The same Apostle Paul speaks in the next chapter of 2 Corinthians that his trials and weaknesses led him to trust in the power of Christ. Sometimes when we're not suffering, when everything is going well, we tend to trust in our own power, and forget the scriptures words: "For when I am weak, then I am strong." It all makes me think of what I've observed in my years in pastoral or chaplain work: I've never met a good counselor who hadn't gone through difficult trials of their own.

2. Pain can keep us from pride. Paul talks about his thorn in the flesh, a particular difficulty that was of extreme burden to him. But then he speaks about that same thorn and mentions it was meant to keep him from becoming conceited about his life and ministry. Even national tragedies such as Pearl Harbor or 9/11 force us to confront the powerful truth that our only hope is not in ourselves, but in God.

3. Pain brings perspective. Pain can teach us that God is not present only in our successes. It can teach us to listen more intensely to those whose lives are broken. It can lead us to look at the perspective of God, who suffered pain in the loss of His only Son.

We just recently finished our "Transfer of Memory" Holocaust remembrance exhibit, 45 pictures and stories of those who survived the Holocaust. I wanted it to bring honor to the Jewish people, to our Jewish Soldiers, but also to bring perspective to our own resilience—that if they could survive the Holocaust, we can make it through whatever difficulty



we are facing. I conclude with just one of the 45 stories, the story of Trudy Rappaport. Early in 1940 Trudy had planned to join her parents in Shanghai but her passport never arrived, and she was stranded in Stuttgart. "I was arrested by the Gestapo like a criminal and sent to the ghetto in Riga, Latvia." It was the start of a journey that took her through 10 different concentration camps. In 1944 with the Allies approaching, Trudy was forced on a march to keep ahead of the advancing Russian army. One night, the women slept in a barn on the floor with hundreds of sick people. Many had been there with little food or water for weeks. In the morning they were awakened by the cries of Russian soldiers "You are free, you can leave." "We didn't know where to go, which direction," said Trudy. "We walked for days, on roads filled with the dead bodies of Germans and their horses." Finally, Trudy was too sick and weak to go on. "I was picked up by the Russians and taken to a hospital here. I stayed for seven weeks with typhoid fever. So many people died in the hospital. It could have happened to me".

Trudy was in the hospital on May 9th when the war ended. It took nine years for Trudy's parents to learn that she had survived. When they were finally reunited in New York, Trudy as pregnant with her first child. "I am happy that I survived to see my children grandchildren and great grandchildren."

I don't know what pain you are going through, but I know one thing: You can make it! "The Hiding Place," a book which tells of Corrie ten Boom and her families stay in the horrible Ravensbruck concentration camp. At her very lowest, Corrie's sister reminded her: "Corrie, no pit is so deep, that God is not deeper still." May God give us hope no matter how difficult our pain we may be facing, and please reach out to myself or any of our Chaplain Corp if we can stand beside you with whatever you are facing. God bless.

Chaplain, Col. Lynn Wilson
State/Full-time Support Chaplain

Transfer of Memory

Story by SDNG Public Affairs Office

The South Dakota National Guard hosted Transfer of Memory, a photo exhibition of Holocaust survivors living in Minnesota, from Sept. 9-27 on Camp Rapid at Joint Force Headquarters. Transfer of Memory shares 45 portraits and stories of Holocaust survivors during exceedingly difficult circumstances and is a reflection of life and hope. From Europe to Minnesota, it was here they fashioned their dreams, their futures, and their families – their lives are a constant reminder of the value of freedom and the enduring human spirit.

The state chaplain for the South Dakota Army National Guard said the photos have three purposes: to honor the Jewish people by remembering the Holocaust, to honor our Jewish Soldiers and to build resiliency for the people who see it.

“I want them to come away with hope,” said Col. Lynn Wilson. “I want them to see that these are stories of Holocaust survivors. And then again, if they made it through this, no matter what we’re going through, we can make it through.” The exhibit also generates awareness of the Jewish culture to enhance diversity and inclusion initiatives for the SDNG.

“But I also think it’s a solemn occasion too,” added Wilson. “I think as they read the stories, I think there’s something about it that touches not just the mind but the heart. I think that’s a deep emotion that everyone traveling through and looking at the different stories will have.”

The SDARNG also held a public program on Sept. 11 to open the exhibit, which shares stories of survival, and included a remembrance tribute honoring the victims and survivors of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

The program featured speakers Steve Hunegs, executive director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas, and Lt. Gov. Larry Rohden, among others. Rohden gave a touching story of his grandfather’s service as a World War II U.S. Army Soldier who participated in the liberation of the Mauthausen concentration camp.

“This exhibition has enabled the JCRC’s Holocaust education program to bring lessons of the Shoah (Holocaust) to communities in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, and Wisconsin who otherwise might not receive firsthand accounts from Holocaust survivors,” said Steve Hunegs, JCRC executive director.

Photographer David Sherman and writer Lili Chester, in partnership with the Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas, created the photography exhibition.

“Transfer of Memory reminds us all of a memory that must never be forgotten – that there was a time in history where people were exterminated solely on the basis of their ethnic or religious convictions,” said Wilson. “But the Transfer of Memory reminds us of a second memory as important – that no pit is so deep that God is not deeper still. No horror can break the resilient spirit that knows there is always hope no matter how bad things may currently be.”

The color images depict the survivors as living full and fulfilled lives – full of life and vitality – not defined by victimhood. Each survivor was photographed in their home and everyone was interviewed and videotaped prior to making their portrait. Text, distilled from the survivor interviews, accompanies each portrait and provides background and a short history in the survivors’ own words.

This exhibition is curated by JCRC staff members, Laura Zelle and Susie Greenberg, and is a collaboration between David Sherman, Lili Chester, and the JCRC of Minnesota and the Dakotas.



(Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Heather Trobee)

Above: Lt. Gov. Larry Rohden talks during the Transfer of Memory program on Sept. 11 to open the exhibit. Below: Col. Laurence Bazer, a Jewish chaplain with the National Guard Bureau, lights candles to remember the Holocaust victims.



Leadership Evolution Training

By Maj. Carol Jordan

Mentorship Committee Chair, Diversity Council - Joint Force Headquarters

The South Dakota Army National Guard stands out as one of the premier organizations as measured by the major matrices tracked nationally. Does that mean that we are yet the “best” we can be, or is it our drive for excellence that continue to find us at the top?

Each unit in the South Dakota Army National Guard has the potential to be the experts in their field and to demonstrate outstanding teams that accomplish mission effectiveness while building up our individual Soldiers in the process.



How do we continue to move forward to further obtain the competitive advantage and develop highly successful cohesive teams? Mentoring – at all levels of the organization.

Organizations now look to mentoring in order to implement strategies for leadership excellence, including:

- Retention
- Professional Development
- Recruitment
- Enhancing Mission Readiness
- Improving Productivity
- Increasing Knowledge Transfer
- Supporting a Multi-cultural Workforce
- Increasing Access to the Leadership Pipeline
- Increasing Skill Sets

Leadership Evolutions: The Dynamics of Maintaining Successful Workgroups. © 2019, K. Parks Consulting, Inc., a Florida Corporation, August 2019.

The SDARNG now has trained instructors available for teaching Leadership Evolution: The Dynamics of Maintaining Successful Work Groups © which covers topics on mentoring, obtaining competitive advantage, and development of highly successful teams. Please contact Maj. Carol Jordan at 307-290-2447 (cell) if you are interested in having a training for your organization to grow in leadership excellence. This training can also fulfill your diversity training requirements. Don't wait, schedule now!

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month



STAFF SGT. JUAN FLORES

AGE: 37

HOMETOWN: Watertown, SD

UNIT: Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment

YEARS OF SERVICE: 19

DEPLOYMENTS: Operation Inherent Resolve Campaign and Operation Iraqi Freedom Campaign.

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY: 68W Combat Medic

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO JOIN? I originally joined to help pay for college. I continue to serve because I have enjoyed the camaraderie and the experiences that I have had.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVORITE MOMENT OR PART OF SERVING? One of the best parts of serving is the people I get to serve with and lead. I especially enjoy watching how the younger Soldiers that I have mentored have grown and become leaders in new units.

WHAT DOES THIS OBSERVANCE MEAN TO YOU? Hispanic Heritage Month is an opportunity to celebrate the commitments and sacrifices that Hispanics have made to the military, and also the opportunity for others to learn about new cultures.

ANYTHING ELSE WE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT YOU? I currently work as a police officer and I live with my wife and four children, three of them being triplet boys.