

# DAKOTA PACK

MAGAZINE OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD • WINTER/SPRING 2021

## 2020 IN REVIEW SDNG marks historic year of service

### » AROUND THE GUARD

- New senior leadership assignments
- SDNG receives environmental awards
- SDNG highlights Person of Resilience



# South Dakota NATIONAL GUARD



Maj. Gen. Jeffrey P. Marlette  
The Adjutant General

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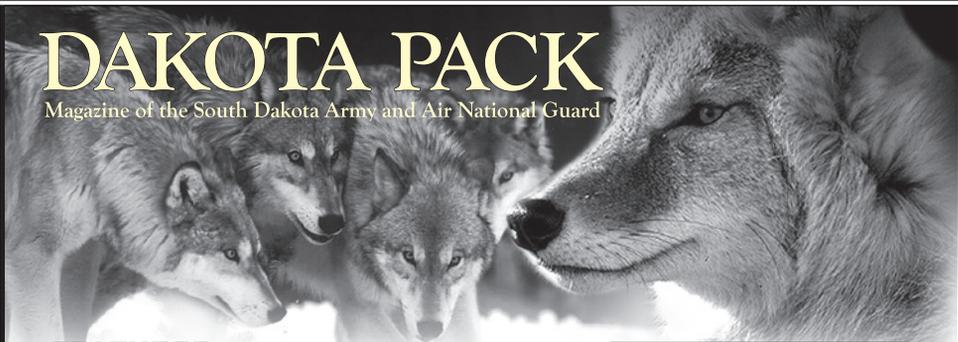
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**Submissions:** Print and photo submissions of general interest to members of the South Dakota National Guard, their families, civilian employees, veterans and retirees are invited and encouraged. Please send article and photos with name, phone number, e-mail, complete mailing address and comments to: [ng.sd.sdarng.list.pao@mail.mil](mailto:ng.sd.sdarng.list.pao@mail.mil), 605.737.6978. Submissions are subject to editing. Electronic submissions are preferred and digital photos should be at least 300 dpi.

# DAKOTA PACK

Magazine of the South Dakota Army and Air National Guard



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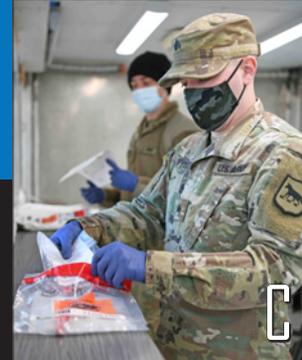
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### On the Cover

Soldiers with the South Dakota National Guard package COVID-19 tests at the Central States Fairgrounds in Rapid City, Nov. 20, 2020. (Photo by Spc. Tyler O'Connell)



**Do something today that your future self will thank you for.**

- Sean Patrick Flanery

SOUTH DAKOTA  
**AIR NATIONAL GUARD**  
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## AVIATION CAREERS

Learn about different careers in aviation repair within the SDARNG

- **Aircraft Power Plant Repairer (15B)**- The aircraft power plant repairer is primarily responsible for supervising, inspecting and performing maintenance on aircraft turbine engines and components. With hundreds of Army missions depending on airplanes and helicopters, they must ensure that all of them are safe and ready to fly
- **Aircraft Power Train Repairer (15D)** - The aircraft power train repairer is primarily responsible for supervising, inspecting and performing maintenance on aircraft power train systems. With hundreds of Army missions depending on airplanes and helicopters, they must ensure that all of them are safe and ready to fly.
- **Aircraft Electrician (15F)**- The aircraft electrician is primarily responsible for supervising, inspecting and performing maintenance on aircraft electrical systems. They ensure that the electrical systems on airplanes and helicopters are properly maintained and repaired.
- **Aircraft Structural Repairer (15G)**- The aircraft structural repairer is primarily responsible for supervising and performing maintenance on aircraft structures. With hundreds of Army missions depending on airplanes and helicopters, they must ensure that all of them are safe and ready to fly
- **Avionic Mechanic (15N)**- The avionic mechanic performs maintenance on tactical-communications-security, communication, navigation and flight control equipment.
- **UH-60 Helicopter Repairer (15T)**- As a UH-60 Helicopter Repairer, you will maintain and fix UH-60 ("Black Hawk") helicopters, making sure they are safe and ready to fly in hundreds of Army missions. This MOS currently qualifies for a \$20,000 sign-on bonus!



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## Important TA/CA Update!



Soldiers are advised of the following key changes and dates regarding the TA/CA Programs!

- **12 February - 7 March 2021:** GoArmyEd is deactivated to prepare the transfer data to ArmyIgnitED.
- **IMPORTANT!** Soldiers will NOT be able to request TA or access their TA data during this time.
- **25 February - 7 March 2021:** ArmyIgnitED goes offline to facilitate the transfer of data from GoArmyEd.
- **IMPORTANT!** Soldiers will NOT be able to request CA or access their CA data during this time.
- **8 March 2021:** TA/CA program services resume and will be accessible on ArmyIgnitED.



### TA/CA REQUEST INFO

- Soldiers may continue to submit TA Requests in GoArmyEd until 1159 EST on 11 February 2021
- Soldiers may continue to submit CA Requests in ArmyIgnitED until 1159 EST on 24 February 2021



### CREATE AN ACCOUNT

- Soldiers who do not have an ArmyIgnitED account must create one to continue using TA or to access their TA education history
- Soldiers can create an ArmyIgnitED account at [www.armyignited.com](http://www.armyignited.com) by selecting "Get Started"

Soldiers with questions about the transition to ArmyIgnitED should contact their state ESO/ESS as the GoArmyEd Helpdesk will be disabled.  
Contact your State Education Office at: [www.nationalguard.com/select-your-state](http://www.nationalguard.com/select-your-state)

# Message from the Adjutant General

## One Year of COVID-19

March 6th marks the one year anniversary since the National Guard entered into the fight against COVID-19. I wish I could say this year has gone by quickly, but to be honest, at times, it seemed like it was barely moving. It is a year that we will remember for the rest of our lives. Hopefully we are moving closer each day to putting this behind us, but we are still in the fight and must remain vigilant in protecting the force and our families.

Over the last twelve months, we have witnessed the longest continuous activation of the South Dakota National Guard in support of civilian authorities. We have identified, planned for, trained for and executed numerous missions, all in an effort to support our communities, state and nation. All total, we have provided nearly 34,000 man days. It is important to note the SDNG's support has been a totally Joint effort, with the SDANG providing over 10,000 days of support and the SDARNG providing over 23,000 days of support. Our Airmen and Soldiers have distinguished themselves as highly trained, highly competent and highly professional at every turn.

I want to especially acknowledge the efforts of everyone involved in the Call Center mission. These members worked six days out of every week, tirelessly accomplishing this important mission. These members came from 12 different Air Guard squadrons and 21 different Army Guard units. At the height of infection, over 150 Soldiers and Airmen were on mission. Collectively they made over 282,000 phone calls in support of the Department of Health's efforts.



It is also important we recognize the resiliency of our force and their families. This past year has forced us to balance life at many levels. Keeping ourselves healthy and ready to respond, making sure we didn't infect any of our team, if there was any chance we were infected. Making sure our families were healthy, safe and that their needs were met. Our members and families had to balance new school issues, daycare issues, changing work environments, church's being shut down and life as they had known it being totally changed. Through it all, they stayed strong. They worked with each other and with leadership to adjust to

the ever changing environment and to digest the volumes of information thrown at them. Again, it is truly amazing to watch the caliber of individuals who serve in our organization. They are among the very best this state and nation have to offer.

It is also important to acknowledge the outstanding performance of our Soldiers and Airmen who responded to civil disturbances

across our state and nation. In every case, these missions were short fused, requiring our members to drop everything in their civilian lives and report to duty. In every case, our Soldiers and Airmen were there, ready to carry out their mission in just a few hours. Behind the scenes, planning, resourcing, our leaders at every level made sure our members were ready for the mission. It is truly amazing to watch the dedication, professionalism and raw talent our members can quickly bring to bear on a mission.

I would be remiss if I didn't take a moment to recognize our employers. In the South Dakota National Guard, we have less than a 1/2 of a percent unemployment rate. That means every time we call out the Guard, some employer is giving up their employee. We have tremendous employers who support us at every turn. Instead of complaining about their employees being pulled away "AGAIN," they instead ask "How can we help?" In South Dakota we are truly blessed by the support of our employers. Please remember to thank them and to support their businesses whenever you get the chance.

In closing, I will say the South Dakota National Guard has performed in a truly outstanding manner during this entire fight. We today are a stronger, better trained and a more capable force. We have learned some valuable lessons about ourselves and our organization, all which will serve us well in future fights. Governor Noem and I could not be more proud of each and every Soldier, Airman and family member who has stepped up to serve during this fight. It is not over yet, we cannot let down our guard yet, but we can reflect on what we have accomplished and be very proud. Thank you for serving in the South Dakota National Guard.



Sincerely,

*Jeffrey P. Marlette*

Maj. Gen. Jeffrey P. Marlette  
The Adjutant General

# Message from the Senior Enlisted Leader



All NCOs will always be an important part of the South Dakota National Guard and is integral to the success of its missions and daily operation. NCOs are supposed to be the example for others to follow. Sometimes once we are selected for promotion or an increased position we forget about the simple things that made us and our unit's success. The following list

identifies some key points that all NCOs should remember regardless of their grade or position.

Stripes are symbols of authority. This authority is an important privilege that must be exercised with a lot of common sense and maturity. These are qualities that your superiors and the SDNG believe you possess and it is your responsibility to at all times demonstrate professional behavior. Never do anything that will discredit your rank, position and the SDNG.

Set the example. You must prove by your own actions that you deserve the privilege to lead your subordinates and that you are worthy of the respect and confidence of your superiors and peers.

Remember where you came from. Don't ever forget what it was like prior to your position. You were once the Soldier or Airman performing the seemingly meaningless tasks, task which must be conducted in order to maintain an organization.

Be and look like a NCO. Your appearance in your uniform, your physical condition and your reactions to all situations all convey an impression to others. Subordinates must feel they can rely on you at all times, that you are a competent NCO and an individual that uses sound judgment when faced with a problem. Be a leader, not simply a supervisor.

Take responsibility for your actions. Demonstrating proper leadership indicates that you accept full responsibility and expect to be held accountable. Some of these include placing the health and well-being of your subordinates above your own, respect for their rights and empathy, the honest attempt to understand their problems. If you make an honest mistake, accept responsibility, learn from your mistakes and never allow them to be repeated.

Make a difference. You are an important member of the SDNG team (family). You will be the one that others come to for answers. Show everyone that you can make a difference. Don't sit back and think that just because you wear stripes that you now know and have done everything.

Passion plus professionalism equals performance. Be passionate about your job, those that you lead and their families. Love your job and do everything you can to be the very best version of yourself every day. Seek self-improvement, mentorship and opportunities to grow. Provide mentorship as well. Be professional in everything that you say and do. If you are passionate and professional about your job, you will get great performance from both yourself and from others. If you would like to learn more about this topic I would recommend that you read TC 22.7, Noncommissioned Officer Guide and ADP 6-22, Army Leadership.

Sincerely,

Command Sgt. Maj. Pat Couser  
Senior Enlisted Leader



# Lair new assistant adjutant general for SD Air Guard



(Photo by Senior Airman Taylor Solberg)

**Brig. Gen. Gregory Lair speaks to audience and family members as he assumes his new role as the South Dakota Air National Guard assistant adjutant general, during a transfer of authority ceremony at Joe Foss Field in Sioux Falls, Jan. 9.**

## By 114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

SIOUX FALLS - Brig. Gen. Gregory Lair assumed the duties as the assistant adjutant general for the South Dakota Air National Guard, during a transfer of authority ceremony at Joe Foss Field in Sioux Falls, Jan. 9.

Maj. Gen. Jeff Marlette, SDNG adjutant general, presided over the ceremony where Lair assumed authority from Brig. Gen. Russ Walz, who served in the position since June 2018.

Lair is now responsible to the adjutant general for strategic planning, strength management, readiness and mobilization

support of the state's more than 1,100 Airmen. His role is to provide mission ready Airmen to combatant commanders and emergency response and support to civilian authorities.

Walz will continue his role as the Air National Guard assistant to the director, Air and Cyberspace Operations, Headquarters, Pacific Air Forces.

Lair's previous assignments include the SDANG chief of staff, SDANG director of operations, 114th Fighter Wing vice commander, and 114th Operations Group commander.



**Brig. Gen. Gregory Lair**

# Pardy promoted to brigadier general in SD Guard



(Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Heather Trobee)

**Brig. Gen. Patrick Pardy receives his new rank from his wife during his promotion ceremony at Camp Rapid in Rapid City, Jan. 9. Pardy will serve as the land component commander for Joint Force Headquarters.**

## By SDNG Public Affairs Office

RAPID CITY – Patrick Pardy of Howard was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in the South Dakota Army National Guard during a ceremony at Camp Rapid, Jan. 9.

Pardy will serve as the land component commander for Joint Force Headquarters in Rapid City.

“Being promoted to brigadier general is the single greatest honor of my military career and it is the culmination of all the great work done by the leaders, peers and Soldiers I have been lucky enough to work with – all of whom I will be eternally grateful to,” Pardy said. “I am also the recipient of the love and support of an amazing family, which was the number one factor to my making it to this point in my career. Finally, I must thank Maj. Gen. Jeff Marlette for the confidence he has shown in me with this selection.”

In this position, Pardy will serve as the Golden Coyote training exercise commander, responsible for planning, coordination,

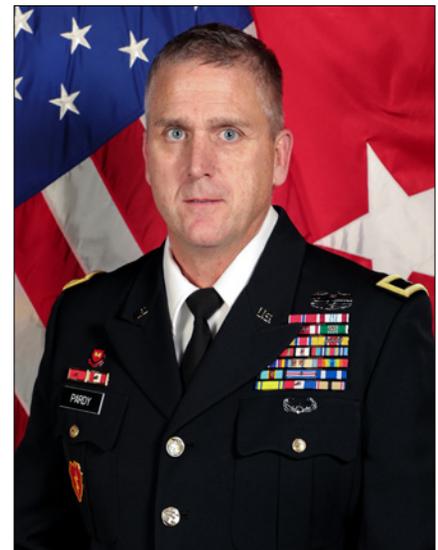
resourcing and execution of the exercise. His assignment also includes serving as the deputy director of the SDNG joint staff; and he will serve as the joint task force commander when activated in times of emergency – ensuring planning and execution for assigned missions.

Pardy has over 34 years of military service, first enlisting in the SDNG in 1986 as a combat engineer. In 1992, he received his commission as an engineer officer through the University of South Dakota ROTC program.

During his career, Pardy served in a variety of command and staff positions, such as engineer platoon leader and intelligence officer and operations officer positions at the battalion, brigade and state levels. His command assignments include Company B, 153rd Engineer Battalion, 153rd Engineer Battalion, and 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade.

Pardy has also served on multiple combat deployments – deploying twice to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Pardy holds a Bachelor of Science degree



**Brig. Gen. Patrick Pardy**

and Juris Doctorate degree from the University of South Dakota, and a master’s degree in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College.

# VanDerWolde promoted to brigadier general in SD Guard



(Photo by Senior Airman Taylor Solberg)

**Brig. Gen. Edwin VanDerWolde receives his new rank from his family during his promotion ceremony at Joe Foss Field in Sioux Falls, Jan. 9. VanDerWolde serves as the director of the joint staff.**

## By SDNG Public Affairs Office

SIoux FALLS - The South Dakota National Guard promoted Edwin VanDerWolde to the rank of brigadier general during a ceremony at Joe Foss Field in Sioux Falls, Jan. 9.

VanDerWolde serves as the director of the joint staff and is the principal advisor to the SDNG Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Jeff Marlette on all joint issues and policies relating to the defense support to civil authorities and homeland defense programs. He also oversees joint strategic planning and training to enhance the readiness of the Army and Air Guard.

VanDerWolde replaces Brig. Gen. Marshall Michels who retired after 37 years of service.

"I am truly humbled for this great privilege to serve as director of joint staff for the greatest Airmen and Soldiers in the nation," VanDerWolde said. "There is a lot of work ahead of us in the next few years, but I know

the men and women of the South Dakota National Guard are trained and ready for the challenges."

VanDerWolde's service in the military spans more than 37 years, where he first enlisted into the South Dakota Air National Guard as a supply training specialist in 1983. He received his Baccalaureate Degree in Business Administration from Sioux Falls College in 1991. In 1997, he received his commission as a second lieutenant through the Academy of Military Science in Knoxville, Tennessee.

During his career, VanDerWolde has held a variety of command positions, which include 114th Fighter Wing vice commander, 114th Mission Support Group commander, deputy commander of the 114th Maintenance Group, and commander of the 114th Logistics Readiness Squadron.

In 2008, VanDerWolde deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



**Brig. Gen. Edwin VanDerWolde**

# Michels retires after 37 years of service to SD Guard

By SDNG Public Affairs Office

RAPID CITY – Brig. Gen. Marshall Michels retired from the South Dakota National Guard after more than 37 years of military service to the state and nation.

Michels retired as the SDNG land component commander and director of the joint staff and held numerous key leadership positions throughout his career.

“I feel very blessed and honored to have served our state and nation for more than 37 years. When I joined, I never thought I would stay for more than my first enlistment,” Michels said. “Like most of us, I joined for the benefits but I stayed because the South Dakota Guard is family. I am extremely fortunate that my military career provided me and my family with a variety of opportunities.”

A native of Vermillion, Michels enlisted into the South Dakota Army National Guard in 1983 as a combat medic with the 730th Medical Company. In 1988, he received his commission as a second lieutenant through the ROTC program at the University of South Dakota and assigned as a field artillery officer.

Following his commission, Michels served over three years on active duty with the 2nd Armored Division and with the 1st Infantry Division during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

Michels later returned to the SDNG and would go on to serving in numerous command and staff positions to include: commander of Alpha Battery, 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion; executive officer of the 2-147th Field Artillery Battalion; S-3 officer with the 147th Field Artillery Brigade; commander of the 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion; commander of the 109th Regional Support Group; and the chief of staff for the SD Army National Guard.

In his most recent position as the LLC and DJS, Michels served from May 2018 – December 2020 and was the principal advisor to the SDNG adjutant general on all joint issues and policies relating to the defense support to civil authorities and homeland defense programs. He also oversaw joint strategic planning and training to enhance the readiness of the Army and Air Guard.

During this time, the SDNG mobilized five units along with dozens of individual deployments in support of federal contingencies to four different continents – totaling over 930 soldiers and airmen in support of various operations. Michels’ leadership and management of the joint staff and the employees of the SDNG was influential in ensuring that all deploying units were properly trained, manned, and equipped to conduct their mission.

In addition to supporting federal deployments, Michels’ was also influential in directing SDNG support for state missions such as delivering and distributing water to the Pine Ridge Reservation in April 2019, the response to COVID-19 in support of the SD Department of Health throughout 2020, as well as support to state and local law

enforcement in response to several civil disturbance events in the late spring and summer of 2020.

“Michels’ ability to manage oversight and provide ready forces to support global and domestic requirements are second to none,” said Maj. Gen. Jeff Marlette, SDNG adjutant general. “His leadership, guidance, and technical expertise will have a long-lasting impact on the overall readiness and responsiveness of the South Dakota National Guard.”

“It was very fulfilling to serve the citizens of South Dakota in their time of need,” Michels said. “Time and again, our Airmen and Soldiers of the South Dakota National Guard stepped up to the challenge and truly made a difference.”

Despite his military retirement, Michels will continue to support the SDNG as a state employee, serving as the assistant deputy secretary for SD Department of the Military assisting with legislative affairs.

“I am here to serve our Airmen and Soldiers, explaining our mission to our state and national legislators and promoting our interests ensuring the SDNG is always be ready to support our great state and nation,” said Michels. “It will be different not wearing the uniform every day. I am grateful that I will still have the ability to serve the Airmen and Soldiers of the South Dakota National Guard in my new role.”

Throughout his years of service, Michels said a number of individuals have supported him and made a difference in his career.

“I have been very fortunate to have served under some of our great South Dakota National Guard leaders, both officers and NCOs. I have learned a great deal from all of them,” said Michels. “Maj. Gen. Ray Carpenter and Col. Scott Jacobson hired me on the full time force. I learned a great deal from them.

“I also had the opportunity to work directly for many adjutant’s general: Maj. Gen. Killey, Maj. Gen. Gorman, Maj. Gen. Doohen, Maj. Gen. Reisch, and Maj. Gen. Marlette,” he continued. “I learned so much from all of them, they developed me to become a better leader.”

Michels also credits his family as providing the biggest level of support in his career and success.

“I could not have had this type of career without the tremendous support of my wife, Lynette, and my children: AJ and Allie,” Michels said. “My family, like most of our families, had to endure the many moves, missed birthdays, anniversaries and games, but they never complained and always supported me. I own them a debt of gratitude that I can never repay.

“I can honestly say that I have not worked a day in my life since I started with the SDNG,” added Michels. “When you do something you love and have the opportunity to work with great people, it is not work, it is a blessing!”



Brig. Gen. Marshall Michels

# Dressler retires after 37 years of service, new state command chief warrant officer selected

By SDNG Public Affairs Office

RAPID CITY – Chief Warrant Officer 5 Todd Dressler will retire in April after 37 years of military service in the South Dakota Army National Guard. Dressler’s career culminated serving as the seventh state command chief warrant officer for the SDARNG.



Chief Warrant Officer 5 Todd Dressler

As the state command chief, Dressler served as the senior warrant officer advisor to the adjutant general of the SDNG, addressing warrant officer development and strength management of the Warrant Officer Cohort.

“As the command chief warrant officer, I am most proud of the great bunch of professional warrant officers that I had the privilege to serve with in the SDARNG,” Dressler said. “The things I remember the most about my career is that I have had the opportunity to meet great people, travel all over the world and to be a part of the most professional origination in the United States.”

“I want to sincerely thank CW5 Dressler for the outstanding manner in which he performed in the command chief position over the past few years,” said Maj. Gen. Jeff Marlette, SDNG adjutant general. “Chief Dressler is a Soldier’s Soldier, always putting the needs of others and the organization ahead of his own. He has done an excellent job of shaping the warrant officer program for the future.”

With Dressler’s retirement, CW5 Wayne Walker was announced as the new state command chief for the SDARNG. Walker brings over 32 years of service and skill from numerous leadership and command positions in the SDARNG, including four overseas deployments.

Walker, who currently serves as the commander for both Detachment 48, OSA Command and Detachment 5, Company C, 2/641st Aviation Regiment, is slated to deploy again later this spring. In light of Walker’s pending deployment, CW5 Ken Schoenfelder has been selected to serve as the acting state command chief until Walker returns.

Chief Schoenfelder brings nearly 40 years of experience, having served in numerous leadership and command assignments to include four deployments for the SDARNG.

“CW5 Walker and Schoenfelder are great leaders, mentors and Soldiers, and will be outstanding state command chiefs,” said Dressler.

Dressler began his military service in January 1984 when he enlisted in the SDARNG with the 854th Engineer Company in Wagner. He spent the next 12 years in numerous enlisted positions with the 854th, 1007th Quartermaster Company, 211th Engineer Company, 88th Troop Command and State Area Command Headquarters – attaining the rank of staff sergeant.

He received his appointment as a warrant officer in September 1995. Throughout his career, Dressler served in positions such as officer and enlisted personnel manager, force integration/readiness officer and active guard/reserve manager with Joint Force Headquarters.

Dressler also deployed to Afghanistan in 2010 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom with the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade.

“I joined the SDARNG at age 17, so retiring and not wearing the uniform has been a little strange and peculiar, however it also feels satisfying and rewarding,” said Dressler.

## HEALTHCARE RETENTION

When considering reenlisting, consider the costs of healthcare

### HEALTHCARE COSTS

LABOR DELIVERY	EMERGENCY ROOM	X-RAYS	PHARMACY COST
 <small>TRICARE RESERVE HEALTHCARE COSTS</small> <b>\$63*</b> <small>*per admission (delivery/inpatient)</small>	 <small>TRICARE RESERVE HEALTHCARE COSTS</small> <b>\$42</b>	 <small>TRICARE RESERVE HEALTHCARE COSTS</small> <b>\$0</b>	 <small>TRICARE RESERVE HEALTHCARE COSTS</small> <b>\$0-\$60</b>
<small>AVG. SOUTH DAKOTA HEALTHCARE COSTS</small> <b>\$6,986</b>	<small>AVG. SOUTH DAKOTA HEALTHCARE COSTS</small> <b>\$71-\$500</b>	<small>AVG. SOUTH DAKOTA HEALTHCARE COSTS</small> <b>\$283+</b>	<small>AVG. SOUTH DAKOTA HEALTHCARE COSTS</small> <b>30% of total cost</b>

	MONTHLY	YEARLY	DEDUCTIBLE	CATASTROPHIC CAP
<small>TRICARE RESERVE HEALTHCARE COSTS</small>				
<b>SINGLE</b>	\$47.20	\$566.40	\$52-\$158	\$1,058
<b>FAMILY</b>	\$238.99	\$2,867.88	\$105-\$317	\$1,058
<small>AVG. SOUTH DAKOTA HEALTHCARE COSTS</small>				
<b>SINGLE</b>	\$500-\$700	\$6,000-\$9,000	\$2,750	\$7,100
<b>FAMILY</b>	\$2,052	\$24,624	\$5,500	\$14,200

TRICARE RESERVE HEALTHCARE COSTS SOURCED FROM: [HTTPS://TRICARE.MIL/COSTS/COMPARE](https://TRICARE.MIL/COSTS/COMPARE)  
 AVG. SOUTH DAKOTA COSTS SOURCED FROM AVERA HEALTH PLAN: AVERA PREFERRED 2750 (SILVER)  
 ESTIMATES DO NOT INCLUDE MEDICATION, EXTENDED HOSPITAL STAY, PREEXISTING CONDITIONS, AND ARE BASED OFF BASIC PLAN/COVERAGE  
 ALL ESTIMATES ARE BASED OFF FY2020



## SD Guard receives regional Best Installations Program Award

(Photo by Spc Tyler O'Connell)

By SDNG Public Affairs Office

RAPID CITY - The South Dakota Army National Guard's Construction and Facilities Management Office received the 2020 Best Installations Program Award for FEAC (Facilities and Engineering Advisory Council) Region VI, for the third consecutive year. The award was presented by the Army National Guard virtually via Microsoft TEAMS, during the Fiscal Year 2020 Program Guidance Course.

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

"This is a team award that encompasses the outstanding dedication and work of all the state and federal employees in the CFMO across the state

of South Dakota," said Lt. Col. Martin Yost, construction and facilities management officer. "All members of the CFMO strive to provide safe, modern, and well maintained facilities for South Dakota Army National Guard service members and their families."

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



# FEMALE GROOMING STANDARDS

UP TO 2 BRAIDS, SINGLE PONYTAIL, BANGS CAN NOW TOUCH EYEBROWS



AIR FORCE WOMEN ARE ABLE TO WEAR THEIR HAIR IN UP TO TWO BRAIDS OR A SINGLE PONYTAIL WITH BULK NOT EXCEEDING THE WIDTH OF THE HEAD AND LENGTH NOT EXTENDING BELOW A HORIZONTAL LINE RUNNING BETWEEN THE TOP OF EACH SLEEVE INSEAM AT THE UNDER ARM THROUGH THE SHOULDER BLADES. ADDITIONALLY, WOMEN'S BANGS MAY NOW TOUCH THEIR EYEBROWS, BUT NOT COVER THEIR EYES.

New Air Force Grooming Standards: [https://static.e-publishing.af.mil/production/1/af\\_al/publication/afi36-2903/afi36-2903.pdf](https://static.e-publishing.af.mil/production/1/af_al/publication/afi36-2903/afi36-2903.pdf)

New Army Grooming Standards: [https://www.army.mil/article/242536/army\\_announces\\_new\\_grooming\\_appearance\\_standards](https://www.army.mil/article/242536/army_announces_new_grooming_appearance_standards)

# SD National Guard receives environmental award for sustainment program, initiatives



Members of the SDARNG's Construction and Facilities Management Environmental Office pose for a photo after receiving a second place finish in the Sustainability - Non-Industrial Installation award category for the National Guard Bureau's 2020 Environmental Awards program. (Photo by Spc Tyler D'Connell)

## By SDNG Public Affairs Office

RAPID CITY - The National Guard Bureau's Environmental Awards program has awarded the South Dakota Army National Guard with a 2020 Environmental Security Award for outstanding program and initiatives in environmental excellence.

The SDARNG's Construction and Facilities Management Environmental Office received a second place finish in the Sustainability - Non-Industrial Installation award category for significant progress in implementing environmentally responsible practices.

"I am very pleased to be accepting this award on behalf of the organization. This is an installation-level award, and it includes every location and all the staff and Soldiers of the state," said Capt. William Domagall, SDARNG environmental program manager. "I have seen great effort from around the state to comply with any and all environmental laws, rules, or regulations that would pertain to their jobs.

"This award showcases some of the things

we are doing within the CFMO for planning, design, and construction of projects, with 'green purchasing,' at the warehouse, at shops and armories across the state, and how the environmental branch is managing the requirements and the initiatives to collectively reach our goals," Domagall added.

This is the second Environmental Security Award the SDARNG has received in the last three years, receiving a third place finish in the 2018 Sustainability - Team/Individual award category.

The SDARNG's environmental program is responsible with maintaining compliance and improving sustainability management throughout the state. Their gains in waste diversion and compliance - which consists of reduction, re-purposing, recycling and composting, energy recovery, and disposal - have saved the SDARNG in costs, generated recycling revenue, and avoided censures or impediments to training.

Over the past year, one of the program's

biggest accomplishments was increasing the statewide waste diversion rate from about 10 to 41 percent, making a significant increase to reach the organization's goal of 60 percent by 2025. Environmental staff have also made strides on revitalizing the Qualified Recycling Program with new standard operating procedures and resolving administrative issues that had stymied commodity sales.

"Recycling and other waste diversion efforts don't just save resources or eliminate waste, they save money in the form of reduced waste disposal fees or income gain to the QRP program," Domagall said. "These funds can be utilized at other facilities to do more maintenance and improvements, support recycling initiatives, or even support MWR (morale, welfare and recreation) activities in special cases."

Other sustainability innovations this past year include a restructuring of spill response in the state to integrate engineering and training units, and a solution for pond management

and wash rack operations that integrates natural resources techniques.

“One innovative environmental initiative I’m proud to talk about is a new process that our staff developed is to manage wash rack water,” said Domagall. “They make a seasonal pond with live minnows and aeration to reduce or eliminate the need for chemical treatments to the water.

“The chemical treatments are for reduction of algae and for killing mosquitos mostly. The minnows eat all the aquatic insects or the aquatic larvae and the aeration keeps the algae down and the fish alive,” continued Domagall. “It is a really neat idea, and it seemed to work great last year, it saved money, and no chemicals were used in the water.”

Some of the program’s other efforts recognized includes their processes for inspections, compliance and accountability 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.

The environmental program’s staff worked with the SDARNG’s Operations and Maintenance Branch, maintenance shops, and unit supply personnel throughout the state to empower them to find solutions in communities where there is not a strong recycling culture. With connections in their local areas, these Soldiers are able to identify and take advantage of special recycling events or partnerships with businesses, schools, scouting troops, and more that create mutual community and SDARNG benefits.

Domagall says the program’s community outreach and public education initiatives are a distinct part of the team’s strategy. The environmental team works with the community to help achieve their goals by fostering volunteerism and donations to get new projects off the ground.

“An example of this was the water bottles from Recruiting Command

that were donated to schools across the state. These bottles could help reduce disposable water bottle use, as well as the other intended purposes,” said Matraysa Punderson, SDARNG pollution prevention manager. “Our biggest pieces are relationship building and education, and winning this award shows that we are successful at those.”

In areas where recycling vendors are rare or very small, the demand generated by the SDARNG environmental program helps make a difference in supporting or enabling local businesses to meet those needs and create a market for those recycling vendors. At Camp Rapid, the SDARNG’s sustainability projects are particularly visible for the community, and environmental staff members have been invited to speak at community events and local commerce meetings about how their programs could be enacted in the private sector. SDARNG has also hosted several tours for the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, inviting students in the Sustainable Infrastructure Program to explore real-world applications, such as green roof installation to lighting retrofits.

Additionally, environmental staff have hosted Earth Day Expo children’s programs for Rapid City and park cleanups with local schools, made presentations to Boy and Girl Scout troops and school groups on topics ranging from recycling to pollinator habitat, and they are regularly invited to participate in community fairs and events.

“The SDARNG has long been core to the towns and cities where it operates, and its sustainability programs help to promote the SDARNG ethics of environmental accountability and green practices well beyond the armory and training site,” said Domagall.

To make achievements and have an impact in any environmental program, Domagall and members the environment program team say it begins at the lowest level with the people, who must take the initiative and put in the work to make success possible.

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South Dakota Air National Guard Recruiting

# SDNG marks historic year of service in 2020



(Photo by Spc. Tyler O'Connell)

**A South Dakota Army National Guard Soldier distributes a COVID-19 test kit during a drive-thru mass-testing event at the Pierre National Guard Armory, Nov. 10, 2020.**

## By SDNG Public Affairs Office

**T**he South Dakota National Guard once again distinguished itself as one of the premier National Guard organizations in the nation in 2020 – just as it has for the past 159 years. From serving in combat operations overseas to supporting domestic operations here at home, our Soldiers and Airmen have once again answered the call of our state and nation during this historic year. Support to federal commitments worldwide continued in 2020 as 490 Soldiers and Airmen from five National Guard units supported stateside missions or overseas contingency operations.

In March, seven Soldiers with Detachment 2, 174th Cyber Protection Team, returned home after serving a 15-month deployment stateside to the U.S. Capital region to assist local, state and federal agencies in protecting the nation's critical cyber infrastructure and addressing emerging cyber threats. The Soldiers are part of a 40-member team and includes detachments in North Dakota, Utah and Colorado. While deployed, they provided support to U.S. Cyber Command to engineer, install, operate and maintain critical infrastructure. The unit members also supported Task Force Echo, the largest mobilized National Guard cyber force in support of U.S. interests to date.

In June, 69 Soldiers with the 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion returned home from duty in the Middle East after serving 11-months in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, providing multi-functional logistics and support operations for U.S. and coalition forces in the region. The unit oversaw logistical and unit operations for 10

separate units and 700 personnel in Iraq, Kuwait, Jordan, and Syria. The 152nd supplied the Iraqi army with all classes of supply, closed two bases in Iraq and one in Syria, divested over \$250 million worth of classes of supply, identified and turned in over \$35 million worth of excess equipment from the battlefield, re-aligned over \$30 million worth of equipment to account for mission changes, and helped move over 2,000 U.S. and coalition troops during the deployment.

In July, 110 Soldiers from Alpha Battery, 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion and the 147th Forward Support Company returned from



(Photo by Spc. Tyler O'Connell)

**The 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion convoys to a training site for a two-day field training exercise during Operation Atlantic Resolve in Germany, Jan. 29, 2020.**



(Photo by Lt. Col. Anthony Deiss)

**Soldiers with the 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion arrive home in Pierre, June 24, 2020, after serving a 11-month deployment in the Middle East.**

Europe after serving a 10-month deployment providing rocket artillery and logistics support to Operation Atlantic Resolve. The unit's deployment to Germany and Poland helped to enhance the U.S. deterrence posture, increase the readiness and responsiveness of U.S. forces in Europe, supported the collective defense and security of NATO allies, and bolstered the security and capacity of U.S. allies and partners. Among the units' accomplishments includes their participation and support in training exercises and fielding missions alongside U.S. and allied forces for Exercise Dragoon Ready 20, Exercise Combined Resolve 13, and a live-fire exercise with the U.S. Army's 1-6th Field Artillery Battalion.

In August, more than 190 Soldiers with the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade deployed to Djibouti in support of Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa. The unit is conducting operations in the region that enhance partner nation capacity, promote regional security and stability, dissuade conflict, and protect U.S. and coalition interests.

In October, the 114th Fighter Wing began its rotation of 110 Airmen for deployments across the globe in support of a Reserve Component Period. The Airmen come from a variety of occupational specialties and individually deployed to support combatant commands in Europe, Africa and the Middle East. Since 9/11, the SDNG has deployed 9,050 Soldiers and Airmen in support of various operations.

Domestic operations support to the citizens of South Dakota and state civil authorities reached a historic level in 2020.

The SDNG's response to the COVID-19 pandemic is now the longest sustained, statesupported mission in the history of the SDNG. Nearly 400 Soldiers and Airmen provided COVID-19 support for planning, coordination and execution of different mission sets during various times and durations beginning in March and is ongoing yet today. In the early months of the pandemic, this included the establishment of two 100-bed Alternate Care Facilities, one in Rapid City and one in Sioux Falls, to provide an uninterrupted flow of essential services for state healthcare networks to provide additional hospital bed-space capacity.

The SDNG established 10 Medical Capabilities Teams with trained

**Spc. Oldfield works at the COVID-19 Call Center in Rapid City, Dec. 8, 2020. The SDNG provided support to the S.D. Department of Health's Call Center for contact tracing and investigation of COVID-19 positive cases and close contacts.** (Photo by Spc Tyler D'Connell)





(Photo by Tech. Sgt. Duane Duimstra)

**Airmen with the 114th Operations Support Squadron sews masks for other Airmen to use at Joe Foss Field, April 28, 2020, at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.**

and certified medical personnel ready to support the medical staffing needs and requirements for healthcare facilities throughout the state. The Guard established 20 ground and 6 aerial Medical Evacuation and Transportation Teams ready to provide augmentation of local and state Emergency Medical Services for additional medical evacuation capability to transport patients.

Since late April, the SDNG provided about 150 Soldiers and Airmen to support the S.D. Department of Health's Call Center for contact tracing and investigation of COVID-19 positive cases and close contacts.



(Photo by Rapid City Journal)

**Airmen from the 114th Security Forces Squadron and 235th Military Police Company stand ready to support local and state law enforcement during a civil disturbance event near Keystone during the Mount Rushmore, July 3.**

The Guard also provided 45 Soldiers in November to support the S.D. DOH & Office of Emergency Management and the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services with drive-thru COVID-19 testing sites in 10 South Dakota communities. Additional personnel provided support to set up several tents in Rapid City in April for the city's COVID-19 pre-screening area for an emergency homeless shelter, as well as personnel and equipment to deliver and set up 14 tents in Sioux Falls in May to support mass testing of Smithfield Plant employees and family members.

In addition to assisting with the pandemic, the SDNG also provided support to the state and local law enforcement agencies for several civil unrest events. About 180 Soldiers and Airmen provided support for civil unrest response at different times and durations this year. National Guard members responded to protests in Sioux Falls and Rapid City in late March and early April.

SDNG members assisted law enforcement with downtown area security in Sioux Falls and were on standby to respond in Rapid City. National Guard members also remained on state active duty for several weeks and strategically placed around the state to respond if called upon for about a dozen other planned demonstrations in communities throughout the state.

Soldiers and Airmen also responded to the July 3 protest near Keystone ahead of President Donald Trump's visit to the Mount Rushmore fireworks celebration. National Guard members supported law enforcement after a group of demonstrators became unlawful by impeding traffic to the monument and refusing to vacate the road way.

The SDNG Counterdrug program provided support to law enforcement agencies with the purpose of defeating, disrupting, and



(Photo courtesy 730th ASMD)

**Soldiers with the 730th Area Support Medical Company train as part of a Medical Evacuation and Transportation Team in Vermillion in May 2020.**

dismantling drug trafficking organizations in the state. The program played a vital role in addressing drug threats and were part of a team that seized over \$5.5 million worth of illegal drugs. Our counterdrug aviation team provided 50 hours of aerial support to state, local, and federal law enforcement agencies as they combatted the distribution/transportation of illicit drugs into and through South Dakota.

The SDNG responded to several fires in western South Dakota providing aerial water suppression assistance to S.D. Wildland Fire using HH-60M Black Hawk helicopter crews and ground support personnel. The Army Guard responded to the Puzzle Fire on the Rosebud Reservation on Oct. 2 with three helicopters and 18 soldiers to help protect residential property threatened by the fire.

The Army Guard responded to the Gibbons Fire on the Pine Ridge Reservation from Sept. 30 - Oct. 2 with one helicopter and 15 soldiers in support. Flight crews were also on standby and prepared to respond to several fires in the Black Hills in July and September. This included standby support for the Black Elk Fire from July 23-26, the Bear Fire on Sept. 3, and an increase in regional fire severity from Sept. 5-7.

The SDNG provided support to local Emergency Management Services in two separate missions providing aerial hoist and medical evacuation support for injured hikers in the Black Hills National Forest and Badlands National Park. Both missions required the use of HH-60M Black Hawk helicopters to provide aerial extraction of the patients from rugged terrain inaccessible by ground rescue teams.

A SDNG helicopter crew rescued an injured hiker from Mount Baldy in the Black Hills on July 16. Unable to walk from a remote location atop a granite outcropping, the helicopter crew hoisted the woman to safety. Another helicopter crew rescued a man trapped in a crevasse after falling about 100 feet in Badlands National Park on Oct. 10. The SDNG crew provided support after volunteer firefighters were unsuccessful reaching the man with a technical rope and other climbing techniques.

The SDNG continued to support federal requests for personnel and equipment in support of homeland security missions. The Air Guard continued support to NORAD's Airspace Control Alert mission at March Air Reserve Base in California; providing four F-16 Fighting Falcons and pilots who are ready at a moment's notice to protect the country for any type of emergency, from security patrols to acts of terrorism.

The Army Guard provided seven personnel and equipment along the U.S. southern border in support of U.S. Customs and Border Patrol.

The SDNG deployed a LUH-72 Lakota helicopter and crews for up to 90 days to provide support for aerial detection and monitoring along the border. Several Soldiers also provided assistance for administrative and support operations.

The SDNG received numerous awards in 2020 once again distinguishing itself as one of the top National Guard organizations in the nation. The 114th Fighter Wing was the recipient of a Distinguished Flying Unit Plaque, which recognizes the five most outstanding Air National Guard flying units in the nation. This is the ninth time the 114th has received the honor. The 114th Fighter Wing was also the recipient of the U.S. Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. This is the 11th time the 114th FW has received the award for exceptional meritorious service by the U.S. Air Force and Air National Guard.

The 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion received the National Guard Association of the United States' Maj. Gen. Milton A. Reckord Trophy and the Association of the U.S. Army's Gen. Walter T. Kerwin, Jr. Award - as the most outstanding Army National Guard battalion in the nation for achieving the highest standards in training and readiness. This is the second time the 152nd has received these awards.

Company C, 1-189th Aviation Regiment received the NGAUS General John J. Pershing Plaque for marksmanship excellence as the Army National Guard unit attaining the highest figure of merit (highest percentage of assigned members qualified) during annual qualification firing with assigned individual weapons. The 235th Military Police Company received the NGAUS Certificate of Victory for achieving the highest overall figure of merit in the nation in annual qualification with assigned individual weapons.

Spc. Cooper Mueller of the 200th Engineer Company received the U.S. Army Engineer Association's Van Autreve Award that recognizes junior-enlisted personnel contributions and service to U.S. Army



**Spc. Cooper Mueller**



**Master Sgt. Mathieson Smith**

engineers. The award is presented to a Soldier in the U.S. Army, Army Reserve and National Guard for outstanding performance and skill as an Army engineer.

Master Sgt. Mathieson Smith of the 114th Fighter Wing was awarded the NGAUS Valley Forge Cross for Heroism. The award is presented to members of the National Guard who have distinguished themselves by performing acts of heroism that otherwise might not be recognized due to the National Guard's peacetime status.

Sanford Health of South Dakota was one of 15 recipients for the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award in recognition of the organization's exemplary support for its National Guard and Reserve employees.

# SDND 1st Quarter Person of Resilience

By Maj. Sarah Jensen – R3SP Coordinator, Psychological Health & Resiliency Programs



**Sgt. 1st Class Justin Schiferl - SDNG Person of Resiliency**

**T**he South Dakota National Guard Psychological Health Team would like to highlight its Fiscal Year 2021 1st Quarter “Person of Resiliency.” Sgt. 1st Class Justin Schiferl is a full time National Guard Soldier with 22 years of total service and 16 years of AGR time. He has completed four, or as he says 3 and a half, deployments – as his last one was cut short due to cancer. This cancer was a random act of cells gone bad from a wound he acquired during predeployment training. Something that started with a scrape and a simple “ouch” turned into a bump and then biopsies followed by a string of surgeries. By his own words, he is now inches shorter—at least in one leg. He has from day one used humor and light heartedness to share his story. He definitely uses his resiliency skills to stay positive and upbeat. When you meet or talk with Schiferl you can feel the humor

and the good will that he exudes. Through all of this, he has continued to work for the Soldiers of the aviation world as a readiness NCO and is now the South Dakota Army National Guard medical NCOIC, and taking care of the entire state of Soldiers. His goal is to be the first amputee to serve in the South Dakota National Guard. Below is his story, shared by him on the adventure that has left him shorter – but a giant in resiliency and living a holistic, resilient life.

“I was mobilized for a deployment to the Middle East in August of 2018. I was activated for this deployment later than the rest of the unit, so I was sent to Fort Bliss for an expedited mobilization training, which would allow me to catch up with the rest of the unit. One of the tasks I had to complete was rollover training, which went well but I scraped my ankle as I was exiting the trainer.

I completed the training and flew over to meet the unit and begin the deployment. I assumed my assignment and went to work, but my ankle kept hurting. I attributed it to the fact that I was much older than the last time I deployed. Time went along and in November my ankle still hurt. One night I was rubbing my ankle and I noticed a bump. I thought it might just be a little bone chip or something that was causing some irritation, so I went to the aid station the next day and had a doctor look at it.

We did some x-rays and an ultrasound and determined that it did not involve the bone. The doctor recommended that I have it biopsied for a final diagnosis. A couple days later, I received a Red Cross message that required me to return home for a death in the family, so the doctor wrote me a referral to get a biopsy completed while I was stateside.

I flew home at the beginning of December and took care of my family business and got the biopsy before I flew back. I checked in with the lab and my stateside medical provider every couple days hoping to get my results. Finally on January 18, I received my results and the lump was found to be an undetermined round cell cancer.

I was evacuated and sent to Fort Hood to medically out-process from the deployment. In true military fashion, my expedited return to home station was complete on Feb. 1, 2019.

Between the time I received my results and when I finally got home, I lined up appointments at Anschutz Cancer Center in Aurora, Colorado. Two days after I returned home, I was seen by a team of great doctors. They did another biopsy, a bunch of labs and enough images to make me glow. They sent me home for a couple weeks while they came up with a definitive diagnosis and treatment plan.

At the end of February, I went back for a follow up and my medical team told me I had an undetermined Sarcoma. They laid out my treatment plan, which was going to be Monday through Friday for the next month and a half. The plan was to hopefully shrink the tumor to make the surgery less invasive.

I stayed in Aurora (on the northwest corner of Denver) during the week and went home on the weekends. Over the following weeks, I got very familiar with the drive between Rapid City and Denver and completed my treatment.

At the end of May, I returned to the cancer center and underwent a surgery to remove the tumor. It was a couple inches above my left ankle so the surgeon did not have a lot of tissue to work with. He ended up taking a section of the fibula and screwing the ends of the bone to the

tibia. I went home with a large open wound on my leg that they filled with a Microcellular Matrix and placed a wound VAC on it to promote healing.

At home I lived in a recliner with my foot elevated. I returned for several follow ups and the surgeon told me that it would heal slowly due to the radiation damage from the treatments. At some point the lab results came back from the surgery and they determined that my surgery did not obtain clean margins so there were still cancer cells present. Time went along and it didn't really seem to be healing (it was actually getting worse), but I will spare you those gory details.) On July 5th, I returned to see the surgeon's team since he was out of the country. They did not like what they saw, so they had me remain in Aurora until the following Monday when he was scheduled to return.

My father in law brought my wife down to Aurora so we would not end up with an extra vehicle if I could not drive home. The surgeon couldn't see us on Monday and he saw me Tuesday morning. He did not believe that the wound would heal without extensive plastic surgery, and I would not be able to do any treatments with an open wound, so he suggested a below the knee amputation.

That led to one of the toughest calls of my life, I followed his advice and was scheduled to have the amputation in the morning.

All went as well as could be expected, and I was discharged from the hospital on Friday. I returned home (truthfully feeling much better) and returned every couple weeks for follow up appointments. After a month and a half, he released me to the care of my primary physician at home.

I was healing very well with the exception of one small spot on the inside edge of the incision. After a couple months, I saw an orthopedic

surgeon in Rapid City to have the non-healing spot evaluated. He wasn't sure exactly what the spot was, but he said I need to have revision surgery to have the best outcome. So on September 13th I had another surgery and found myself another inch shorter.

This time I healed much better and on November 18th I received a prosthetic. That turned into a lot of physical therapy to learn how to walk on it. At Christmas time I decided that I wasn't going to walk on sticks anymore so I ditched the cane I was using and have been back on two feet since.

Since receiving my prosthetic, I have completed countless hours of physical therapy, however I have had several setbacks. I have lost approximately four months of physical therapy time due to COVID-19 closures, and every time I need new prosthetic parts such as a new sockets, etc.

I feel that without these setbacks I would be further along. I will be able to recover from these setbacks it will just take the time I have missed. My goal is to get back up to full duty, however I may require a little bit more time to get there. In the meantime I am doing everything I can to be an active and contributing member of our team.

I have had quarterly scans since my amputation and I am still cancer free! I am trying to remain on active duty following a medical board's evaluation. I would ultimately like to obtain a 20-year AGR retirement in October 2024.

This is a brief synopsis of my story. My hope is that through my humor and through my dedication to being the best person and Soldier I can be, I can continue to influence change. I desire to maintain my full time status and use my story to help others who are struggling with life struggles."



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**Sgt. Shaun Kuharski** - 605-737-6566  
Drug Testing Coordinator

# 2020 Red Ribbon week poster contest winners

Congratulations to the winners and participants of the 2020 Red Ribbon Week poster contest. Anasten Wollman (10-years old and younger category) and Brady Kroells (11-years old and over category) were this year's winners. The theme for this year's Red Ribbon Week was "Be Happy. Be Brave. Be Drug Free." Thank you to all the participants!

**10-YEARS OLD AND UNDER:**

1st place: Anasten Wollman  
 2nd place: Jamison Myers  
 3rd place: Sawyer Wollman

**11-YEARS OLD AND OVER:**

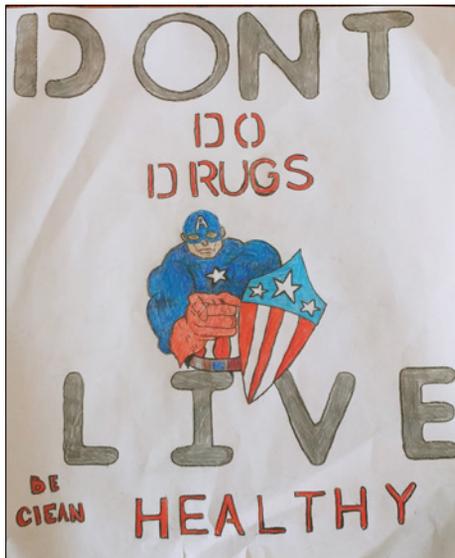
1st place: Brady Kroells  
 2nd place: Samuel Bullis  
 3rd place: Netty Myers

**HONORABLE MENTIONS:**

Kyrie Yeigh  
 Landon Watkins  
 Laila Hodne  
 Luke Sampson  
 Hannah Johnson  
 Madison Sampson



1st Place: Anasten Wollman - 10-Years Old and Younger



1st Place: Brady Kroells - 11-Years Old and Older



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# Do you know the “The Five Love Languages”

By Chaplain, Maj. David Stimes – State Chaplain, Joint Force Headquarters

**S**trong Bonds! Huh...what is that? Is it like gorilla glue that permanently holds things together or puts pieces back the way they were? Well...yah, something like that. Strong Bonds is a chaplain-led and family friendly program that empowers Soldiers and their loved ones with relationship building skills by providing practical, useful information based on a nationally recognized curriculum. Our goal is to fill your relationship toolbox full of tools that will help you succeed at creating, strengthening, and restoring relationships and preserving Guard families. These events are categorized as either singles, couples, or family focused events. We can provide a half-day, full-day, or two-day event for any service member or family member that is listed in DEERS. These events can also be provided as unit functions or family readiness events.

Have you ever bent over backwards to show your love for someone and it seemed like they were from another planet? They just never responded like they were supposed to? Well, we have something just for you. One of our most popular events is “The Five Love Languages; The Secret to Love That Lasts,” developed from the books by Gary Chapman. Through this curriculum we learn that we are missing the mark because we are often trying to speak love to that other person in the wrong language. Our tendency is to show love the way we feel love ourselves. But that isn't always successful because we need to speak the love language of the recipient to make them feel the love. That makes sense doesn't it?

Dr. Chapman spells out five different love languages that people respond to based on their own needs and emotions. Words of Affirmation can prove that actions don't always speak louder than words. They may include unsolicited compliments, encouraging, kind, humble or affirming words that light up our loved one. For others, nothing speaks love better than Quality Time, which is time spent together with your full, undivided attention and no distractions

(like texting or the TV). The third category is Receiving Gifts. The receiver appreciates the love, thoughtfulness, intent and effort put into the gift, which does not have to be expensive. With Acts of Service whatever you willingly do for your loved one that lightens their load will really hit home. Yes, even doing the dishes! The last love language is Physical Touch. It's much more than what you are likely thinking, including appropriate hugs, pats on the back, thoughtful touches when needed, or holding hands.

The goal is to learn your loved one's language and speak to them the way that is most effective to them. So if you have been buying someone gifts because you feel loved when you receive gifts, but they have seemed unresponsive, you now know why. Maybe a few compliments or some uninterrupted time with them will make all the difference. The key is to do your part first. Then wait and see the blessings that will come your way. Now it's time to give this a test drive. It won't take long for your love tank to register full! – Blessings to you from your state chaplain.





**2021 APRIL** IS THE  
MONTH OF THE  
MILITARY  
**CHILD**

**WEAR  
PURPLE  
APRIL 16th**

April is a time to recognize and thank our military children and youth for their contributions, strength and service.

There are over 6,400 military youth in South Dakota.

Join us in celebrating them!

Show your support and wear Purple! Join the SDNG Child & Youth Program and communities nationwide in honoring our military youth.

Wear purple on Friday, April 16th, for Purple Up for Military Kids Day in South Dakota.

Purple is the color that symbolizes all branches of the Military.

Help us to create a "sea of purple" as a visible salute to our military youth.



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