

Suriname military leaders receive new outlook on training

By Sgt. Charles Butler
SDNG Public Affairs

The South Dakota National Guard welcomed leaders of the Suriname military as part of the South Dakota-Suriname State Partnership Program this week. Suriname military leaders from the Army, Navy and Air Force came to observe the Golden Coyote training exercise held in Rapid City and the southern Black Hills.

Suriname is one of six foreign nations participating in this year's Golden Coyote.

Service chiefs from the Suriname military included; Lt. Col. Marino Acton, Suriname Navy commander, Lt. Col. Robert Kartodikromo, Suriname Air Force commander, and Maj. Richardo Breinburg, Army staff battalion commander, traveled to South Dakota to observe training operations.

The Suriname dignitaries are here on a week-long Subject Matter Expert Exchange to observe training operations, leadership tactics and the different capabilities the South Dakota National Guard has to offer, said Lt. Col. John Weber, South Dakota-Suriname State Partnership Program director.

"These visits are important for them to see the different types of training we conduct," said Weber. "This way they can determine what is going to best suit them in training their units."

The Suriname dignitaries were able to view and participate in some training exercises on West Camp Rapid. They took part in the Leader Reaction Course, where soldiers are tasked to accomplish goals that require the use of team work. The Suriname leaders observed the military operations on urban terrain training, where soldiers are put

into scenarios they may encounter in a deployed situation.

The Suriname dignitaries also had the chance to operate the Virtual Convoy Operation Trainer, where soldiers simulate combat convoys in realistic conditions in a combat zone.

"Our goal is to set-up lasting relationships. We want them to be able to ask us for the help in setting-up different types of training," said Weber. "Anytime one of our soldiers gets a chance to work with the Suriname military it's a valuable lesson in working with other cultures and how other countries operate."

The simulators that the South Dakota National Guard uses could benefit our troops greatly, said Breinburg.

"We are seeing training that will be useful to take back to our country," he said. "It will be easy to take back with the help of the Guard."

The State Partnership Program is a 20-year-old program that includes 65 nations who partner with the 54 National Guard states and territories. The partnership of South Dakota and Suriname was established in 2006 and has been growing ever since with several visits a year.

"Senior leaders visit yearly to ensure that everyone continues to stay engaged in our partnership," said Weber. "We want them to start thinking of ways that they would like to see us help them in their operations and training."

Similarities between the two partners makes the relationship beneficial because they can use and share ideas that will work well for each other. South Dakota was chosen to partner with Suriname because of their similarities in population size, land mass, agricultural based economies and lack of significant language barriers.

Suriname, SD Guard exchange police techniques at Golden Coyote

By Sgt. Charles Butler
SDNG Public Affairs

The South Dakota Army National Guard's 235th Military Police Company, of Rapid City, worked alongside Suriname Army military police on a Subject Matter Expert Exchange, or SMEE, June 14 at the Range Road armory.

The SMEE is part of the South Dakota-Suriname State Partnership Program, where the two entities exchanged ideas on police tactics and techniques. The SMEE was held in conjunction with this year's Golden Coyote exercise. Suriname is one of six foreign nations participating in this year's Golden Coyote.

The soldiers discussed investigation techniques, restraint tactics, riot and crowd control and vehicle searches. The Suriname soldiers also met with investigators from Rapid City Police Department on different types of tactics they use.

Sgt. Boyd Reiwintz, of Mitchell, a member of the 235th, worked directly with the soldiers from Suriname. This was the second time Reiwintz participated in the SMEE. Reiwintz traveled to Suriname last summer with a

squad from the 235th and spent two weeks working with the Suriname military police.

"It was just as rewarding visiting with the soldiers down in Suriname as it was here," said Reiwintz. "They were very receptive to the new techniques and then they would show how they preformed similar techniques."

The Suriname police are members of a 200-soldier unit and are an active police force in Suriname.

"It was interesting to learn how their military police units operate compared to how our units run," said Reiwintz.

Suriname and the SDNG have been exchanging ideas and developing a partnership since 2006 when the SPP was officially established between the two entities.

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State Historical Society celebrates 150th anniversary of Homestead Act

The year 2012 marks the 150th anniversary of the Homestead Act, and the South Dakota State Historical Society is commemorating the event with three displays in the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre.

A display case in the lobby of the center has items from the State Historical Society-Archives, including photographs of homesteaders, a homestead certificate, a homestead register book, and maps showing the lands open to settlement. There is also a case featuring homesteading-related books in the archives research room. The displays will be up through mid-November.

The center's education room contains "The Homestead Series," an exhibit of 12 watercolor paintings by Midwest artist Judy Thompson depicting the homesteading movement and life

on the prairie in the 1860s. This exhibit runs through Sept. 9.

The Homestead Act was signed by President Abraham Lincoln in 1862 and made public domain land available to private citizens. Adults 21 years of age and over could claim 160 acres of land. After five years of living on the land and making improvements, a homesteader could "prove up" and take legal possession of the land. The total fee for the land was \$18, but the time and effort put forth by the homesteaders was arduous. The Homestead Act remained in effect until 1976, affecting 30 states.

The museum in the Cultural Heritage Center is open 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m. CDT Monday through Saturday and 1-4:30 p.m. Sundays and most holidays. Call (605) 773-3458 for more information or visit www.history.sd.gov/Museum.

Soldier returns home to deliver humanitarian aid

By Sgt. Charles Butler
SDNG Public Affairs

When Sgt. Marcus Martin joined the South Dakota Army National Guard; he knew he was signing up to support his state and nation. What he didn't know, is he would one day provide support to his hometown community of Wanblee.

The mission: to deliver humanitarian aid in the form of timber to be used by his local Native American community for heating and ceremonial purposes.

Martin, a truck driver with the 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion from Pierre, grew up in Wanblee and got his first chance to directly help his hometown community as a part of the Golden Coyote training exercise's timber-haul mission – a joint operation with the National Guard, National Forest Service and Custer State Park.

The reception to come home in uniform was heartwarming, said Martin.

"This community has made a huge impact on my development as an individual and as a soldier," said Martin. "I am glad to

come back to this community and show my support and give back to them for all the love they have showed me over the years."

Wanblee is just one of 10 timber drop-off points on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. 152nd CSSB provides the command and control of the mission with the help of the 2113th Transportation Company from Paducah, KY, which transports the timber. The goal of the timber-haul mission is to haul 97 loads of timber with the goal of 450-500 cords delivered to the ten sites.

Martin said it was a great mission that the Guard is conducting with the timber hauls.

"This is a huge blessing for the community," said Martin. "It is hard for the elderly to find enough fire wood to get them through the winter months."

Wanblee is in the Eagle Nest district, one of nine districts of the Oglala Sioux Tribe on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

Kim Conroy, a local resident, said that she was glad to see Martin back in the community.

"We are very proud of Marcus, he is one

of the few that took the initiative to get out and join the military from our community," said Conroy. "It is always a great honor to see a young man come home and take pride in where he comes from."

The timber is hauled in on military semi-trucks and off-loaded near the community's center, so it is easily accessible for the whole district.

"We really appreciate the wood. Our community uses the wood for fences and burning at our traditional ceremonies as well as heating," Conroy said. "It saves the few trees we have in the area and its good commotion for the kids to see the big military trucks come into town."

Marian White Mouse, a local resident, said she was also glad to see Martin and the Guard bring timber into the community.

"It is such a big honor for us to have Marcus come back to our community," said White Mouse. "It means a lot to people around here that still burn wood for heating their homes. We don't have much timber around here that we can readily get access too."

Soldiers improve Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup corral

By Spc. Manda Walters
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CUSTER STATE PARK – Soldiers of the U.S. Army Reserve's 486th Engineer Company, of Southfield, Mich., completed renovations at the Custer State Park buffalo corral complex, as part of a Golden Coyote infrastructure project June 17.

The 28th annual Golden Coyote exercise provides relevant training opportunities for active-duty military, National Guard, and Reserve units. The Reservists used military occupational specialties to engineer multiple projects at the site to include: demolishing old fencing, trenching 800 feet of earth, installing electrical components and fixtures, emplacing water lines and installing freeze-proof hydrants and geothermal waterers.

"This is the first year the buffalo corral has been on the Golden Coyote project list," said Jayme Sevryn, who has worked as the Custer State Park Golden Coyote project liaison for the past five years. "The work of these service

members will make the buffalo roundup more efficient this year."

The buffalo roundup is an annual fall event at the park that herds approximately 1,300 buffalo into corrals. The corral is a holding pen for animals during veterinary checks and auctions.

"Until now, the water had to be hand carried in buckets to the corral," said Sevryn. "The water line the engineers put in makes it easier to get the water to the animals."

The 16 to 22 engineers who were on-site daily completed the water line and other projects during the four-day mission at the corral.

"Mission failure was not an option," said 1st Lt. Brian Jutila, the 486th officer-in-charge of the buffalo corral worksite. "These dedicated Soldiers take tremendous pride in their work. They spent countless hours here at the buffalo corral complex, even after evening release, to make sure this project was on time and finished."

Jutila said the dedication of these Soldiers, combined with the U.S. Army's established standards in military decision making processes, positive risk

management and closed-loop learning process, contributed to the success of the project.

"The closed-loop learning process helps us to identify solutions to problems that arise at the worksite," said Jutila.

At the buffalo corral worksite, the Soldiers met the obstacle of finding a water main and had a chance to utilize the closed-loop learning process.

"We added numerous unplanned man-hours to search for an existing water line," said Jutila. The 486th has learned from the challenge.

"Using the closed-loop learning process we identified a solution to the problem of

finding a water main," said Jutila. "We brainstormed and came up with the idea that we could use ground- penetrating sonar if we confront a similar problem on future missions."

The Golden Coyote exercise has improved the unit's mission readiness by providing hands-on experience and opportunities for Soldiers to brainstorm and find solutions, said Jutila.

The platoon of engineers, comprised of 39 members, finished the project while also alternating Soldiers through combat training lanes.

Park visitors can see the work of the 486th in use this year at the Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup scheduled for Sept. 24.

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