

Golden Coyote introduces man-to-man contact skills

By Spc. Manda Walters
129th Mobile Public Affairs
Detachment

Twenty-four U.S. Navy and Army personnel hit the mats during a Modern Army Combatives Program introduction class

at South Dakota National Guard's Range Road armory in Rapid City June 12.

The class, part of the 2012 Golden Coyote exercise, a premier training venue for National Guard, Reserve and active-duty

military, is a refresher for Soldiers who require annual training in the React to Man-to-Man Contact warrior task. However for the Navy hospitalists, many are seeing and practicing these drills for the first time.

"This type of training is not readily available to Navy medical personnel," said Navy Lt. Markel Zatarain, of San Antonio, TX, an environmental health officer with Expeditionary Medical Facility Dallas,

Detachment N, Medical Service Corp. "This training could make the difference between preservation of self and troops when deployed or mobilized."

The training, based upon the Army Combatives Field Manual, is a program adapted from Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. The course is made up of three main moves or drills that prepare service members to face an unarmed threatening adversary with the goal of gaining dominant body position and ending the conflict.

"If you are on the battlefield and someone knocks you down, these moves will get you out and on top of the situation," said Sgt. 1st Class Mike Huitema, state combatives instructor and 3rd degree Jiu-Jitsu brown belt. "The technique lends itself to maintaining the Warrior Ethos to place the mission first, never accept defeat and never quit or leave a fallen comrade."

Huitema said the instructors keep their skills sharp by training themselves year round, making them better qualified and trained to pass on these techniques and ethos to participants.

Throughout the four-hour class, lead instructor and SDNG's Joint Force Headquarter's mobilization planner, Maj. Greg Darlow, demonstrates the Escape the Mount Arm Trap and Roll (Drill 1), Escape the Mount Shrimp to Guard (Drill 2), and Perform the Arm Push and Roll the

Mount (Drill 3) in slow, step-by-step fashion while providing verbal instruction.

"It's like cooking," said Darlow. "You really have to see the move to know what it is about. Once you see the mount arm trap and roll move, you know what it means and seeing the demonstration makes it easier to try it on your own."

Zatarain appreciates Darlow's teaching style.

"Darlow and the other instructors assist each group without judgment and give only encouragement. This really makes it a positive learning environment," said Zatarain.

"By the end of the four-hour block, they will be using techniques they learned to try to submit their opponent rather than just muscle them," said Darlow.

Darlow says this is gratifying because in his daily work he prepares units for mobilizations abroad and he recognizes the importance of making sure service members prepare for whatever conflicts may arise during deployment.

"I get to see what it does for them on an individual basis and how it helps them get ready to mobilize," said Darlow.

There are 18 iterations of the Modern Army Combatives Program introduction class. The course trains more than 400 service members during the Golden Coyote training exercise.

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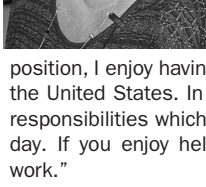
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Suriname, SD Guard exchange police techniques at Golden Coyote

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 nation's 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 Reiwnitz, of Mitchell, a member of the 235th, worked directly with the soldiers from Suriname. This was the second time Reiwnitz participated in the SMEE. Reiwnitz 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 Reiwnitz. "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 Reiwnitz.

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

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.

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