

SDNG members empower females at leadership symposium

By Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen
SDNG Public Affairs

PARAMARIBO, Suriname – Members of the South Dakota National Guard participated in a multinational leadership symposium this week for women serving in the armed forces in the South American capital city of Paramaribo, Suriname.

The three-day event, May 12-14, was filled with guest speakers, instructional workshops and activities designed to help share knowledge and build friendships among 250 women from the Republic of Suriname, Curacao and the United States. The symposium, hosted by Suriname, was conducted as a part of the State Partnership Program with the SDNG.

Speakers at the event included doctors, educators and military leaders to include the SDNG's Lt. Col. Renel Hall-Beck, of Sturgis, who spoke to empower women who are striving to be the best leaders in their organization.

"In my opinion, women are already leaders," said Hall-Beck. "They just don't give themselves credit for it. Women are constantly juggling life's challenges by being mothers, community leaders, plus having a career."

Hall-Beck told the women a leader is someone with a goal who works hard to achieve that goal and someone who is prepared, professional and confident. Her speech resonated with Wendy, a sergeant from the Suriname Police Corps.



South Dakota Army National Guard Lt. Col. Renel Hall-Beck, of Sturgis, (left) Suriname Soldier Sld. B. Misiedjan and Commissioner for the Suriname Police Corps K. Mathoera answer questions about leadership during a panel discussion at a multinational leadership symposium for women in the armed forces of Suriname, Curacao and the United States in Paramaribo, Suriname, May 12.

(U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen)

"I have a hard time keeping my goals," she said. "Hall-Beck said to focus on your main goal and don't get discouraged, no matter what. Just go for it."

"Being in Suriname to deliver a speech to all of these motivated and excited women is powerful," said Hall-Beck. "It is rewarding to know the knowledge I am passing on will help the women at this symposium with their career."

Army Maj. Kathy Dirk, SDNG state partnership program coordinator, said this event is impressive.

"I have traveled to Suriname for several events, but none of them have been to this magnitude of planning and execution by both the Suriname event planners and the Ministry of Defense," said Dirk. "You can tell how important this event is

to Suriname by how detailed and professional everything is from the speakers, posters, event program to the final agenda. We are hoping to continue with events of this caliber in the future."

In addition to Hall-Beck's speech, she and SD Air National Guard Lt. Col. Mary Rysavy, of Sioux Falls, commander of the 114th Fighter Wing Logistics

Readiness Squadron, served as board members during a mentor interview break-out session.

A group of four to five women had two minutes to ask a question related to leadership; from time management to goal setting, before rotating to the next mentor.

"A lot of the women were interested in how to manage time in order to balance personal and military commitments," said Rysavy. "The best advice I could give them is to establish their priorities and develop a strong support system to help manage both their personal and professional life."

Many of the women asked about how to be equal to their male counterparts, said Rysavy.

"I told them at the end of the day you have to be the best person you can be," said Rysavy. "It's going to come down to not competing against the men but competing against yourself, to become better than who you were yesterday."

The interview session became a learning experience for the mentors too.

"I learned that South American women – and those of us from North America – have the same challenges," said Hall-Beck. "Whether that is balancing family and career, time management issues, or desire for promotion, there are many commonalities. We arrived in Suriname with the intent of sharing our experience, but we are leaving with more knowledge, hope and optimism for the future."

FOR THE RECORD

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Elizabeth Szymanski, 514 S. Norbeck, Vermillion; Fail to stop for emergency vehicle, \$54.00 plus costs

Brittany Dilts, 441 Cottage Ave., Vermillion; Prohibition of use of electronic message, \$54.00 plus costs

Raymond Lee Schoeberl, 509 N. French Ave., Sioux Falls; Seat belt violation, \$25.00

Michael Joseph McGill, 511 W. Oak Street, Beresford; Speeding on a state highway, \$39.00 plus costs

Kelsey Jo Keegan, 4806 SD Highway 314, Yankton; Speed on four-lane in rural areas, \$59.00 plus costs

Emilee Marie Casperson, 29439 469th Ave., Beresford; Speed on four-lane in rural areas, \$39.00 plus costs

Laura R. Archambeau, 30535 University Road, Centerville; Seat belt violation, \$25.00

Jason Curtis Feit, 2105 Mariana Dr., Sioux Falls; Open container, \$54.00 plus costs

Susan Brandow, 306 W. 2nd St., Laurel, NE; Speeding on other roadways, \$59.00 plus costs

Janel Lynn Frank, 305 South 4th St., Beresford; Speeding on a state highway, \$39.00 plus costs

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Andrew L. Kohl, 311 Slant Street, Wakonda; County speeding, \$45.00 plus costs

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Braiden T. Tucker, 1000 Lincoln Street, Vermillion; Fail to use child passenger restraint system, \$25.00

Tasha Renae Paulson, 200 Elm #201, Vermillion; Seat belt violation, \$25.00

Jacinda J. Maaseen, 120 W. Dartmouth, Vermillion; Speeding on other roadways, \$19.00 plus costs

Jenna Elizabeth Betlaf, 124 N. Willow, Vermillion; Failure to stop, \$54.00 plus costs

Jacquelyn Dawn Choate, 6813 E. Limestone Cir., Sioux Falls; Speeding on a state highway, \$19.00 plus costs

Jose Antonio Lopez-Gonzalez, 1137 Gateway Ave., Ft. Morgan, CO; Speeding on a state highway, \$19.00 plus costs

Donald P. Neukirch, 2302 Burleigh, Yankton; Speeding on a state highway, \$39.00 plus costs

Vanessa Maureen Carlson, 45621 306th Street, Wakonda; County speeding, \$45.00 plus costs

Joseph McNally, 625 West Timber Road, Dakota Dunes; Speeding on other roadways, \$39.00 plus costs

Mikayla M. Knudson, 720 Florida St., Centerville; Speeding on a state highway, \$39.00 plus costs

Brian Douglas Melchert, 47401 Cardinal Pl., Harrisburg; Speeding on a state highway, \$39.00 plus costs

Joshua Isaias Zmbrano, 1119 N. Lincoln Ave., Sioux Falls; Speeding on a state highway, \$39.00 plus costs

Donald Cole Nelson, 118 Prospect, Vermillion; Renewal registration during assigned month, \$54.00 plus costs

Gerald G. Voeks, 510 1/2 6th Street, Yankton; Failure to make proper stop at stop intersection, \$54.00 plus costs; Seat belt violation, \$25.00

Brenden Lee Hower, 12 S. Walker St., Vermillion; Exhibition driving, \$54.00 plus costs

Linda Kaye Lindsey, 7709 W. Emily, Sioux Falls;

Speeding on a state highway, \$79.00 plus costs

Jason Cody Thomas, 3900 S. Southeastern #210, Sioux Falls; Municipal speeding, \$19.00 plus costs

Warren Berger, 203 18th St. NE, Watertown; Unsafe/illegal backing, \$54.00 plus costs

Ashley Lynn Gylfe, 47408 317th Street, Elk Point; Prohibition of use of electronic message, \$54.00 plus costs

Renee Elizabeth Bracey, 1020 Cornell #202,

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