



South Dakota Department of the Military
 South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



INTERAGENCY MEDEVAC TRAINING EARNS REGIONAL AWARD

The Great Plains Interagency Dispatch Center was awarded a 2014 Regional Forester Honor Award presented by the Rocky Mountain Region of the U.S. Forest Service in Denver on Tuesday, April 21, for excellence in medical evacuation training.

The award was presented to the Great Plains Interagency Medevac Training Group for outstanding achievement in planning and training for medevac preparedness during fires and other emergencies in order to provide increased coordination between agency employees and partners.

Agency partners include the Black Hills and Nebraska National Forests, Great Plains Dispatch, South Dakota Wildland Fire, South Dakota National Guard and Black Hills Life Flight.

The honor was earned in the safety category of the Forester's awards, which are presented annually by the U.S. Forest Service. The Forester awards recognize partner organizations and employees who significantly contribute to the U.S. Forest Service mission to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

The GPIDC, along with other forest personnel and partners, first developed the medevac training session in the spring of 2011, and it's been conducted annually ever since.

The training program includes how to coordinate medical emergencies, hands-on demonstrations of patient packaging and extraction techniques, patient assessment, radio frequency management, familiarization with the GPIDC medevac plan and hands-on training with helicopters from the Black Hills National Forest, South Dakota National Guard and Black Hills Life Flight.

About 30 participants took part in the initial year of training. By 2014, participation has grown to nearly 200 participants from multiple federal, state and private agencies. Participants include firefighters, wilderness crews, park service rangers, frontliners, aviation personnel and dispatchers, among others.

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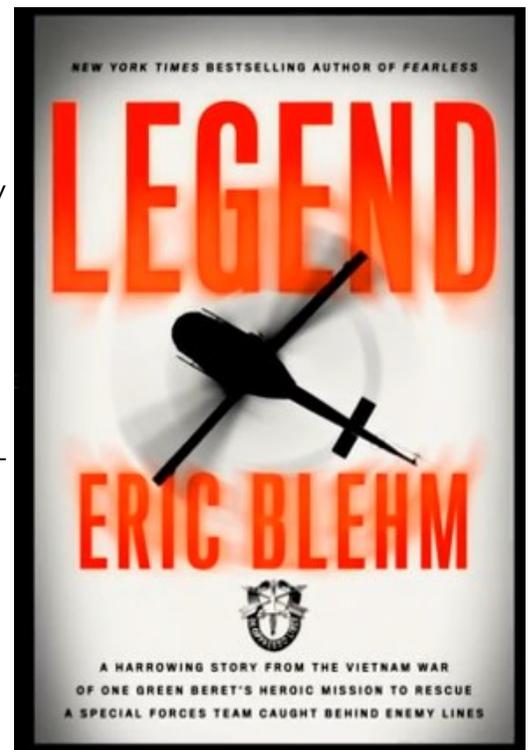
LEGEND

LEGEND tells the story of the U.S. Army's 240th Assault Helicopter Company and Green Beret Staff Sergeant Roy Benavidez, who risked everything to rescue a Special Forces team trapped behind enemy lines in Cambodia on May 2, 1968.

LEGEND's author, Eric Blehm, was born in 1968, and by the time he entered high school the Vietnam War was only covered by a few paragraphs in the U.S. history book.

decades later, he wanted to introduce some of those who served—as well as a more comprehensive history of the Vietnam War—to the current generation of military readers, doing his part to preserve a story that would otherwise be forever lost. The single mission covered in LEGEND is a microcosm of the war as a whole—the good, the bad, and the ugly—from the perspective of the men who were there, both those on the ground and in the air, a brotherhood that is rarely explored.

LEGEND releases on April 28, 2015. You can view a two-minute trailer for LEGEND at www.youtube.com/watch?v=kzOKOOolsCo.



SD GUARD VOLUNTEERS ORGANIZING COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVE

Volunteer members of the South Dakota National Guard are organizing a food drive to benefit needy individuals located in the communities in which they serve.

Members of the public who would like to help donate items are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to any Army National Guard armory in South Dakota or to the Air National Guard base in Sioux Falls from now until June 8.

The food drive is not limited to only volunteer members of the Guard, but is intended as a community activity. Food items will be delivered to various social service organizations and food banks during the SDNG's Golden Coyote training exercise June 8-20.

This is the second year volunteers have organized a food drive to benefit people in need. Last year's drive focused on supporting some of the poorest counties in the United States – on South Dakota's Native American reservations. This year's drive is being expanded to include more communities across the state.

The all-volunteer effort to collect non-perishable food items, while not an official function of the National Guard, is a welcome adjunct activity showcasing volunteers' commitment to serve some of South Dakota's most needy people.

A complete list of armory locations to donate non-perishable food items can be found on page three.. For more information, please contact the local National Guard unit in your community or contact Lt. Col. Lynn Wilson at (605) 737-6009 or Staff Sgt. Jenna Watkins at (605) 737-6658.

<p>Aberdeen Armory 115 South Roosevelt Street Aberdeen, SD 57401 605-626-2270</p> <p>Belle Fourche Armory 1202 Lawrence Street Belle Fourche, SD 57717 605-892-4346</p> <p>Brookings Readiness Center 300 5th Street South Brookings, SD 57006 605-696-5400</p> <p>Chamberlain Armory 202 East Kellam Street Chamberlain, SD 57325 605-734-5441</p> <p>De Smet Armory 403 3rd Street Southwest De Smet, SD 57231 605-854-3762</p> <p>Flandreau Armory 710 West Community Drive Flandreau, SD 57028 605-997-2661</p> <p>Fort Meade 54 Sheridan Road, Bldg. 60 Fort Meade, SD 57741 605-737-6456</p> <p>Huron Armory 1030 3rd Street Southwest Huron, SD 57350 605-352-0200</p> <p>Madison Armory 1302 N. Washington Ave. Madison, SD 57042 605-256-5287</p>	<p>Milbank Armory 1001 East Park Avenue Milbank, SD 57252 605-432-4671</p> <p>Mitchell Armory 5501 Airport Road Mitchell, SD 57301 605- 995-1642</p> <p>Mobridge Armory 1014 Airport Road Mobridge, SD 57601 605-845-2301</p> <p>Parkston Armory 102B South Chapman Drive Parkston, SD 57366 605-928-3420</p> <p>Pierre Armory 3440 East Highway 34 Pierre, SD 57501 605-773-3449</p> <p>Rapid City – Camp Rapid 2823 West Main Street Rapid City, SD 57702 605-737-6200</p> <p>Rapid City–Range Road Ar- mory 3740 Range Road Rapid City, SD 57702 605-737-6322</p> <p>Sioux Falls Armory 801 West National Guard Drive Sioux Falls, SD 57104 605-357-2973</p> <p>Sioux Falls – Joe Foss Field 1201 West Algonquian Street Sioux Falls, SD 57104 605-988-5700</p>	<p>Spearfish Armory 1200 University Street Spearfish, SD 57783 605-642-6121</p> <p>Sturgis Armory 12930 Highway 34 East Sturgis, SD 57785 605-737-6400</p> <p>Vermillion Armory 603 Princeton Street Vermillion, SD 57069 605-677-6787</p> <p>Wagner Armory 600 East Highway 46 Wagner, SD 57380 605-384-3657</p> <p>Watertown Readiness Center 1951 N. Hwy 20 Watertown, SD 57201 605-882-9327</p> <p>Yankton Armory 204 West 31st Street Yankton, SD 57078 605-688-3045</p>
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SIoux FALLS TO HOST AGENT ORANGE TOWN HALL FORUM



Vietnam Veterans of America Post 959 of Sioux Falls will be hosting an Agent Orange Town Hall Forum on Saturday, May 23, in Sioux Falls.

The forum will be held at Disabled American Veterans Chapter 1 office from 9:00 am—3:00 pm.

For more information contact Duane Tewinkel at 605-254-8067 or email him at ourvets@yahoo.com.

HAPPENINGS AT THE STATE VETERANS HOME

Residents at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice Veterans Home have been enjoying the warmer weather and have already been to the lake to do some fishing, as well as have a picnic.

The gardeners are getting the itch to get their flowers and produce planted.

Of course, this warm weather affords everyone the opportunity to travel for lunches at the Winners Circle, Dairy Queen and the Pizza Hut.

Some of the residents took a tour of Wind Cave and some of the residents went on a road trip to Cabelas and some toured Ellsworth Air Force Museum.

The residents have also been sharing their singing skills with a little in-house karaoke.



If you're coming to Hot Springs, pack along your fishing pole, some night crawlers, and the sun screen, as the pontoon is always going out and there are many stories to be told or created!!!!



Photo Courtesy of Hailey LaMont (Hot Springs Star)

Ninth Annual

**★ Greg Wagner
★ Memorial Event**

**★ Saturday May 23, 2015
★ Football Complex, Alexandria SD**

Walk/Run

Registration: 9:00 am - 10:00 am

Starts: 10:00 am

Early Bird Registration - \$30.00 - 5K/10K Walk/Run includes a Meal,
T-shirt and free admittance into the Alex Angels Amateur Baseball Game.
After May 1st Registration - \$35.00 - 5K/10K Walk/Run includes a Meal.

Memorial Ride

Registration: 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Starts: 1:00 pm

Early Bird Registration - \$30.00 - Memorial Ride includes a Meal,
T-shirt and free admittance into the Alex Angels Amateur Baseball Game.
After May 1st Registration - \$35.00 - Ride also includes a meal.

Alex Angels Amateur Baseball Game

Starts: 6:00 pm

Admittance - \$5.00

All Day Package

Early Bird Registration - \$50.00 includes a Meal, T-Shirt and free
admittance into the Alex Angels Amateur Baseball Game.

After May 1st Registration - \$60.00 includes a meal.

Early Bird Registration ends 5-1-15.

Registration Forms can be picked up at
Campbells Supply, Mitchell Rec and Westown Sinclair.
or go on line to register at allsportcentral.com

Proceeds will go to
Military Veterans Organizations and the Alex Amateur Baseball Program.

If you would like to be a Sponsor or
like more information please call 605-770-5730.

Visit us on www.facebook.com/gregwagnermemorial

*Angels on Earth
walking for heroes in Heaven*

HONOR FLIGHT REUNION

The Friends of Honor Flight South Dakota invite the public to a special event at Veterans Memorial Park on June 14.

The event will include the annual Flag Day celebration and also will recognize the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II and the 40th anniversary of the Vietnam War's ending.

Special recognition will be given to WWII and Vietnam War veterans. The Friends of Honor Flight South Dakota invite all WWII veterans and their families who participated in the Honor Flight program to join them for a reunion. All Honor Flight guardians also may attend. A special presentation recognizing Honor Flight will be included in the program.

The program will begin at 10 a.m. and will include a keynote speaker, patriotic music, dignitaries and WWII aircraft flyover. The event will also include WWII vehicle and veteran related displays.

Following the event, WWII aircraft will be on display and available for ground tours and purchased rides at the Sioux Falls Regional Airport, Maverick Air Center, 4201 N. Maverick Place. The Commemorative Air Force (CAF) Airbase Arizona will be flying in its B-25J WWII bomber, "Maid in the Shade." The local CAF squadron the Joe Foss Squadron, will have its 1944 Stinson L-5B on display. Both aircraft are true WWII veterans. The B-25 flew missions in Italy during the war, and the L-5B flew liaison missions in Germany until WWII's end.



SIoux FALLS TO BE PART OF WOUNDED WARRIORS TOUR

Wounded Warriors Family Support's High Five Tour 2015, themed "Mobility is Freedom," will unite communities around the country for a common mission — thanking the nation's military families. It will visit Sioux Falls from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday July 8 at Sioux Falls Ford, 4101 W. 41st St. The High Five Tour 2015 will be unique from its previous five tours. Through Aug. 1, the High Five Tour's two mobility-equipped vehicles

— a 2015 Ford Explorer and 2015 Ford F-150 — will visit 65 cities across 48 states in this street-level engagement, rallying communities to show appreciation and support to military families for their sacrifices.

The red, white and blue vehicles will travel more than 27,000 miles, making stops at

car dealerships, community events, veterans' organizations, military bases and race tracks. Americans may show their support for military families by visiting a stop on the tour and signing a vehicle with a message of gratitude to veterans and their families. The tour's mission also is to raise funds to support Wounded Warriors Family Support's new "Mobility is Freedom" program. The program aims to enhance the freedom and independence of combat wounded veterans by providing grants to purchase Ford vehicles adapted to suit their unique needs.



EMPLOYERS RECEIVE UNIQUE LOOK INTO AIR GUARD TRAINING

The South Dakota Air National Guard's 114th Fighter Wing and South Dakota Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve invited about 20 employers and civic leaders on a "Boss Lift" air refueling mission that departed from Joe Foss Field, April 11.

The employers nominated by their Air Guard employees, boarded two KC-135 Stratotankers assigned to the 185th Air Refueling Wing, of Sioux City, Iowa, and witnessed three 114th F-16 Fighting Falcon jets conduct an air refueling training mission.

The ESGR Boss Lift program is intended to gain and maintain support from all public and private employers of Reserve component members by providing insight into their employee's military duty.

Each employer was invited to the boom operator's bay on the aircraft to observe the refueling action up close. The Boss Lift provides employers an opportunity to see first-hand what citizen-Airmen experience while away from work to attend military training or activated for a federal or state mission.

Col. Russ Walz, 114th commander, briefed the employers about the 114th and the South Dakota Air National Guard and spoke about a variety of topics to include: mission accomplishment, deployments, readiness, recent awards and economic impacts. Walz explained how the 114th provides coverage to protect the homeland 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and 365 days a year and expressed his thanks to the employers for their support of this mission.

Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general for the SDNG, briefed the group about the history of the South Dakota National Guard and emphasized how much he values the employers' support of service members. "We rely greatly on our traditional Guardsman and Reservists and without your support we wouldn't be able to do our jobs," said Reisch. "The role you play is certainly a direct role in the defense of this nation."

Almost half of the nation's military strength resides in the National Guard and Reserve making them an essential part of the military. The link between members of the National Guard and Reserve and their civilian employers led to the creation of ESGR.

The ESGR representatives also explained the mission of ESGR, which is to develop and promote employer support for Guard and Reserve service by advocating relevant initiatives, recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of applicable laws, and resolving conflict between employers and service members.

The employers concluded the day by signing the ESGR "Statement of Support," which is the cornerstone of ESGR's efforts to gain and maintain employer support and is intended to 'open the door' to develop employers as advocates for their employees participation in the National Guard and Reserve.



Upcoming Events

Apr 24—ISVCSF Conference—Yankton
May 1-3—DAV Convention—Sioux Falls Holiday Inn City Centre
May 5—SDDVA Mini Conference—Sturgis (Veterans Club—868 Main Street) —10:00 am (MT)
May 6—SDDVA Mini Conference—Pierre (Post 8 American Legion—520 S. Pierre Street) —10:00 am
May 7—SDDVA Mini Conference—Sioux Falls (VA Regional Office) —9:00 am
May 23—VVA Chapter 959 Agent Orange Town Hall Forum—DAV Chapter 1 House—9:00 am—3:00 pm
May 23—9th Annual Greg Wagner Memorial Event—Alexandria—9:00 am
Jun. 14—Honor Flight SD Reunion—Sioux Falls Memorial Park—10:00 am
Jun. 18-21—VFW State Convention—Yankton, SD
Jun. 24—Black Hills Job Fair—Western Dakota Tech—Rapid City—12:30—5:00 pm (MT)
Jun.. 25-28—American Legion 97th Annual State Convention—Huron Crossroads Convention Center
Jul. 6—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)
Jul. 8—Wounded Warriors High Five Tour—Sioux Falls Ford—5:00 pm
Aug. 5-9—AVTT Traveling Vietnam Wall Comes to Sioux Falls (Sanford Pentagon Sports Complex)
Aug. 24-27—SDDVA Annual Benefit School—Ramkota—Pierre
Sept. 18—POW-MIA Ceremony—Sioux Falls
Oct. 9—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)

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