



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



PHILIP BABEL CELEBRATES 100TH BIRTHDAY

Family and friends gathered yesterday in Hot Springs at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice Veterans Home to help Philip Babel celebrate his 100th birthday.

SDDVA Secretary Larry Zimmerman attended the celebration and presented Philp with a proclamation from Governor Daugaard. The Governor proclaimed July 29th as "Philip Babel Day in South Dakota."

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"Birthdays commemorate the first day of our lives, and we celebrate the birthdays of those we love, as we recognize the joys and sorrows we have shared, the strength we have gained from the obstacles and hardships we have conquered, and the small daily pleasures life offers," said Gov. Daugaard.

"Philip represents all that was exceptional," said Daugaard. "He was raised during challenging times and lived through the Great Depression. He served valiantly to defend

the freedoms we enjoy today, and returned home to continue to serve his country and his community."

Philip served from 1942 through 1945 in battles and campaigns in Normandy, France, Ardennes, Rhineland, and Europe. Philip earned the Air Medal, Good Conduct Medal, American Theater Service Medal, European Theater Service Medal, and three Overseas Bars.

Happy Birthday Philip and thank you for your outstanding service to this great country.



LINCOLN COUNTY HONORS LIEN FOR HIS SERVICE TO SOUTH DAKOTA'S VETERANS

This week, the Lincoln County Commission honored and commended Dick Lien for his unending service to the veterans residing in and near Lincoln County.

Dick was the first VSO to serve in Lincoln County. He served first appointment as CVSO from January 4, 1973 to July 1, 1980. Kerwin Ulrkson followed in Dick's footsteps and served as the Lincoln County VSO for 25 years.

When Kerwin passed away, Dick assumed the duties as the CVSO again. from February 5, 2008 to June 23, 2105.

Our sincere congratulations to Dick on his retirement endeavors and our thanks for all the lives you touched and enhanced.



COMMANDER HANSON HONORED AT HOMECOMING CELEBRATION

Veterans, relatives, community leaders, and guests gathered in Arlington last Saturday to honor newly elected American Legion Department Commander Terry Hanson.

His homecoming celebration kicked off with a parade, followed by a program and meal.

SFVAHCS's Shirley Redmond went home to Arlington to serve as keynote speaker for the celebration. SDDVA's Program Manager II Don Thomson attended the festivities on behalf of the Department.

Congratulations to Commander Hanson, the Department looks forward to working with you and your members.



SOLDIERS TRAIN TO BECOME MOTOR TRANSPORT OPERATORS

Seven soldiers from across the United States are participating in a Motor Transport Operator course offered by the South Dakota Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) at Camp Rapid, July 11-Aug. 7.

The course is one of 23 offered throughout the United States where soldiers learn basic driving skills on a variety of Army tactical vehicles.

To graduate from the course, soldiers must complete coursework as well as hands-on training. They are trained and evaluated on driving on and off-road, driving with and without a trailer, convoy operations, maintenance, crew drills, and proper loading and hauling.

"My leadership chose for me to come here because of a soldier that came here last year and loved it," said Sgt. Apolonio Hernandez from the Washington Army National Guard.

Motor transport operators are primarily responsible for supervising or operating wheeled vehicles to transport personnel and cargo.

"The class is a great experience," said Staff Sgt. Priscilla Harkin, instructor. "This is the first year we moved the class from Sioux Falls to Rapid City, utilizing the roads within the Black Hills gives these students multiple driving experiences."



Not only do the students have the opportunity to drive on various types of terrain, they also learn how to operate different pieces of equipment such as the M915 semi-truck with a 20 or 40-foot trailer, M1083 five-ton cargo truck and M1120 Load Handling System.



SOLDIERS TEST LEADERSHIP SKILLS TO BECOME FUTURE ARMY OFFICERS

Nearly 80 soldiers from 21 states developed their leadership skills in a fast-paced, eight-week program to commission as second lieutenants in the Army National Guard at Fort Meade during the months of June and July.

The South Dakota Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) conducts a consolidated Officer Candidate School program annually for Army National Guard Soldiers across the United States.

Throughout the course, the officer candidates face multiple tests in physical fitness, ruck marches up to 10 miles, leading a squad and platoon-size team tactically through combat scenarios, demonstrating an understanding of basic military skills and Army management systems.

"We teach the students basic leadership skills such as how to use troop leading procedures, how to give an operation order and how to make plans to move their unit in a combat mission," said Lt. Col. Deb Bartunek, 1st Battalion commander.

About half of the candidates have no prior-service military experience, other than attending Basic Combat Training. Regardless of experience, the officer candidates leadership skills are tested the same throughout the course.

"We give them the opportunity to go through some stressful situations while we evaluate their ability to act under pressure and make decisions," said Bartunek.

One example where the student's leadership skills are tested is during the urban patrol lane where a soldier leads a squad through a combat scenario at West Camp Rapid in Rapid City.

"We had to move through some rugged terrain, and we came up to an urban site and cleared rooms of potential insurgents," said Officer Candidate Jack Palmer, Oklahoma Army National Guard.

If the soldiers accomplish all the tasks presented to them successfully, they will be pinned as second lieutenants to potentially manage a platoon of approximately 40 soldiers.

"These soldiers will leave the course with a toolbox of leadership skills to use when they manage and direct a platoon of their own," said Bartunek.

OCS is a great place to develop leadership skills, said Officer Candidate Justin Parks, Oklahoma Army National Guard.



SOLDIERS TRAIN ON ARTILLERY ROCKET SYSTEMS

Eighteen soldiers from across the United States are attending the Multiple Launch Rocket System Fire Direction Specialist course offered by the South Dakota Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) at Camp Rapid, July 11-Aug. 7.

The four-week course is one of six offered throughout the country where soldiers learn how to collect and transmit data, operate communication systems and plot firing points for artillery rocket systems.

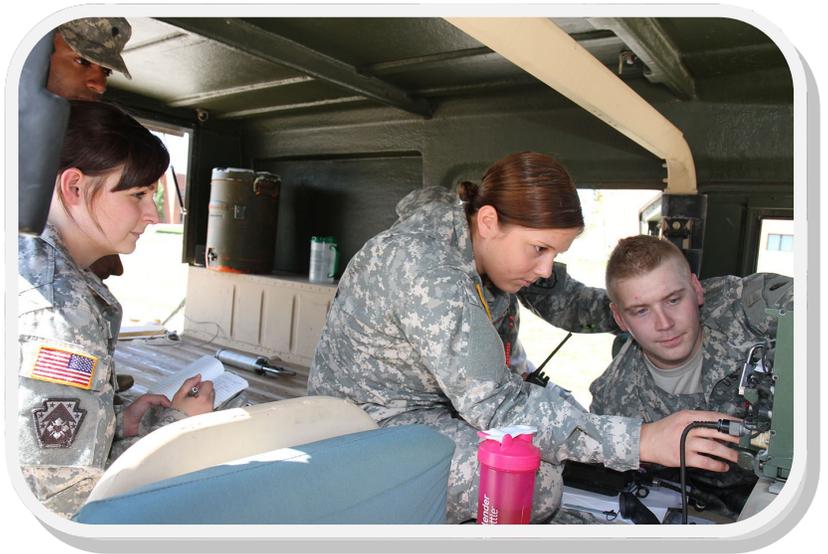
"We are teaching the soldiers how to determine a firing solution, which includes choosing the best firing unit, which rocket or missile to use and what way to attack the enemy," said Sgt. 1st Class Mark Meriweather, course manager.

To graduate the course, soldiers will be trained and evaluated on the position and roles of the MLRS fire direction specialist, which include operating the Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System and the Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System.

"The 13P MOS (military occupational specialty) is pretty much the brains of the artillery," said Spc. Matthew Anderson, Michigan Army National Guard. "I'm re-classing from 13B, which is a cannon crew member, and normally they send me all the information for the firing solution. So it's really interesting to see what they go through to send us that information."

The course is a combination of classroom instruction and practical exercises, where students can learn at their own pace in a group setting.

The students learning at the South Dakota RTI are applying these skills on both the M270A1 launcher and the High Mobility Rocket Artillery System.



"We are the only schoolhouse in the nation with both weapon systems available," said Meriweather. "We want our students to be able go back to their unit and to do their job proficiently."

Nine of the students are getting ready to be deployed to a theater of operations.

"I'm excited and proud that their state chose the South Dakota RTI to train them for a war time mission," said Meriweather.

SD GUARD, SURINAME ARMED FORCES EXCHANGE STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESSES

Members of the South Dakota National Guard, the Suriname Armed Forces and the Suriname Ministry of Defense participated in a subject matter expert exchange on strategic planning in Paramaribo, Suriname, in July.

South Dakota and Suriname, in coordination with U.S. Southern Command, established a successful security cooperation relationship in 2006 under the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program.

Since then, numerous exchanges have taken place between the SDNG and Suriname's armed forces to share experiences and best practices in a variety of military training and topics.

This latest exchange sent two members of the SDNG to South America where they worked with officials on assessing each organization's challenges and advantages and shared various methods of strategic planning.

The importance of setting long-term organizational goals was one of many methods discussed over the two-day exchange.

Future areas of exchange between the SDNG and the Suriname Armed Forces will include human rights exchanges in regards to a military organization and prevention of infectious disease.

Since the 2006 security cooperation relationship between South Dakota and Suriname, more than 90 engagement activities have been conducted, which include promoting response capacity and capability for natural disasters and promoting humanitarian relief, and maintaining healthy military-to-military relationships.



AGENT ORANGE TOWN HALL FORUM



SATURDAY, SEPT. 19, 2015
VFW POST 1273, 420 MAIN ST. RAPID CITY, SD
TWO SESSIONS 9:00 am - 12:00 AND 12:00 - 3:00 pm

OPEN TO ALL VETERANS AND THE PUBLIC.

Moderator – Maynard Kaderlik – VVA Agent Orange Committee
Guest Speaker(s) – TBD

State and VFW Credentialed Service Officer will be in attendance.

Sponsored by Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 463

Virgil Stockstad 605-390-2675 or virgil@rushmore.com

“Jack” Dean 605-393-0444 or boats6842@yahoo.com

Learn the effects of dioxin exposure on the veteran, the children, and the grandchildren and what is being accomplished.

Like SPC Dennis G. Jensen Memorial Ride on Facebook



ROUTE:

- START - 9:30 am registration and first bingo round at Bullwackers Whitewood SD depart 10:00 am
- STOP 1 - Silver Dollar - Hill City, SD
We will join the 3rd annual Warrior Bingo Run
- STOP 2 - Deadwood VFW - Deadwood, SD
Lunch will be provided by the Ladies Auxillary \$8
- STOP 3 - St. Onge Bar - St Onge, SD
- END: Bullwackers, Whitewood SD



honorandremember.org



Plan to join us after the ride at Bullwackers Bar - hang out on the deck, enjoy the evening - it will be steak night! Please invite all your friends, clubs, and tourists to join us! See you soon!

**\$10 per person
BINGO RUN**
Cars &
vehicles
welcome!

Saturday August 15, 2015

4th ANNUAL

Our ongoing mission is to raise funds to purchase and present Honor and Remember Flags to South Dakota and Wyoming Gold Star Families

Blackout Bingo · \$10/card **Regular Bingo · \$5/card**
Goes for the entire run One game at each stop
25% Payout to Winner **75% to honorandremember.org**

For more information email:
spcdennisjensenmemorialride@yahoo.com
or call Christine (605)591-9814

Upcoming Events

Aug. 2—Fall River Freedom Ride Poker Run—Hot Springs— 8:30—10:00 am Registration
 Aug. 5-9—AVTT Traveling Vietnam Wall Comes to Sioux Falls (Sanford Pentagon Sports Complex)
 Aug. 14— Davison County Veterans Benefits Update—Davison County Fair Grounds—9:00 am —4:30 pm
 Aug. 18—SFVAHCS Women’s Health Clinic Open House (exclusively for women veterans) 3:30 pm
 Aug. 18—Turner County “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans” Program—Turner County Fairgrounds—
 Freedom Stage—Heritage Park—Parker—5:00—7:00 pm
 Aug. 19 – 14th Annual SFVAHCS Show & Shine (front parking lot) 5:30 – 8:00 pm
 Aug. 24-27—SDDVA Annual Benefit School—Ramkota—Pierre
 Aug. 26—SFVAHCS Women’s Health Clinic Open House and Ribbon Cutting 3:30 pm
 Sept. 3—Veterans Day at the South Dakota State Fair
 Sept. 5—727th DAV Poker Run—Brookings National Guard Armory
 Sept. 11 – Veterans Stand Down—Wagner—National Guard Armory—9:00 am—1:00 pm
 Sept. 12—Vietnam Veterans of America State Council Meeting—Pierre Post 8 American Legion—Noon
 Sept. 16—SD Veterans Council—DAV Headquarters—Sioux Falls—10:00 am
 Sept. 16—Veterans Town Hall Meeting—Fairgrounds—Mitchell—5:00 pm
 Sept. 17—Veterans Appreciation Day—Watertown
 Sept. 18—POW-MIA Ceremony—Sioux Falls Veterans Memorial Park—6:30 pm
 Sept. 18—Ellsworth AFB Retiree Appreciation Day— Exhibits 9:00 am—3:00 pm (MDT)—Luncheon 11:00
 am—1:00 pm (MDT) - EAFB
 Sept. 19—Agent Orange Town Hall Forum—VFW Post 1273 (420 Main Street) - Rapid City—Two Sessions
 (one from 9:00 am—noon and one from noon—3:00 pm (MDT))
 Sept. 25—Veterans Stand Down—VFW—Sioux Falls (3601 S. Minnesota Ave.) - 9:00 am—2:00 pm
 Oct. 5—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)
 Oct. 9—Women Veterans Conference
 Oct. 10—DAV Fall Conference—DAV Headquarters—Sioux Falls
 Nov. 7—Vietnam Veterans of America State Council Meeting—Pierre Post 8 American Legion—Noon
 Dec. 8— Governor’s Budget Address—Pierre

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Jan. 4—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)
 Jan. 12—SD Legislative Session Opens—Pierre
 Jan. 14—Veterans Legislative Breakfast—Pierre
 Jan. 27-28-State Tribal Relations Days—Pierre
 Apr. 4—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)
 April 15-17—DAV Convention—Rapid City
 Jul. 11—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)
 Oct. 3—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)

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