



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



## SD SOLDIER RECEIVES DANISH MEDAL

Colonel Tim Moran, of Rapid City, commander of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 196th Regiment, Regional Training Institute, was awarded the Danish Home Guard Meritorious Service Medal at Camp Rapid, June 11.

Danish Home Guard Col. Mogens Bech awarded Moran the medal for his efforts in developing a partnership between the SDNG and the DHG.

"I have worked with the Danish leadership for several years now, helping to coordinate the participation of Danish service members in the Golden Coyote exercise," said Moran, who also serves as the deputy chief of staff for operations for the SDNG. "I also coordinated the participation of the RTI in the instructor exchange program."

As a part of the program, 14 DHG instructors completed U.S. Army Basic Instructor Course training last summer in Denmark through a DoD Officers Foreign Exchange Program, in cooperation with the SDNG.

Following the training, the DHG instructors were invited to come to the RTI to serve as Officer Candidate School instructors.

In appreciation for the partnership between the two countries, the DHG presented Moran with the Meritorious Service Medal, awarded annually by royal decree following recommendations from the Danish Ministry of Defense. The medal is given to a person who has contributed a particularly meritorious and selfless effort that benefits DHG activities and who has privately conducted him or herself in an irreproachable manner.



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## POST 22 TO DESIGNATE THEIR TOURNAMENT AS A “TRIBUTE TO HEROES”

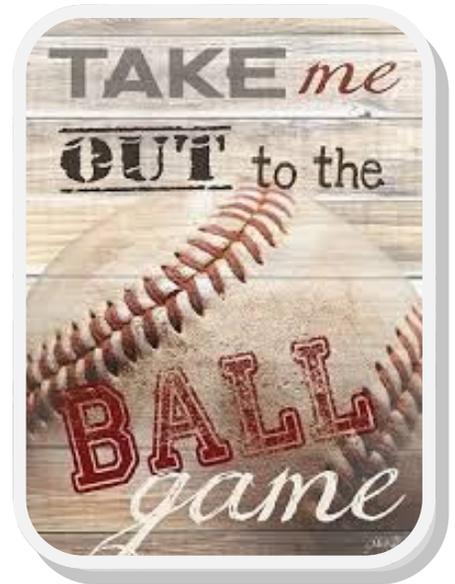
Military members, veterans and their families will receive free admission to Post 22 Baseball's Veteran/Military/First Responders Night on Wednesday, June 24, in Rapid City. Post 22 hosts Bismarck in a doubleheader, with games at 5:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Must have ID card for free admission.

Military members and their families will also receive free admission for the 40th annual Firecracker Tournament on June 29 -July 5. This year the theme of the tournament is "A Tribute to Heroes."

Game times are: as follows

- Mon—June 29 @ 6:30 pm
- Tue—June 30 @ 7:30 pm
- Wed—July 1 @ 7:30 pm
- Thu—July 2 @ 7:30 pm
- Fri—July 3 @ 2:30 pm
- Sat - July 4 @ 6:30 pm
- Sun—July 5 @ 4:30 pm



## VABHHCS ANNOUNCES REVISED TIMEFRAME FOR RELEASE OF DRAFT EIS

In accordance with 40 CFR 1501, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is currently producing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) with regards to the proposed reconfiguration of Veteran health care services delivery in western South Dakota, northwestern Nebraska and eastern Wyoming.

The draft of the Environmental Impact Statement will be available for public review and comment by the end of summer 2015. This revised timeframe represents a 90 day delay, which will ensure the complete and comprehensive analysis of the environmental impact of the alternatives.

Several public meetings will be held in the VA Black Hills Health Care System service area to receive comments on the document. For questions regarding this announcement, please call VA Black Hills Health Care System at 605-720-7170.

## VABHHCS VETERAN TOWN HALL

The VA Black Hills Health Care System will host a Veterans Town Hall at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 25, 2015, at the Fort Meade VA Medical Center, Building 145, Room 108.

Veterans, family members, survivors, and the public are invited to provide feedback on VA operations and recommendations for VA programs. The meeting is intended to provide an open forum for VA officials to hear directly from beneficiaries as a step toward system-wide improvement and to rebuild trust among veterans.

The town hall is one of many the VA is holding around the country to hear directly from veterans about their care and benefits.

## HURON TO HOST AMERICAN LEGION CONVENTION



The 97<sup>th</sup> Annual American Legion Department Convention will be held at the Crossroads Hotel & Convention Center in Huron, SD, beginning on June 25<sup>th</sup> and running through Sunday June 28<sup>th</sup>. Hundreds of Legionnaires, Auxiliary Members, Sons of The American Legion and Legion Riders from across the State of South Dakota will be in attendance. This year two Legionnaires have announced their candidacy for the high office of Department Commander. These candidates

are Terry Hanson of Arlington and Duane Riedlinger of Piedmont.

Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, will begin with the Finance Commission Meeting at 10:00 a.m., the Department Executive Committee Meeting at 1:00 p.m. and followed by a meeting of the Five Year Membership Council/Media & PR Committees. Friday commences with a meeting of the Resolutions Committee at 10:00 a.m. The afternoon is filled with meetings of the Convention Committees, Memorial Service and Joint Banquet in the evening. SDDVA Secretary Zimmerman will be a keynote speaker at the banquet. Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. the American Legion Annual Convention will officially be called to order. This session will consist of hearing from special guests and will be followed by the business portion of the convention. At 6:00 p.m., American Legion Go-Getters will meet for a reception and meal at the Beadle County Sportsman Club. At 8:00 p.m., the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Fun Auction will be held at the Crossroads Hotel with all proceeds going to the South Dakota American Legion Foundation. Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. the final session of the convention will be held with the election of a new Department Commander, Department Vice Commanders, Sergeant At Arms, National Executive Committeeman and Alternate National Executive Committeeman at noon. A post Department Executive Committee Meeting will be held at the conclusion of the Department Convention.

The American Legion is the largest veteran's war time organization with a total membership nationwide of 2.4 million members in 12,500 American Legion Posts. The Department of South Dakota has 242 Posts with a membership of 21,000 members in most all communities in the State.

## SDDVA PARTICIPATES IN CROW CREEK IHS HEALTH FAIR



SDDVA Field Officer Kevin Bowen and Crow Creek Sioux TVSO Nancy Falor, participated in the Crow Creek IHS health fair last week in Fort Thompson.

Veterans were provided information on benefits and programs available to them and had the opportunity to file claims.



## VABHHCS TO HOST VETERAN TOWN HALL

# VETERAN TOWN HALL

June 25, 2015  
at 5:00 pm

Fort Meade VA Medical Center  
Building 145, Room 108



**You are Invited!** Veterans, their families, and the community are invited to attend a listening session with representatives from VA Black Hills Health Care System. Bring your questions and thoughts about VA health care. We're here to listen.



## YANKTON TO HOST VFW STATE CONVENTION

The Department of South Dakota, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, will hold its 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Department Convention on June 18-21, 2015, in Yankton. Headquarters for the Convention will be the Best Western Kelly Inn, 1607 E. Hwy 50, Yankton, SD 57078.

Lt. Gov. Matt Michels will be one of the keynote speakers.



## 6TH ANNUAL MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART DEPARTMENT OF THE DAKOTAS CONVENTION TO BE HELD IN SIOUX FALLS

The Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter No. 5355 of Sioux Falls will host the Military Order of the Purple Heart 6th Annual Department Convention. The convention will be held at the Disabled American Veterans headquarters (1519 W. 52st Street) in Sioux Falls on Saturday, June 20, 2015, at 10:00 am.

Topics to be covered during the convention include: VA Healthcare, VA budget, claims processing, Agent Orange, PTSD, TBI, and Persian Gulf Syndrome. Congressional updates will be provided and a business meeting will be held to install newly elected officers.



## MULTI NATIONAL ENGINEERS HELP BUILD SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

U.S. Airmen and Denmark Soldiers are working to build a solar panel structure to help create a sustainable community for area residents of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation June 6-20. The structure is being built at the Thunder Valley Community Development Center near Porcupine by engineers of the South Dakota Air National Guard's 114th Fighter Wing, of Sioux Falls, and the Denmark Army as a part of the Golden Coyote training exercise.

Engineers from the two groups are working on the project daily, doing site preparation, pouring footings and constructing a classroom.

Nick Tilson, the executive director of Thunder Valley, reached out to the state Office of Tribal Relations to make this project become a reality, said Andrew Iron Shell, community engagement coordinator. "That is how we connected with the National Guard," said Iron Shell. "It's great having this support to bring this vision to life."

The project not only benefits local community members but the engineers as well.

This solar panel structure will be connected between two buildings, which will provide power and also serve as a canopy for an outdoor classroom.

Before the vision of Thunder Valley is complete, the community will become self-sustainable and will include: houses, retail spaces, community gardens, educational facilities, and an emergency youth shelter.

A groundbreaking ceremony for these future projects is scheduled to take place at the Thunder Valley Community Development Center on June 22 at 10 a.m.



## GENERAL OF THE FIRST ARMY VISITS GOLDEN COYOTE EXERCISE

The commander of First Army, Lt. Gen. Michael Tucker, visited the 31st Golden Coyote training exercise to interact with service members and tour the training sites on June 12 in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

At this year's Golden Coyote, there are about 2,600 participants from 35 military units represented from 12 different states alongside service members from the allied nations of Denmark, United Kingdom and Canada.

"I was very glad to have Lt. Gen. Tucker take the time to come and visit our exercise," said Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, the adjutant general of the South Dakota National Guard. "It's apparent that he wants to support the National Guard and Army Reserve in our training needs. We are honored to have him pay the visit."

During the visit, Tucker was able to witness service members in action when he observed a lifesaving medical reaction course, a mounted patrol lane, and a construction site of a bridge building project.





# HELP RAISE PTSD AWARENESS

*Everyone makes a difference. Help us spread the word about PTSD and effective treatments.*

## Learn

PTSD Treatment Works

### Discover the facts.

- Visit [www.ptsd.va.gov](http://www.ptsd.va.gov) to start with [PTSD Basics](#), key information about trauma, PTSD and treatment options. Take the [PTSD Overview Course](#) or other free, in-depth [Continuing Education Courses](#) (with the option to earn CE/CMEs).

### Explore your options.

- Take the mystery out of PTSD treatment. Our short whiteboard video [PTSD Treatment: Know your Options](#) reviews the best treatments. And visit [AboutFace](#), a website where Veterans, their family members and clinicians talk about turning life around with PTSD treatment.

## Connect

Reach Out to Someone

### Help someone. Help yourself.

- Do you think you might have PTSD or know someone at risk? Take action for yourself or someone you care about. We outline steps to help you [know whether you might have PTSD](#) and locate [where to get help](#).

### Give support. Get support.

- Managing PTSD can be easier with the support of others. If you are getting treatment, or have finished treatment, our [self-help information and tools](#) can help you manage stress. Caregivers can look to organizations that offer [support for family and friends](#) for tips on self-care too.

## Share

Spread the Word

### Pass along what you learn.

- Use [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) to share up-to-date information or ask us questions about PTSD and treatment. [Subscribe](#) to our email publications – PTSD Monthly Update, Clinician's Trauma Update-Online, and the PTSD Research Quarterly - and let others know they are free.

### Work together.

- Join our PTSD Awareness campaign! We have [promotional materials](#) to help you organize an event or share information about PTSD and effective treatments.



**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY**

For more information, visit [www.ptsd.va.gov](http://www.ptsd.va.gov)

## SOLDIERS DELIVER TIMBER TO SUPPORT RESERVATION COMMUNITIES

Army National Guard and Reserve members haul timber from the Black Hills of South Dakota to the Cheyenne River and Crow Creek Sioux Reservations during the Golden Coyote training exercise June 6-20.

For nearly a decade, the Golden Coyote timber haul mission has helped provide the residents of the reservations with timber for heating, construction and ceremonial purposes.

"This mission is important because it provides incredibly valuable training and experience for the units as well as gives us the privilege and honor to support the South Dakota National Guard's mission to serve the people of this state," said Capt. Linden Allen, the commander of the Illinois National Guard's 1644th Transportation Company.

The members of the Army Reserve's 996th Engineer Company, of Wisconsin, used hydraulic excavators to load timber onto trucks to be transported to the reservations by members of the 1644th.

"This is a great opportunity for us to operate our equipment on a large scale project," said Sgt. Steve McCarthy, team leader for the 996th.

This is the first time many of the soldiers from both units have been given the opportunity to use their skills.

"This is great training for some of our new Soldiers," said Allen. "We're used to transporting military equipment and containers so it's a unique experience for all of us hauling timber. I'm hoping the unit learns a lot from conducting a convoy over different types of terrain and supporting real-world missions."

"We expect to haul 24 truck loads of timber to the reservations on our first day," said 1st Lt. Nicholas Fraizer, platoon leader for the 1644th prior to the departure of the timber. "I estimate that we will drive each truck over 3,000 miles during annual training."

The team met their goals and transported 12 truckloads of wood to Cherry Creek, 10 to Fort Thompson and two to Crow Creek.

"The long haul gives us more training on the road which is important," said Spc. Joshua Pitts, a truck driver with the 1644th. "I enjoy driving and I'm excited to be able to meet new people."

"One of the most important goals of the timber haul is help foster positive relationships between the local tribal nations, the state of South Dakota and the South Dakota National Guard," said Capt. Leonard Roy of the Army Reserve's 407th Civil Affairs Battalion, of Minnesota.



# Upcoming Events

## 2015

Jun. 18—SFVAHCS Veterans Town Hall—SFVAHCS Auditorium—5:00 pm  
 Jun. 18-21—VFW State Convention—Yankton, SD  
 Jun. 20—Military Order of the Purple Heart Department of Dakotas State Convention—DAV Headquarters—Sioux Falls  
 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. 15—SD Veterans Council—DAV Headquarters—Sioux Falls—10:00 am  
 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. 11 — Stand Down—Wagner—National Guard Armory—9:00 am—1:00 pm  
 Sept. 18—POW-MIA Ceremony—Sioux Falls  
 Oct. 9—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)  
 Oct. 10—DAV Fall Conference—DAV Headquarters—Sioux Falls  
 Dec. 8— Governor’s Budget Address—Pierre

## 2016

Jan. 12—SD Legislative Session Opens—Pierre  
 Jan. 14—Veterans Legislative Breakfast—Pierre  
 Jan. 27-28—State Tribal Relations Days—Pierre  
 April 15-17—DAV Convention—Rapid City

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