South Dakota's

General Patrick H. Brady
Boot Camp Correctional Facility

Dedication Ceremony

3:00 P.M.
Friday, May 30, 1997
Custer Youth Corrections Center
Custer, South Dakota

William J. Janklow, Governor
Jeff Bloomberg, Secretary of Corrections

Major General Patrick Henry Brady, USA (Ret.)

Patrick Henry Brady, a native of Philip, South Dakota, is retired after 34 years of distinguished military service in the United States Army.

During two tours in Vietnam (1964-65 and 1967-68) as a pilot in the Medical Service Corps, Brady made 3,000 combat evacuation flights and rescued more than 5,000 wounded or trapped soldiers and civilians from battlefields, firebases and ambush sites. He never lost a crewman or a patient in his helicopter.

His skill and daring in flying Huey medevac helicopters was legendary in the central highlands of Vietnam, and "Brady mission" became a synonym for a challenging and dangerous rescue mission.

On January 6, 1968, near Chu Lai, Brady performed three missions and rescued 51 severely wounded men from positions where other aircraft had failed or been shot down. Flying through dense fog and close enemy fire, Brady went through 3 different helicopters, each being hit by enemy fire. At the end of the day, the aircraft he had flown had over 400 holes in them. It is because of his extraordinary courage and valor on that day that he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor -- the highest medal awarded by the United States.

Highly decorated, Brady has also received the Distinguished Service Cross; two Distinguished Service Medals; the Defense Superior Service Medal; the Legion of Merit; six Distinguished Flying Crosses; two Bronze Stars, one for valor; the Purple Heart; and 53 Air Medals, one for valor.

During his career, he held many important command and staff positions, including the Chief of Public Affairs for the Army and Secretary to the United Nations Military Armistice Commission in Korea. His duty stations around the world included Berlin, Germany, during the construction of the Berlin Wall.

Brady holds an MBA from Notre Dame University, and he is on the Board of Regents of Seattle University. He is a Board Member of the First Avenue Service Center, a homeless shelter in Seattle. Brady is Chairman of the Citizens Flag Alliance - some 20 million Americans with one mission: to return to the people the right to protect their flag. He has also served as President of the Medal of Honor Society.

Brady and his wife, Nancy, have six children: Shaun, Casey, Kelly, Terry, Shannon and Meghan.

The General Patrick H. Brady Boot Camp

The General Patrick H. Brady Boot Camp is a short, intensive program for boys who have been adjudicated in juvenile court and committed to the South Dakota Department of Corrections.

The 96 beds in the Brady Boot Camp are divided between four continuously rotating platoons of 24 boys each. Boys in the Brady Boot Camp are generally between the ages of 14 and 18 and are considered lower-risk offenders.

The Brady Boot Camp combines five elements which receive equal emphasis in the program: military discipline, high school education, physical training, group counseling, and life skills education.

Once cadets finish the Brady Boot Camp, they are either transferred to another correctional program for continued treatment or are released back to the community under supervision. South Dakota is the only state in the nation with a program to provide National Guard mentors to cadets upon their release.

The Brady Boot Camp instills self-confidence, self-discipline, spirit, pride, and a sense of accomplishment in the boys. The Brady Boot Camp's goal is to return boys to their communities who are law abiding, respectful, healthy in mind and body, and motivated to stay that way.

Boot Camp - From Idea To Operation

Governor Bill Janklow introduced legislation in 1995 that authorized the construction of a correctional boot camp for juveniles. Later that same year, Janklow announced he was implementing the recommendation by a citizen task force to close the Custer Developmental Center and place the residents in local care facilities.

In 1996, the Developmental Center facility was transferred to the Department of Corrections. Construction of the boot camp began in May of 1996. The first platoon of boys arrived to begin training in November of 1996. Since then, a total of five platoons have graduated.

Changing The Juvenile Justice System

The General Patrick H. Brady Boot Camp Correctional Facility is part of a much larger change in juvenile corrections in South Dakota.

Prior to 1995, South Dakota had only three juvenile corrections programs. Juveniles were sent to each program by judges in South Dakota. Juveniles released from the programs were placed back under judicial supervision.

In the face of quickly rising juvenile crime, the process was disjointed and cumbersome, and the three correctional programs were overwhelmed in trying to address juveniles' problems.

Since 1995, Governor Bill Janklow has changed the way the juvenile justice system deals with kids in trouble with the law and added new programs to address the diverse needs of juveniles in the correctional system.

When a judge determines that a juvenile must be removed from the community, the juvenile is now committed to the Department of Corrections. The Department places the juvenile in a program appropriate for both public safety and rehabilitation. Juveniles are released to the community under supervision of aftercare agents of the Department of Corrections.

Adding programs has also provided new opportunities to help turn young lives around. The State's juvenile corrections programs are now consolidated in two locations.

The State Training School continues to operate in Plankinton, and it now includes a newly constructed juvenile prison to house the worst juvenile criminals.

The Custer Youth Corrections Center, located on the grounds of the former Developmental Center, includes an intake unit, the Brady Boot Camp, the Youth Forestry Camp, a chemical dependency unit, and the Lamont Center program for girls in Custer State Park.

These changes in the juvenile justice system have made it much more efficient and coordinated in matching adjudicated juveniles with an appropriate corrections program and ensuring proper guidance to the juveniles after their release.