



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



## SD WORLD WAR II VETERAN HONORED

James R. Hanson, now 97 and living in Gillette, WY, received the gratitude of France in the form of the French Legion of Honor medal on Tuesday of this week. It was presented by Gov. Dennis Daugaard and SDDVA Secretary Larry Zimmerman, during a ceremony at the South Dakota State Capitol.

"The French Legion of Honor Medal is the highest honor bestowed in France," said Gov. Dennis Daugaard. "Past recipients of the award include General Dwight Eisenhower, General Douglas MacArthur and Admiral Michael Mullen. Today we present this award to Bob Hanson, one of South Dakota's own, for the sacrifices he made to serve his country in World War II."

Established by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802, the French Legion of Honor "is the highest honor that France can bestow upon those who have achieved remarkable deeds for France" stated a letter written by Vincent Floreani, consul general in Chicago and read by Secretary Zimmerman.

"Through this award, the French government pays tribute to the soldiers who did so much for France and Western Europe," Floreani wrote. "Seventy years ago, you gave your youth to France and the French people."

"Heroes are in our lives every day," said Larry Zimmerman, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs. "Sometimes they are hard to find, but

when discovered they are a treasure of how our freedoms have survived. Heroes, like Hanson, fought bravely and witnessed the worst of the war."

Special thanks to our service organizations for taking time to honor another one of South Dakota's heroes!

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## NATIONAL GUARD HOSTS 31ST ANNUAL GOLDEN COYOTE EXERCISE

The South Dakota National Guard will host its 31st annual Golden Coyote training exercise in the Black Hills June 6 - 20 to provide military units with relevant training opportunities in support of overseas contingency operations and homeland defense.

Created in 1984 by the South Dakota National Guard, with the cooperation of the National Forest Service and Custer State Park, this year's Golden Coyote training exercise will allow about 3,000 service members to conduct combat support and combat service support missions in a realistic training environment and provide valuable services to the public.

There will be about 35 military units representing 12 states and three foreign nations participating in the exercise from multiple branches of military service - Army, Navy and Air Force - working together to create an invaluable training experience. Participating units conduct military operations, train on their equipment and employ tactics, as well as complete various humanitarian missions and engineer projects that help improve the forest and infrastructure of many local communities.

Local residents receive numerous benefits from the many engineer projects conducted during the exercise. Units transport timber to Native American communities that use it as firewood, conduct building construction, repair and upgrades, identify hazardous wilderness areas and make them safe for public use, and resurface local roadways that have fallen into disrepair.

Units are also able to participate in many warrior training tasks and battle drills such as combat patrols, urban combat operations, land navigation, first aid, casualty evacuation and convoy operations. This provides a valuable opportunity for units to train on skills needed for any future overseas deployment.

Residents should be aware of an increase in military traffic throughout the region and in the communities of Rapid City, Hill City and Custer and can expect an increase in noise levels due to military training. Aircraft will be operating throughout the area and will respond to real-world emergencies during the exercise and remain in an all-hours-ready status. The public is asked to remain at a safe distance from all moving military vehicles and aircraft to prevent injury to personnel or damage to property.

## BULTJE NAMED SVSO



Erin Bultje has been promoted to State Veterans Service Officer in the Sioux Falls Claims Office.

Bultje joined the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs team in April of this year.

"We will be filling our claims examiner position shortly and then we will have a full team again at the Claims Office," said Program Manager Henderson. "We've got a great team in place and with the recent promotion of Don Thomson, we will be expanding the training afforded to our team."

## ARMED FORCES ARRIVE FOR GOLDEN COYOTE TRAINING EXERCISE

U.S. Armed Forces and international service members began gathering June 5 at the Ellsworth 28th Bomb Wing Deployment Center to kick off the Golden Coyote training exercise June 6 - 20 in the Black Hills.

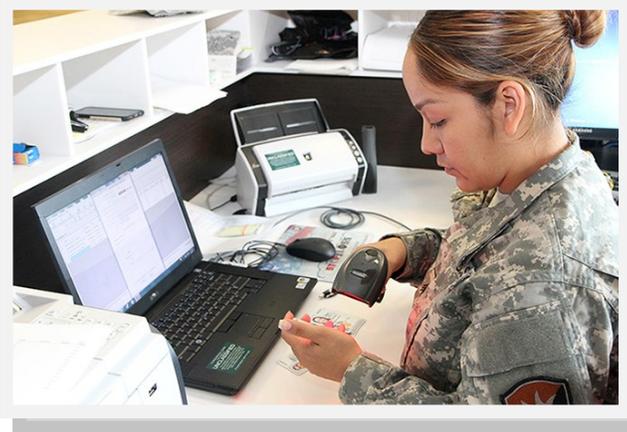
Nearly 3,000 service members will be attending the 31st Golden Coyote, hosted by the South Dakota National Guard, which provides participants with real-world training opportunities and humanitarian missions which support the local communities.

Participants of the Golden Coyote exercise begin training by attending a Joint Reception, Staging, Onward-Movement and Integration brief operated by the 50th Regional Support Group, Florida Army National Guard, of Homestead, Fla.

"The main reason for JRSOI is to give the command a good picture of the operation and an accurate strength count in order to take care of the participants," said Sgt. Catalina Hernandez, the JRSOI assistant NCO.

The 50th RSG is responsible for receiving incoming units, processing their I.D.s, giving the initial safety brief, maps to locations, phone numbers and coordinating transportation to their forward operating base.

"Just providing one phone number can make a mission successful and keep soldiers from feeling lost and unprepared for the mission," said Hernandez.



Several members of the 50th RSG are participating in Golden Coyote for the first time this year, which gives them the opportunity to gain more experience in operating a JRSOI.

"For Cadet Bustos, giving the safety briefing will give him practice communicating with soldiers, which is something he will have to do as an officer," said Master Sgt. Graciela Paula, the NCO in charge of the JRSOI. "For my junior enlisted personnel, the exercise will give them more experience doing their jobs

and allow us to help them mature and learn new responsibilities."

During Golden Coyote, service members are able to participate in a morale, welfare and recreation day, which gives them the opportunity to take a break from training and tour the Black Hills.

## CANADIAN SOLDIERS PLAY MAJOR ROLE IN U.S. TRAINING EXERCISE

The Canadian Army Reserve is playing a major role in the 31st Golden Coyote training exercise, hosted by the South Dakota National Guard in the Black Hills June 6-20, by managing Forward Operating Base Custer.

FOB Custer is one of five FOBs being manned during the exercise, which involves approximately 3,000 service members to improve their combat and trade skills.

"Golden Coyote is one of the largest National Guard operated exercises in the country," said Maj. Travis Eastman, Golden Coyote coordinator. "The South Dakota National Guard is proud of the 31-year history of this exercise, which continually draws units from across the country as well as units from allied nations year after year."

Canada is the only allied nation to manage a FOB in the history of the exercise, a task being supported by members of the 33 Canadian Brigade Group.

While operating as the mayor cell for FOB Custer, the 75 members of the CBG will host eight other units from Denmark, Great Britain and the United States. FOB Custer provides housing, rations, command and logistics support for the units residing there for the duration of the exercise.

Managing a FOB doesn't come without challenges.

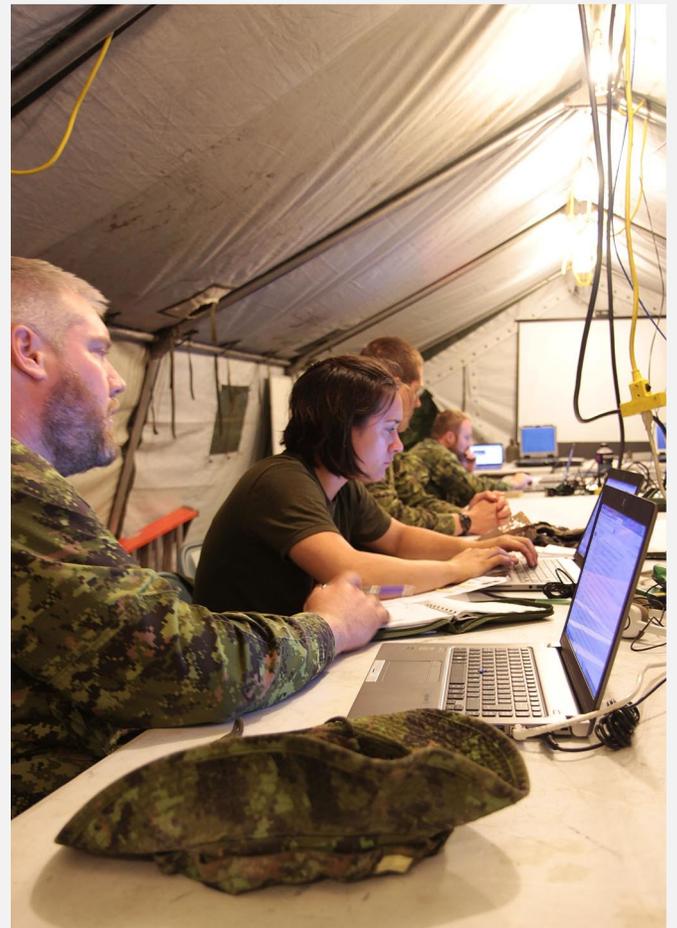
"We have about 16 communications specialists on the ground currently, and all are busy working on the networks, which is a bit different than we are used to, since we are connecting through commercial providers," said Warrant Officer Peter Hoy, signal officer for the 33 CBG.

Managing a FOB during Golden Coyote is similar to missions the CBG would perform if activated for an emergency or to support overseas operations.

"We will be training as we fight," said Maj. Matthew Baxter, commander of the 33 CBG forces operating in FOB Custer. "We will be managing all of the engineer units, just as if we were operating a multi-national rebuilding effort after a conflict or disaster,"

Golden Coyote provides an excellent opportunity to practice the interoperability of multiple branches of the U.S. Armed Forces and our partner nations, something that will be happening every day on and around FOB Custer, said Baxter. He also discussed the similarities the exercise has to a combat deployment.

"We had to move [our people and equipment] long distances and set up operations in an austere environment, similar to a wartime deployment," said Baxter.



## FAULK COUNTY OPENING CVSO POSITION

Wayne Vetter, Faulk County VSO, has over 40 years of commitment to Faulk County, 17 of which were enhancing the lives of our veterans. Vetter has notified his Commission that he plans to retire as Faulk County VSO at the end of June. The Faulk County Commission currently has the position open until filled.

Veterans interested in the position are encouraged to call Wayne and visit with him about the position (605-598-6222).

Wayne's family will be hosting a retirement party for him at the Cresbard Community Center on Main Street on June 20 at 4:00 pm.



## BEADLE COUNTY NAMES NEW VSO

Long-time County Veterans Service Officer for Beadle and Sanborn Counties plans to retire the end of June. Ken Lindblad began his CVSO career on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1995. He shared the office for a month with his father who retired on April 30<sup>th</sup> after 15 years as CVSO.

When asked what he plans to do when he retires, Lindblad said, "I plan to live off my savings...I don't know what I'll do the second day!" Seriously, Ken plans to continue to do the race track announcing at Dakota State Fair Speedway, the funeral honor guard with the Huron Veterans Council, and the annual Salvation Army Telethon in December (which he has done for 37 years). He also plans to spend time with his grandchildren. I'm sure we'll see Ken on the Midway at the South Dakota State Fair!!!!



Friends and co-workers will be hosting a farewell and thank you party for Ken in the Commission Room at the Beadle County Court House on Friday, June 26 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm.

Michael Lueck has been named the new CVSO for Beadle and Sanborn Counties. He is currently on board and appreciative of the opportunity to reap the knowledge and expertise from Lindblad.

Lueck (27) is a Wisconsin native and an avid Wisconsin sports fan, especially the Green Bay Packers!

Lueck served four years in the active duty army as a medic and was stationed at FT. Carson CO and has deployed twice.

Lueck is also kept very busy with his three daughters and one son. He is currently taking evening courses at NSU. When he's not busy working, doing homework and raising his family, he can be found hunting and cheering for those Packers!



## URBAN PATROL EXERCISE PROMOTES TEAMWORK, READINESS

Service members attending the Golden Coyote training exercise have the opportunity to gain leadership and team cohesion skills as they conduct military training operations at West Camp Rapid, in the Black Hills. The training scenario is designed to provide squads and platoons with a facility to train and evaluate urban operations tasks.

The instructors employ a crawl, walk, run method of teaching, which allows trainees to see a demonstration of the tactics used and a preview of the course's physical urban terrain before the team executes the mission. During the exercise, troops will engage opposing force role-players in an attempt to clear the mock village of any simulated threats.

Skills such as calling in first aid for injured comrades and subduing the enemy are highlights within the exercise.

Troops are first given an operation order and a safety brief before they are allowed to test themselves against the role-players.

Armed with paintball guns, trainees must tactically advance through a wooded field while enemy role-players defend the mock village ahead.

Though the paintball guns are fun to use, the pretense of the scenario is nothing short of severe.

Service members who go through the exercise agree that preparedness is essential to success in any mission.



# 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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