

## Firefighters Kickoff Golden Coyote Exercise



U.S. Army National Guard Photo by Sgt. Adrian Muehe, 135th Mobile Public Affairs

Firefighters from the 451st Fire Fighting Team, South Dakota Army National Guard, based at Camp Rapid, S.D., extinguish the flames on a simulated airplane crash at Ellsworth Air Force Base on June 10, 2013 as a part of Golden Coyote. The simulation at Golden Coyote gives the firefighters opportunities to engage real-world scenarios in controlled conditions.

Sgt. Adrian Muehe  
135th MPAD

ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE, S.D. — A massive fireball erupted over the three remaining sections of a crashed B1-B aircraft as firefighters with the 451st Fire Fighting Team and 216th Fire Fighting Headquarters, 881st Troop Command, South Dakota Army National Guard, rushed in to extinguish the flames. Two vehicles, painted a dark Army green, converged on the carnage with water turrets blasting. Working together, the two trucks pushed the flames backwards,

attacking the blaze from both sides of the plane. Within a few minutes, the roaring inferno was diminished to nothing but a massive black cloud of smoke that faded quickly into the distance.

Fortunately, no one was hurt as this was part of an exercise conducted by the 451st FFT with the 28th Civil Engineering Squadron at Ellsworth AFB, as part of Golden Coyote, June 10, 2013.

“This is the most realistic training that you can get,” said Sgt. 1st Class Austin Hagen, of Rozet, Wyo., and the fire chief for the 216th FFHQ.

The simulator pumped JP-8 jet fuel around a structure designed to resemble crashed jet. After the fuel was done pumping, it was lit using gasoline and propane torches, said Tech. Sgt. Jeremy McFall, assistant chief of operations for the 28th CES, a Concord, Calif. native.

“Most simulators use propane, so the fire can be turned off when the propane gets turned off,” said McFall. “This is one of only two the Air Force has that uses JP-8, so it creates a real fire. We can’t turn it off, it’s up to them to put

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# General Grass Visits Troops in South Dakota During Golden Coyote



U.S. Army National Guard photo by Maj. Anthony Deiss

The Chief of the National Guard Bureau, Gen. Frank J. Grass, shakes hands with Spc. Kristen Croymans, a medic with the 730th Area Support Medical Company, South Dakota Army National Guard, during his visit to Lower Brule, S.D., as a part the 29th annual Golden Coyote training exercise June 11, 2013. Gen. Grass toured the Lower Brule Indian Health Services' clinic where National Guard Soldiers provided immunizations, physicals and health education to Native American patients as a part of the two-week training exercise.

Cont'd from Page 1 —it out.”

The firefighters did this for several rotations, using both the water turrets from their vehicles, a Tactical Fire Fighting Truck, and a Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck Based Water Tender, and hand lines, more commonly known as a fire hose.

This is only one of several simulators the 451st FFT will be conducting during the annual training as part of Golden Coyote. They will also experience a burning house, where they have to charge into a burning building, and a confined space lane, where they have to crawl through a small concrete pipe filled with smoke, said Hagen.

“We aren’t the on-call guys, we’re doing our training too,” said Staff Sgt. Max Stoltenburg, station chief for the 451st

FFT and an Aberdeen, S.D. native. “If anything happens during the exercise with the other units, the local fire departments will be the ones to respond.”

While most of the firefighters on their small team of nine are seasoned veterans, fresh off a deployment to Afghanistan. They have a couple new Soldiers on the team that have never used the simulator before, including Stoltenburg’s twin brother Spc. Geoff Stoltenburg, who was previously a combat engineer.

“It was definitely a learning experience,” said Geoff Stoltenburg after his first run. “I’ve been through the motions before, but this was the first time using it on fire. I feel that I handled it well, but I still have a long way to go.”

Even though the 451st successfully combated every single fire on their own,

the 28th CES had their fire trucks and personnel posted on standby in case they weren’t able to successfully extinguish or contain the inferno, said McFall.

“This is training, this is where we make our mistakes,” said Max Stoltenburg. “We mess up here so that we have it down when we get the call.”

While every firefighter is trained and proficient in their skills, it remains a very unpredictable job, said Mcfall.

“Every fire is different,” said Sgt. Sean Fischer, fire chief for the 451st FFT, and a Rapid City, S.D., native.

The wind can change, the fire could hit pockets of propellant or air, it could massively erupt, or die down quickly, said Fischer.

“Anything can happen,” said Fischer.



# Golden Coyote is a Go!

Staff Sgt. Mike Beck  
109th MPAD

RAPID CITY, S.D. - There were 55 military units representing 22 states, which includes five foreign nations, and multiple branches of military service— Army, Navy and Air Force— participating in the exercise and from working together to create an invaluable training experience. The participating units train on equipment and employ tactics, as well as complete various engineer projects that help improve forest and infrastructure of local communities.

U.S. and Canadian engineers plan to construct access stairs at Veteran's Point on Pactola Lake, and work with Danish engineers to replace decking and rails on three bridges on the Michelson Trail in the Hill

City area.

Local residents receive numerous benefits of the many engineering projects being conducted during the exercise. Units transport timber cut in remote areas to those who can use it as firewood, identify hazardous wilderness areas and make them safe for public use, and re-surface local roadways.

Units will be loading, hauling and unloading timber currently located at multiple sites within the Black Hills National Forest. Timber that is identified and deemed safe for public use is cut by BH National Forest officials and is delivered by military units to the Eagle Butte, Lower Brule, Oglala, Crow Creek and Rosebud Reservations for use by their community members for heating, construction and ceremonial use.

The Medical readiness training exercise will provide immunizations, physicals and health education by military medical personnel in partnership with the Fort Thompson and Lower Brule Indian Health Services. This MEDRETE provides troops an opportunity to train in their medical skills while simultaneously providing a

benefit to patients of the IHS.

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



U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. David Strayer, 109thMPAD

Royal Engineers from Great Britain's 72nd Engineer Regiment pull security against sniper fire and communicate enemy location during the Counter Improvised Explosive Device training lane, June 11, 2013. The Royal Engineers are taking part in the annual Golden Coyote training exercise for the first time to better foster a well-rounded Engineer unit and maintain a high level of deployment readiness.



U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Coltin Heller, 109th MPAD

U.S. Soldiers assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 213th Regional Support Group, Pennsylvania Army National Guard, raise an assembled antenna array to enable field communications during exercise Golden Coyote at Forward Operating Custer, Custer State Park, S.D., June 5, 2013. Golden Coyote is an annual training exercise that joins U.S. Service members from 11 states and soldiers from four foreign nations.

# Comments from the Commander of Troops

The 29th annual Golden Coyote exercise is one of the longest continuous military exercises in the nation. It is designed to train multiple functional areas, including: engineer, medical, aviation, field artillery, infantry, military police, and sustainment units. This is a bottom-up/top-down driven exercise tailored to each commander's training objectives conducted under a Contemporary Operating Environment. I'd personally like to welcome everyone here, and I'm looking forward to a safe and successful exercise.



Brig. Gen. Craig Johnson



## Chaplain's Corner The Power of Joy

By (CH) Maj. Kenny Honken

*"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice!"  
(Philippians 4:4)*

This verse from the New Testament reminds us of the need that we as humans all have to experience joy in our lives. And joy often goes by a myriad of different names: satisfaction, pleasure, contentment, happiness, etc.

The fact that we have a need to experience joy means that we will inevitably seek it out. The decision before us today is how we will pursue that need.

Some people pursue it through food. I myself have been known to revel in the joy of a Quesadilla burger at Applebee's. Some pursue it through drink. Again, I enjoy a cold Sam Adams or a hot mocha from Starbucks. But obtaining joy through food and drink, or anything else that we take into our bodies, has its limits. Too many Quesadilla burgers and Starbucks' mochas will leave you overweight and bloated. Too much alcohol will lead to sickness, addiction, or even death. Pleasing the body can only take us so far.

I want to encourage you today to pursue joy by pleasing your soul. Bask in the natural beauty of the Black Hills. Refresh your spirit by running in the cool morning air. If you're a person of faith, spend time reflecting on the greatness and goodness of the God you serve. Such time was well and powerfully spent by the apostle Paul. It can be for us, too!

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## What should I do if someone I know has been sexually assaulted?

As an Army soldier, you should report immediately any activity that indicates a sexual assault may take place or has taken place. You should also remember the following:

**Get assistance for the victim, but never leave the victim alone.**

**Support the victim and show respect, but don't be overly protective.**

**Demonstrate empathy by concentrating on helping your friend, fellow Soldier, or colleague.**

**Listen to the victim and take the allegations seriously, without asking the victim for details.**

**Do not make judgments about the victim or the alleged offender.**

**Encourage the victim to report the crime; however you should report the sexual assault to the proper authorities.**

**Protect the victim's confidentiality by not discussing the assault with anyone, except the authorities.**

**Repeat this message to the victim: You are not to blame!**

Remember: The safety of your fellow soldiers, your unit, and your community may depend on your reporting of these incidents. You should report any suspicious behavior immediately. Click the banner below for more information on the SHARP Program.

**SHARP Program**  
Sexual Harassment / Assault Response & Prevention

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