



U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Zane Craig, 109th MPAD

## Golden Coyote 2013

Golden Coyote is a multi-service, component, state and national training event held at several sites in the Black Hills of South Dakota and Wyoming. Golden Coyote 2013 is the 29th annual exercise. The 80 by 100 mile training area in the Black Hills features terrain similar to Afghanistan, Kosovo and Korea and allows the units that participate to simulate the conditions they would face in a deployment by establishing their bases of operation from scratch and remaining in the field under austere conditions. The training is based on the commander's objectives, allowing each unit the flexibility to focus on what their unit needs. The units have the opportunity to take on real world humanitarian support missions to local Native American reservations and lanes to train on warrior tasks featuring observer controller support and opposing forces. Golden Coyote also allows units to work in tandem with units from other states and allies from around the world, enhancing their interoperability.



# British Engineers 'Cross the Pond' for Golden Coyote

Staff Sgt. David K. Strayer,  
109th MPAD

RAPID CITY, S.D. – The serenity in the Black Hills of South Dakota broke as the sound of military convoys pressing on with caution, verbal commands being shouted with authority, and the snap-echo report of training rounds and improvised explosive device simulators rang throughout its ranks during a counter improvised explosive device training lane near Camp Rapid, South Dakota, Tuesday, June 12, 2013.

The counter IED training lane represents one of a myriad of training and real-world scenarios that make up the multi-national, joint-service Golden Coyote training exercise hosted each year by the South Dakota National Guard.

The Combat Engineers of the Great Britain's 72nd Engineer Regiment out of New Castle, England, are no strangers to training overseas, and training with multi-national forces.

"We travelled from New Castle, England to embed with the 153rd Engineer Battalion and participate in the Golden Coyote exercise," said Major Dan Hall, commander of the 72nd En. Bn. "The exercise has much to offer, and I believe everyone benefits from the ability to trade troop training procedures and tactics."

The British engineers represent one of several nations represented at the Golden Coyote exercise to include Denmark and Kosovo who are joined by American military counterparts from the Navy, Air Force, and units from the Iowa,



U.S. Army National Guard Photo by Staff Sgt. David Strayer, 109th MPAD

**British Combat Engineers from the Royal Army's 72nd Engineer Regiment foil a suicide-vest bomber before his attack reaches their convoy during a counter-improvised explosive device training lane near Camp Rapid, South Dakota, Tuesday, June 11, 2013.**

Pennsylvania, and South Dakota Army National Guard to name a few.

"The mission here at the counter improvised explosive device lane goes well beyond just improvised explosive devices," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Todd Dressler, Officer in Charge of the lane and native of Rapid City, S. D. "Units that go through this lane will encounter everything from improvised explosive devices, simple and complex ambushes, sniper attacks, and indirect fire attacks, and will have to react quickly and with the necessary communication; They can be out here for as many as four hours training on this one lane."

We want to see them react to the scenarios they will encounter using doctrine, but employing and perfecting their own methods and standard operating procedures, said Dressler.

The British Combat Engineers of the 72nd En. Bn. currently have soldiers

**An engineer with Great Britain's 72nd Engineer Regiment returns fire on an enemy sniper position during a counter-improvised explosive device training lane near Camp Rapid, South Dakota, Tuesday, June 11, 2013. The Royal Engineers travelled from their home station at New Castle, England to take part in the annual multi-national, joint-service Golden Coyote training exercise that is annually hosted by the South Dakota National Guard.**



U.S. Army Nat. Guard Photo by Staff Sgt. David Strayer, 109th MPAD

deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and take training and unit readiness seriously.

"We do currently have some of our guys in Afghanistan," said Hall. "Those of us that are not deployed are working very hard in training and readiness to support the Royal Army's effort to initiate betterment amongst all the units."

All of our guys are looking forward to the real-world engineer and humanitarian missions that are part of the Golden Coyote exercise, those types of missions can't be replicated anywhere else as training often can be, said Hall.

"This overall exercise, especially a lane like this, gives soldiers that may not have combat experience or deployment time an idea of what to expect and how to react should they need to," said Staff Sgt. Chad Hartley, Noncommissioned Officer in charge of the counter improvised explosive device training lane and native of Spearfish, S. D. "Golden Coyote offers a great experience for Soldiers to come out to the Black Hills and get some of the best training the National Guard has to offer so that whether they are from South Dakota or Denmark they can take that training back to their units and become force multipliers."

# Firefighters Kickoff Golden Coyote In Flames



U.S. Army National Guard Photo by Spc. Breonica Harp, 135th MPAD

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, 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 the 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 a 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. resident.

Most simulators use propane, so the fire can be turned off when the propane is turned off, said McFall.

This is one of only two simulators the Air Force has that uses JP-8. This creates a real fire that can’t be controlled by a switch. It’s up to the firefighters to put it out, said McFall.

The firefighters did this

Soldier fire fighters from the 451st Fire Fighting Team, South Dakota Army National Guard use a Tactical Fire Fighting Truck (TFFT) to suppress fire during a simulated airplane crash during training at Ellsworth AFB, S.D. on June 10, 2013. The training provides the unit with realistic simulation of a catastrophe in a controlled environment to help them prepare for possible real-world situations.

Soldier firefighters from the 451st Fire Fighting Team, South Dakota Army National Guard try to extinguish the fire during a simulated airplane crash during training at Ellsworth AFB on June 10, 2013. The training is a part of the Golden Coyote exercise the unit is participating in and provides realistic simulation of a catastrophe to help them prepare for possible real-world situations.

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 simulations the 451st FFT will be conducting during annual training as part of Golden Coyote. They will 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. resident. “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

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 fought every single fire on their own, the 28th CES had their fire trucks and personnel posted on standby in case they were not 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.

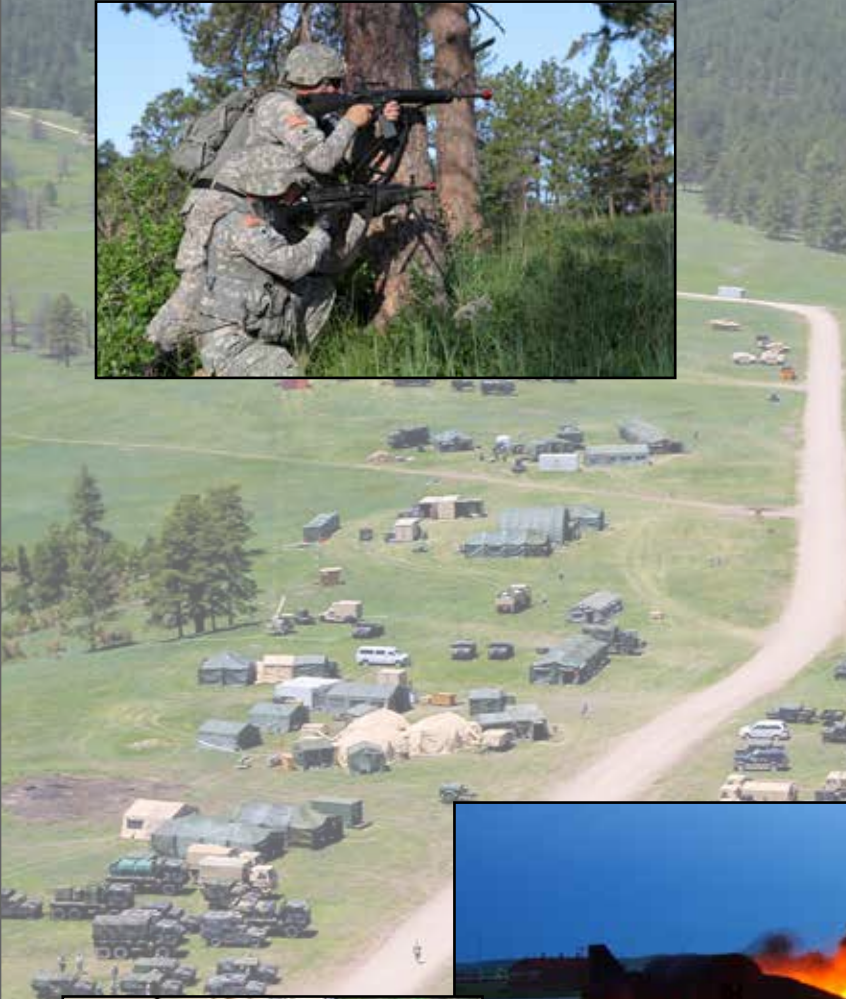
“Every fire is different,” said Sgt. Sean Fischer, fire chief for the 451st FFT, and a Rapid City, S.D., resident. “Anything can happen.”



U.S. Army National Guard Photo by Spc. Breonica Harp, 135th MPAD



# Golden Coyote 2013 in a Snapshot









# *128th Chemical Co. trains on lanes at Golden Coyote*

Spc. Zane Craig  
109th MPAD

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Soldiers of the 128th Chemical Company, 213th Regional Support Group trained to spot and react to Improvised Explosive Devices while conducting convoy operations June 10 through the Black Hills of Custer State Park, S.D.

The mountainous terrain, covered in pine forest and open pasture, is comparable to what the Soldiers would encounter when deployed to Afghanistan or Kosovo.

“My job as the NCOIC of the [opposition forces] here for this mounted lane is two parts, the first is to give the Soldiers a realistic training environment and the second is to allow them to train themselves,” said Staff Sgt. Troy Anderson, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of OPFOR with the Utah Army National Guard and a Price, Utah, resident.

Anderson conducted IED route clearance missions in Iraq during his deployment there in 2003-04. His team simulated that on the lane by setting up three roadside bombs, one of which explodes with talcum powder, and engaged the convoy with small arms fire. “Anytime you’re on a daytime lane looking for IEDs, you’re looking for a threat in your immediate area, look for wires, they’re a key indicator, anything that might blow up on you and look for aiming points,” said Sgt. 1st Class Dusty Kiner, IED lane noncommissioned officer-in-charge with Joint Force Headquarters, S.D. National Guard and a Rapid City, S.D. resident.

Kiner briefed the 128th Soldiers before the convoy rolled out the training would be conducted at their pace because his goal as NCOIC of the lane was simply to have them leave with more knowledge and awareness than they had prior to the lane.

“We have a lot of new Soldiers here, and for me, this is my first time being a convoy commander, so we’re here to learn, we’re here to train,” said Staff Sgt. Ernest Hilburt, 1st decontamination platoon Sgt. with the 128th Chem. Co.

Some of our young drivers with no



U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Zane Craig, 109th MPAD

**Staff Sgt. Ernest Hilbert, convoy commander for the mounted lane with the 128th Chemical Company and a Philadelphia native, carried a casualty to the casualty collection point after simulated improvised explosive device stopped their convoy June 10 in Custer State Park as part of Golden Coyote 2013.**

overseas experience might need to stop and reevaluate midway to learn what to look for said the Philadelphia native.

The 128th focused on battlefield skills during Golden Coyote 2013 to augment their skill set. Most of the training they conduct in Pennsylvania focuses on their state mission, whereas Golden Coyote gave them the opportunity to focus on improving skills they could use during a federal activation.

At the first IED, the OPFOR engaged the convoy with small arms fire from an outcropping of rocks on a hillside above the road. One Soldier exited his vehicle to return fire and was designated as a casualty.

“I saw the contact, reacted, tried to take him out but got hit. It kind of stinks to be the first casualty but it happens, it comes with the territory,” said Spc. George Aaroe, chemical specialist with the 128th Chemical Company and a Philadelphia resident.

Kiner said Soldiers should remember going forward not to exit an up-armored vehicle, it’s the safest place to be in an attack.

“We’ll never leave a scenario without stopping to talk about it and make sure everyone understands what’s going on before we move forward,” he said.

When the lead truck in the convoy noticed the next roadside bomb and halted, it turned out the one they noticed was a decoy and the main IED was hidden in a woodpile close to the middle of the convoy. It sent up a billow of white smoke while Op For engaged with small arms fire.

In this part of the simulation, two Soldiers were killed and one severely injured. Kiner advised Hilburt of the correct steps to respond to the attack while Hilburt directed his Soldiers. The goal was to call for a medical evacuation, treat the wounded, and secure the area for the helicopter to land.

“The casualty’s left leg was blown off in an IED explosion, so we brought him into the Humvee to provide extra security for him and placed a tourniquet three to four inches above where the leg was blown off so we could stop the bleeding,” said Spc. Devon Deputy, chemical specialist

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U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Zane Craig, 109th MPAD

Spc. Kevin Davis, heavy equipment operator with the 116th Engineer Co. and a Payson, Ut. native, place a decoy improvised explosive device which will make an explosion of talcum powder, for the mounted training lane in Custer State Park as part of Golden Coyote 2013, June 10.

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with the 128th Chemical Company, and a Philadelphia resident.

The casualty, once again Aaroe, was moved to the casualty collection point

and Hilburt directed the vehicle to form a perimeter in the open meadow to provide security for the medevac to take place.

"While we waited for the bird to get here, we set up teams to secure the area

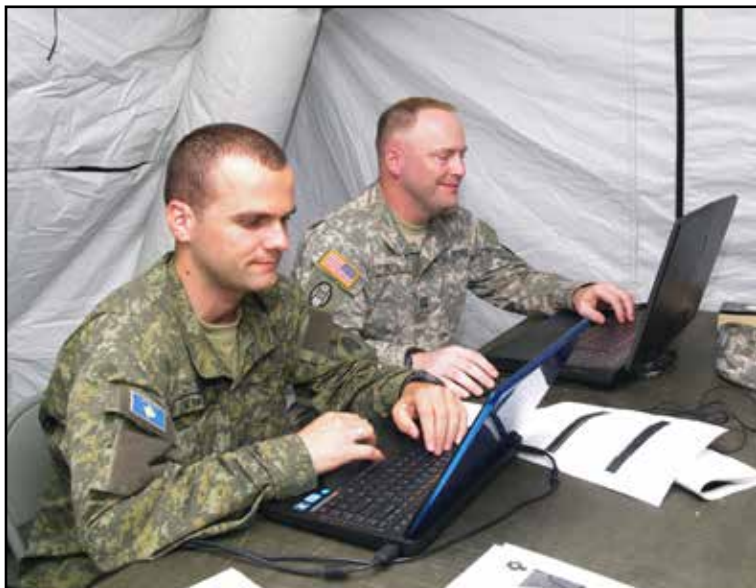
and we sent up a Salute report," said Hilburt, who was able to exit the vehicle and consult with Kiner to gain a greater perspective on the situation.

The 128th's response to the second attack improved noticeably from the first said Kiner. The cooperation between Kiner, the lane NCOIC, and the OPFOR ensured the unit could test its standard operating procedures and learn at its own pace.

"This is good stuff, you guys do concentrate a lot on [Homeland Emergency Readiness Response Force] and [Chemical Enhanced Response Force Packages] and it's been a little while since you've been able to come out and do this stuff in the woods," said Command Sgt. Maj. Matt Hensinger of the 213th RSG and a Mertztown, Pa. resident, who observed the training.

More than 600 Soldiers from the 213th RSG and its subordinate units and 3,500 Soldiers from across the United States and around the world participated in a wide variety of military training during Golden Coyote 2013.

## State Program brings friendly forces together



U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Darwin Seehusen, 135th MPAD

Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy L. Harpold  
135th MPAD

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Members of the Kosovo Security Force arrived with the Iowa Army National Guard to Rapid City, S.D., on June 9 for Golden

Coyote.

The KSF were participating in a cooperative training environment as a part of Iowa's "State Partnership Program," which is an exchange program that sends Iowa Soldiers

2nd Lt. Visar Nura, a platoon leader with the Kosovo Security Force's Rapid Reaction Battalion, works side-by-side with Cpt. Sean Picha, intelligence officer for the 734th Regional Support Group, Iowa Army National Guard, conducting information analysis during Golden Coyote at West Camp Rapid, S.D. on June 12, 2013. The KSF and Iowa Guard worked together to refine the different processes they used to manage missions as part of a mayor cell for their forward operating base.

to Kosovo and brings KSF members to the U.S. for joint training.

"I think there are training benefits for both of us, not just the KSF," said Command Sgt. Major Rachel Fails with the 734th Regional Support Group, Iowa Army National Guard. "For us, it is an advantage to get some joint experience, and for them, they get to come and see some

processes and policies that are already in place that they can take back and adapt to the types of missions that they have."

Overall, ten KSF arrived in Iowa on June 5. Seven traveled to South Dakota to participate in Golden Coyote. They worked with their Iowa Guard counterparts in such specialties as personnel administration, logistics, information analysis and vehicle maintenance.

Three remained at Camp Dodge Joint Maneuver Training Center, Iowa, to train with military police and medical units.

"What we are trying to do for the partnership is take the like type units, and build that relationship between their unit and a unit in Iowa that is

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## Chaplain's Corner Finishing Well

By (CH) Maj. Kenny Honken

For the authors of the New Testament, faith is not a sprint. Nor is it a one-time decision. It is a marathon that lasts an entire lifetime. In 1 Corinthians 9:27, the apostle Paul asks, "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it." In fact, concerning himself he writes, "I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified." The author of Hebrews says something similar: "Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith."

Like real marathons and the life of faith, Annual Training periods like Golden Coyote 2013 not only take a long time, but they need to finish well in order to be successful.

Take some time today to think about what you need to do at Golden Coyote 2013 to finish well. This is a valuable question whether you are a leader or a regular Joe. Should you refine your intent as a commander? Should you do your PMCS more thoroughly? Does everyone in your staff section understand how they fit into the unit's mission? Does your spouse need hear from you before you SP? Your employer? Does your composite risk management need to be updated? Do you need to go to bed early?

Finish well!

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### State from Page 7

similar for a training relationship into the future," said Fails. "This year, we wanted to incorporate the service support, and the sustainment type specialties."

"Right now, we are just here to observe and learn," said 1st Lt. Arbresha Rrahmani, supply and maintenance officer with the KSF's Operational Support Brigade.

The interaction with the Iowa Guard counterparts has provided the KSF a lot of different techniques for accomplishing tasks, said 2nd Lt. Visar Nura, a platoon leader for the KSF's Rapid Reaction Battalion.

Training with the Iowa units helped to reinforce classroom training acquired at U.S. Army basic officer leadership schools, said 1st Lt. Vjosa Maloku, staff officer for personnel with the KSF's Rapid Reaction Battalion. Many of the visiting KSF officers received their leadership training in the U.S.

When the group returns to Kosovo, they will use the training

and experience they received to enhance the KSF's capabilities.

An experience that received much praise, from the KSF, was the vehicle convoy from Camp Dodge to Rapid City. The trip was well organized, with proper distances between each group of vehicles, well thought out fuel points and rest breaks, and impressively executed vehicle recoveries when breakdowns occurred, said Sgt. Fatmir Rama, a Battalion Administrative Noncommissioned Officer for the KSF Rapid Reaction Battalion.

In addition to receiving training, the KSF are educating U.S. Soldiers on Kosovo history by briefing different platoons every day, said 2nd Lt. Vedat Shaqiri, a platoon leader for the KSF's Civil Protection Regiment.

In turn, the KSF will get a chance to visit some historical sites around South Dakota; Mt. Rushmore and The Crazy Horse National Memorial, said Rrahmani.

The KSF plan to complete training at Golden Coyote on June 20, return to Iowa and depart for Kosovo on June 22.

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