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COYOTE

COURIER
SOUTH DAKOTA 129TH MPAD

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE 2018 GOLDEN COYOTE TRAINING EXERCISE

Volume 34 /// Issue 2



Kansas Guard Soldiers react to IEDs during convoy training

By Sgt. Kristin Lichius
129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Soldiers with the 137th Transportation Company, Kansas Army National Guard, provides security during a convoy operation at the counter improvised explosive device training lane June 12, at Custer State Park, S.D. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Jeffery Harris)

Soldiers from the Kansas Army National Guard's 137th Transportation Company participated in the counter improvised explosive device training lane at Custer State Park, June 12.

The CIED course provided an opportunity for units attending the Golden Coyote training exercise to practice identifying and reacting to IEDs in a tactical scenario.

"We provide quality, realistic training that allows units to gain experience in a complex environment," said Maj. Carol Jordan with South Dakota Army National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters, officer in charge of the training course.

The training was broken into three parts. The unit first received instruction on how to identify and properly react to a potential IED. The unit then developed a plan of action that included their tactics, techniques, and procedures for reacting and reporting identified devices. Lastly, the unit directed a convoy of tactical vehicles through several simulated scenarios on a canyon road.

"This training is new for many of our Soldiers," said Sgt. Mike Steed, 137th truck driver and convoy commander for the training. "It gives them the opportunity to operate the trucks in a new environment with unfamiliar terrain."

The convoy drove down an uneven gravel road with canyon walls and pine trees on either side. The drivers must maneuver



Sgt. Sean Harper, truck driver, 137th Transportation Company, Kansas Army National Guard, reacts to simulated enemy fire during a convoy operation at the counter improvised explosive device training lane June 12, Custer State Park, S.D. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Kristin Lichius)

over large rocks and differentiate between natural and man-made disturbances in the terrain. Anything that looked out of place may be related to a potential IED.

“This is the most realistic and professional training I’ve been through,” said Sgt. Sean Harper, a truck driver with the 137th. “It teaches the Soldiers the importance of always being aware of

their surroundings and prepares them for situations they may encounter overseas.”

While navigating through the canyon, the convoy recognized three disturbances in the road and react to two events in which they encountered simulated small arms and artillery fire from theoretical enemy forces.

“The training was new, fun, and

absolutely worthwhile,” said Steed. “It really shows our Soldiers what their trucks are capable of doing in these scenarios.”

The CIED lane is one of several training courses that units are participating in while attending the Golden Coyote training exercise.



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Building Warfighter risk management

By Chief Warrant Officer 4 James McGuire, State Safety Officer
Joint Forces Headquarters - SDNG



This Golden Coyote training exercise provides commanders the opportunity to develop warrior skills for enhancing unit survivability, mission sustainability and combat power. We have always been leaders of the pack, among the best.

As important as our unit mission focused training is, so is our survivability. The survivability of our unit personnel and equipment depends on adequate planning and safe mission execution.

Army Vehicle accidents are the leading accident impacting mission accomplishment. Following vehicle accidents is off-duty recreational activities. Just a few days ago, the Army lost a Soldier in a training exercise while hooking up a trailer. Army wide, 92 soldier have lost their lives since this time last year with 77 of them being from privately owned vehicles.

We should keep our focus towards protecting the force with Risk

Management. Because of risk management we have lower numbers of accidents and those accidents are less severe than previous years. As our missions take fold and we have incidents, even minor ones,

we should always ask why and what did we miss in our planning? Were there hazards that we missed in planning and risk management?

The risk management program should be spearheaded by commanders and communicated to the lowest level. All personnel should be aware of associated mission hazards and the controls put in place to eliminate or minimize the mission risk.

It’s imperative that leaders communicate Risk Management with all personnel. Everyone should be aware of established hazard controls and know what a risk management form is. Leaders must

share this with personnel and solicit ideas to enhance and potentially improve the effectiveness of hazard mitigation.



SD Guard engineers expand access in Wind Cave National Park

By Spc. Kayla Cooper
129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Members of the South Dakota National Guard's 842nd Engineer Company are participating in the Golden Coyote training exercise by building a road at Wind Cave National Park, June 10-20.

The 842nd will be working on 266 Road, a single lane dirt road located off of Red Valley Road. Their mission is to expand the road into two lanes and reinforce it with gravel to allow two-wheel drive vehicles easier access to additional acres of the park.

"This road is important because it will provide access to many recreational activities for the community as well as many educational opportunities," Tom Farrell, Wind Cave National Park ranger and chief of interpretation.

Over the one-mile stretch of road, the 842nd estimates that they will move 2,200 cubic yards of dirt, will haul and spread 4,700 tons of gravel, and will place 16 culverts.

The 842nd is using various pieces of heavy equipment including dozers, graders, dump trucks and other excavating equipment to complete the mission.

"This mission has improved our unit cohesiveness, normally our platoons have to work on smaller projects throughout the year," said Spc. Isaac Grassel, a new Soldier in the 842nd and first time attendee of the Golden Coyote. "This project has given us the opportunity to work together on a much larger scale."

The 842nd also has surveyors from the 153rd Engineer Battalion, SDARNG, and one Soldier from the United Kingdom working with them on the project.

"I get to work side-by-side with the American troops and observe how the engineers run their missions, then share that experience with my troops back home," said Cpl. Michael Smart, 71st Engineer Regiment, United Kingdom.

Wind Cave National Park officials say 5,556 acres were added to the park in 2011 and are hoping to grant public access to the southeast boarder of the park within one year.

"It is really critical we get this land open, we couldn't do it without the South Dakota National Guard."



LEFT: U.S. Army Sgt. Kenneth Branich, 842nd Engineer Company, South Dakota National Guard, operates an excavator at Wind Cave National Park, S.D., June 12. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Kayla Cooper)

BELOW: U.S. Army Spc. Orion Trettle, 842nd Engineer Company, South Dakota National Guard, ground guides a dump truck as it backs up to deliver a load of gravel at Wind Cave National Park, S.D., June 12. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Kayla Cooper)



Faces of Golden Coyote



What is the most unexpected training event that you have participated in during this exercise?



Name: Jacob Lindeau
Rank: U.S. Army Staff Sgt.
Unit: 190th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion
Unit Location: Billings, Montana

“The combat lifesaver class is a very well resourced and planned training event. The instructors really care and have pride in what they teach. The training was really exciting.”



Name: Jessica Borwick
Rank: U.S. Navy Seaman
Unit: Expeditionary Medical Facility Dallas
Unit Location: Dallas, Texas

“I was not expecting having to shoot. I normally take care of people. When we practiced shooting, that was intense, but it’s pretty cool. It gives you experience on how it feels.”



Name: Christian Kowalski
Rank: Canadian Armed Forces Private
Unit: 38 Canadian Brigade Group
Unit Location: Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

“We had a lot of contact with the opposition forces, which is nice because opposition forces are not really prevalent in a lot of exercises. It made the training more realistic.”



Name: Preston Gregovich
Rank: U.S. Army Pfc.
Unit: 137th Transportation Company
Unit Location: Olathe, Kansas

“I did not expect the paintball course. It was the first time I’ve received training like that, it was very exciting.”

Every Member Counts

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The Inspector General Office is located in the northwest wing of building 420, rooms B201 & A231 at Camp Rapid 0630 - 1700 hours

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DC Guard Soldiers stress realism in training



Soldiers with the Montana Army National Guard's 190th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion apply a hasty tourniquet during combat lifesaver training at Range Road Armory, Rapid City, S.D., June 11. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Breanne Donnell)

By Spc. Breanne Donnell
129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Units from the Montana and South Dakota Army National Guard participated in a combat lifesaver course hosted by Medical Command (Med. Cmd.), District of Columbia National Guard during the Golden Coyote training exercise in Rapid City, June 11.

The D.C. Med. Cmd. is hosting the three-day course twice during the two-week exercise. Six different units plan on attending the training and will certify over 100 Soldiers with the combat lifesavers course certificate.

The Soldiers train in a simulated environment to equip them to perform in a deployed environment. The training they receive gives them lifesaving skills to bridge the gap between self or buddy-aid and the combat medic.

"Nothing ever goes as planned," said Sgt. Martin Tran, with the D.C. Med. Cmd. "Having the basic outline to follow and going by the training they receive makes these Soldiers a battlefield asset."

The D.C. Med. Cmd. took creative measures to provide the most realistic training possible. They use fake blood and water to simulate how difficult it could be to secure a tourniquet on the battlefield.



Soldiers with the South Dakota and Montana Army National Guard participated in a combat lifesaver course given by Medical Command, District of Columbia Army National Guard, during the Golden Coyote training exercise at Range Road Armory, Rapid City, S.D., June 11. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Breanne Donnell)

They increased the intensity of the training by making loud, distracting noises, using water guns and water balloons to simulate incoming enemy fire.

Pfc. Brody Paris of the 190th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Montana Army National Guard, said hands-on training and the change of pace the course provided, as well as the break from the classroom, was something he looked forward to during the training.

"I'm going to try and retain as much as possible because this stuff is very important," Paris said. "It was really great training and

if I were to deploy this really broadened my perspective and helped a lot."

The course includes lifesaving training on hasty tourniquet application, controlling bleeding and opening airways. Teaching these skills to stop the bleeding can increase the survival rate of combat casualties.

"I'm looking forward to providing great training that's hands-on," said SSG Yvette Jones of the D.C. Med. Cmd. "This training gives Soldiers enough time to learn the skills, absorb them and put them into [practice]."

Commander of Troops
Brig. Gen. Thomas Croymans

GC Exercise PAO
Capt. Amber Symonds

The editorial content of this newsletter is prepared,
edited and provided by the
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Weather Forecast – Black Hills Area

SAT JUN 16		Cloudy	71°/55°
SUN JUN 17		Rain	60°/52°
MON JUN 18		Cloudy	68°/53°
TUE JUN 19		Showers	69°/56°
WED JUN 20		Showers	68°/55°
THU JUN 21		Scattered Thunderstorms	75°/57°
FRI JUN 22		Showers	76°/58°
SAT JUN 23		PM Showers	80°/60°

Black Hills events

Movies Under the Stars - Spider-Man: Homecoming
June 18 - 1900-2200
Main Street Square - Downtown Rapid City

Star Wars Themed Trivia
June 19 - 1830
MacKenzie River Pizza & Grill

Pirates Cove Mini Golfing
Daily - 0900-2100
1500 N. Lacrosse Street

Nations train as one at Golden Coyote training exercise

By Officer Cadet Natasha Tersigni
38 Canadian Brigade Group

Because positions on international military training exercises are in short supply for Canadian Army Reservists, 59 members of 38 Canadian Brigade Group jumped at the chance to attend Exercise Golden Coyote 2018.

38 Canadian Brigade Group (CBG) is an Army Reserve Force Brigade consisting of 13 units located in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and North West Ontario. For the past two years, 38 CBG members have staffed the Task Force 38 Headquarters, this year at Custer State Park under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Mykytiuk, Commanding Officer of the North Saskatchewan Regiment in Saskatoon. This final training exercise makes for an excellent opportunity for 38 CBG to partner with the South Dakota Army National Guard (SDANG), while carrying out humanitarian missions, engineering projects, and medical aid training, along with a Quick Reaction Force.

For Canadians out on Exercise Golden Coyote, access to this type of training where they interact with American counterparts in a threat environment with an opposing force is highly valued, lending elements that are different from training back in Canada.

“The support we are getting from the South Dakota National Guard has been outstanding and has allowed us to really leverage our own training objectives. Working with the Americans, we get access to a lot of resources we normally wouldn’t,” said Mykytiuk who added that every Canadian soldier, including himself, is being exercised to a high level.

“For myself, I have resources that I don’t normally have access to and I am actually getting a chance to exercise command at this level which is hard to get back at the unit because you don’t have that critical mass. This is one of the very few opportunities I have to command at the battalion level; here I have close to 600 people under my command.”

For the Canadian engineers on the exercise, they are able to take part in the community improvement projects. Canadian army reservist Master Corporal Nicholas Mack of 38 Combat Engineer

Regiment, is the section commander for the engineers assisting the 821st Transportation Battalion with removing timber from Custer State Park. Once the timber has been loaded onto trucks, it is then transported to Native American communities. Engineers are cutting the wood to help with the ease of transport.

“It is part of the engineering skill set to work with chainsaws. For the exercise we are using them to de-limb and clean up the trees before they are transported,” said MCpl Mack.

“This is something that we would not have had the chance to do back at home, so it is great to be able to do this and work alongside the transport soldiers.”

Along with staffing the headquarters and proceeding an engineering section, Task Force 38 includes an infantry platoon taking part in the various training tasks that the exercise has to offer. With the infantry soldiers on the ground, Task Force 38 was able to establish a Quick Reaction Force – a military unit capable of rapidly responding to developing situations, typically to assist allied units in need of such assistance.

“The addition of the Quick Reaction Force (QRF) was a really great opportunity for our infantry soldiers but also for the larger camp,” said LCol Mykytiuk who added it is also of benefit to American units as well.

“Some of the larger National Guard



Sgt. Maj. Christian Beeler, 821st Transportation Battalion, Kansas Army Reserve, briefs Master Cpl. Alan Haley of 38 Signal Regiment, Canadian Armed Forces, on the work to be done at the timber haul site in Custer State Park, Custer, S.D., during the Golden Coyote training exercise, June 13. (Canadian Armed Forces photo by Cdt. Natasha Tersigni)

units such as the medics are taking advantage of the fact that we have this dynamic operation capability. Normally they train on their own, but this way they have a combat arms experience, and they can exercise with them.”



Lt. Col. Thomas Mykytiuk, commander, 38 Canadian Brigade Group, briefs members of South Dakota National Guard’s 842nd Engineer Company, Wind Cave National Park, June 10. (Canadian Armed Forces photo by Cdt. Natasha Tersigni)

Providing fundamental skills for buddy aid

By Capt. Carstin Jerzak, Equal Employment Manager
Joint Forces Headquarters - SDNG

Every person serving in the military goes to some form of Basic Training and learns the fundamentals of how to function, look and act like a military person is supposed to. We also learn fundamental skills like how to shoot, move and communicate in a tactical environment, wear our equipment and basic medical skills to help our buddy and ourselves if we are hurt on the battlefield. What if the battlefield is the armory where you drill, or the vehicle you drive or an event you thought would be safe to attend with all your buddies like a holiday party? What if you were getting ready to leave drill and one of your buddies came up to you and said they really needed to talk to you about something that happened to them and really didn't want to be alone right then? We have no idea when someone will reach out and need help – no idea. The question is, what would you do if it was you they were to ask for help from? We have buddy aid for medical issues like shock, gas attacks and sucking chest wounds, but we have never had buddy aid for sexual assault. Nothing! Nada! Until now. The buddy aid approach to assist someone in a crisis is fundamental. We have seen the benefits of immediate first aid from a medical or chemical aspect and yet we've left areas like assault out of the equation because we expect a Unit Victim Advocate to be immediately available to handle the situation, but what if a person doesn't want to talk to these trained personnel? What if they aren't sure who they are or how to get a hold of them? But they decide they need to reach out and do something and you're their friend, buddy, someone they trust.

First – What do you say? When someone discloses a sexual assault: Say things like, I believe you, you didn't deserve this, I am here for you, I'll get you the help you want, it's not your fault. If the victim doesn't disclose an assault, but you suspect something: Say things like, do you want to talk, did someone hurt you, have you been raped, what happened, what can I do to help you, what can I do to support you.

Second - What are some things not to say? Don't ask the victim things like what they were wearing, doing, drinking, etc. These types of questions are like an interrogation and imply the victim did something to bring this situation on, it is called victim blaming. You are there to provide support, not investigate, judge or decide – support only!

Third –What do you do? Pay attention to nonverbal actions and respond to those. Make sure the victim has control – support their decisions and choices. Protect their privacy – do not talk to anyone except a Victim Advocate or SARC about the situation.



Fourth – What do you do next? See if the victim wants to talk to a Victim Advocate. Not everyone is comfortable talking with a Victim Advocate and that is completely their decision. If they do not want to, don't push it, simply keep supporting them as best you can as their friend, buddy, etc., and then ask

their permission for you to consult a Victim Advocate, so you're sure you're getting them the most accurate information, the best support possible. Victim Advocates know what to do, where to seek assistance and support, how to protect privacy. You want that for your buddy.

These 4 simple steps in Buddy Aid for sexual assault can help you support someone following an assault, whether the assault happened last night, or 5 years ago. None of us want our buddies to walk this journey alone – you can be the one that makes a difference, following what might be the most traumatic event of their lives.

To schedule a one-hour block of training for Buddy Aid for sexual assault, coordinate with the SARC: Emily.rollason.1@us.af.mil or 605.212.8481

Golden Coyote 2018 Exercise Coin



Coins are \$5/ea or 10 for \$45
Contact Sgt. 1st Class Prentice
william.e.prentice.mil@mail.mil



Kansas Soldiers learn military operations in urban terrain

By Staff Sgt. Rachel Korzeniewski
129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Soldiers from Kansas Army National Guard's 137th Transportation Company, Kansas Army Reserve's 129th Transportation Company and 821st Transportation Battalion came together to participate in the military operations in urban terrain training lane during the Golden Coyote training exercise, June 13, West Camp Rapid.

Throughout the training lane, Soldiers learn squad-level tactics like navigating rough terrain, clearing a room, securing high-value targets and medical evacuation.

"The purpose of this lane is to get units into small squad elements," said Officer Candidate Tyler Gregor, 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute), South Dakota Army National Guard. "They experience realistic scenarios, such as react to an ambush while navigating rough terrain on foot patrol. Our goal is to get Soldiers to react while under a stressful situation."

To create a stressful environment for the Soldiers, the training lane has an opposing force – that role-play an enemy and friendly civilian presence – and incorporates use artillery simulators and paintball guns for added realism.

"Using paintball guns introduces a more realistic scenario as best as we can," said Gregor. "Soldiers have to take cover, monitor their ammunition and perform weapon clearing procedures, if needed."

Gregor said the emphasis of this training lane is communication, squad tactics, react to contact while on foot and making decisions while under stress in multiple types of missions.

"There are four missions within the lanes. The first is react to an ambush, focusing on knowing when to withdraw," said Gregor. "Second is clearing a weapons cache in an improvised explosive device factory and third is a foot patrol to find a high value target and securing that target."

This training lane offers opportunities some units would not have otherwise.

"In this lane, Soldiers are receiving more infantry-styled training in units that wouldn't normally have the opportunity to receive training like this," said Gregor. "So if they ever get in a real-world combat situation, they will have a general



U.S. Army Soldiers from the Kansas National Guard and Reserve breach a door to gain access while training on the military operations on urban terrain training lane during the Golden Coyote training exercise, Rapid City, S.D., June 13. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Rachel Korzeniewski)



U.S. Army Soldiers from the Kansas National Guard and Reserve work together to come up with a plan before they begin their mission on military operations on urban terrain during the Golden Coyote training exercise, Rapid City, S.D., June 13. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Rachel Korzeniewski)

knowledge on how to operate."

The Golden Coyote training exercise provides relevant training opportunities in support of overseas contingency operations and homeland defense. Service members train on both individual and

collective tasks to help with combat readiness.



Ace up your sleeve

By CH (Col.) Lynn Wilson
Joint Forces Headquarters - SDNG

In the 1500s, most people didn't have pockets in their clothes, so they kept things in their sleeves. Later on, magicians hid objects up their sleeves and pulled them out unexpectedly to

surprise their audiences. In the 1800s, dishonest card players secretly slipped a winning card, often an ace, up their sleeves and pulled it out when nobody was looking.

I believe all military members and their families have a different kind of 'ace up their sleeves', and that is the "ACE" suicide prevention plan, a simple yet powerful method of remembering what to do when someone is suicidal and thinking about taking their life.

A—Stands for ask. Asking about suicide does not suggest the thought to someone. Rather, it shows them you care and it is ok to talk about. Ask, even if it is very hard to do, you may save a life. Stay calm. Don't judge the person. Remember, if some of the same things that happened to them happened to you, the roles could be reversed, and you could be the one who is thinking of committing suicide. Don't ignore warning signs, statements, or threats of suicide.

C—Stands for care. Show care by listening and reassuring the person. Sometimes when people say "yes" to the question of whether they are thinking about killing themselves, we panic. And 'panic rarely leads to patience.' Encourage the person and reassure them that help is available. Use active listening to make sure you really understand what they're saying.

E—Stands for escort. Escort is not only your duty, but your privilege! How many of us have at some time in our life needed help? I got out of the Hospital after my second surgery (car accident 11 December) on December 25, 2015. I needed help to get into the house, but because of my broken foot and broken ankle, I could not. Retired Guardsmen (and friend), Bruce Kraemer lifted me up over the step of my house so that I could be home for Christmas. That is, in essence, the privilege that you and I have when helping the hurting. We can lift them up to safety. We can stay with them to ensure they're safe. We can go with them to the ER, to the mental health expert, to the Chaplain or the doctor. We can call 911 and ask the police for help if we feel the situation is truly desperate.

This is our "ace up our sleeve"—an easy way to remember how we can help those who are in dire need of someone who cares!

On an entirely different note, I want to wish all of our father's a very blessed father's Day 2018! I know being here at our 34th annual Golden Coyote training exercise means that you're not home on Father's Day. But we in South Dakota have been very honored to have all of the fathers, mothers, sons and daughters, all of you who have made the 2018 Golden Coyote training exercise the best we've ever had! God bless!

Chaplain Lynn Wilson-605-431-5182

Director Psychological Health-Amber Heinert-605-390-5434

Psychological Health Coordinator/Air Guard-Kelley Christenson-605-988-5539



Golden Coyote 2018 Chapel Services - 17 June



Base Coyote-Catholic 0730 hrs - Bldg. 554/Chapel
-Protestant 0830 hrs - Bldg. 554/Chapel

Base Coolidge-Catholic/Protestant - time TBD by base chaplain

Base Guernsey-Catholic/Protestant - time TBD by base chaplain (Daily Mass when schedule permits)

Base Oak Draw-Catholic/Protestant - time TBD by base chaplain

Base Barns Canyon-Catholic/Protestant - time TBD by base chaplain

Bull Pen Outpost-Catholic/Protestant - time TBD by base chaplain

Wind Cave Outpost-Catholic/Protestant - time TBD by base chaplain

Sanford Outpost-Catholic/Protestant - time TBD by base chaplain

Golden Coyote 2018

Training Opportunities - Base Coyote

Daily Devotions - 11-21 June/0800 hrs - Bldg. 554/Chapel

EO Leaders Trng. - 13-18 June/0700-1600 hrs - Bldg. 100

CH Tedmon Retirement - 18 June/1600 hrs - Bldg. 420

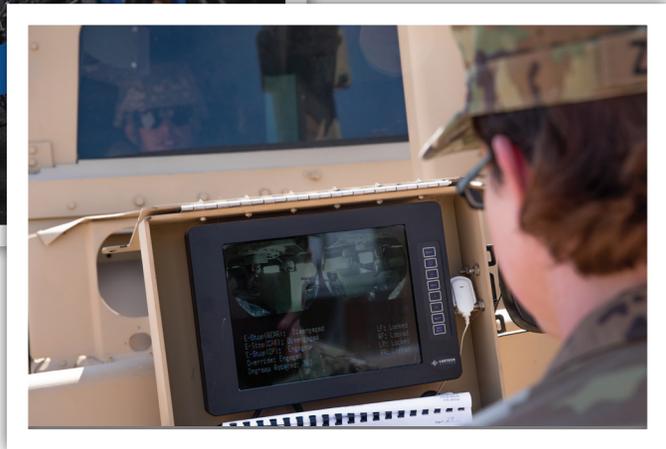
Domestic Violence Brief - 19 June/1300 hrs - Bldg. 554/Chapel

Faith Run - 20 June/0600 hrs - Bldg. 554/Chapel



ABOVE: U.S. Army Soldiers with the 730th Area Support Medical Company, South Dakota Army National Guard conduct Virtual Convoy Operations Training at Camp Rapid, S.D., on June 14. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Jeffery Harris)

BELOW: U.S. Army Soldiers with the 982nd Signal Company (Combat Camera) (Airborne), Georgia Army Reserve, conduct High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle Egress Assistance Trainer at Camp Rapid, S.D., June 13. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Jeffery Harris)



Virtual training improves readiness for Golden Coyote participants

By 129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Military members utilized warfighting simulators to increase their readiness during the Golden Coyote training exercise at Camp Rapid, June 9-23.

Golden Coyote participants trained with the Virtual Convoy Operations Trainer (VCOT), Virtual Battlespace 3 (VBS3), Engagement Skill Trainer II and the Operator Driver's Simulator.

The use of these different training platforms gives the instructors the ability to control how quickly information is delivered to the service members being trained.

"Virtual training allows a squad leader, section sergeant or commander to slow the action down to a crawl or walk phase so that the unit can practice battle drills in a safe environment," said Staff Sgt. Aaron Olson, simulations sergeant, Training Center, South Dakota Army National Guard.

The VCOT provides realistic scenarios for convoy operations in a combat environment. Participants practice anticipating ambushes and other insurgent actions. Service members can maneuver their virtual vehicles

and weapons through challenging terrain and weather.

Capt. Bryan Ingram, operations officer, 28th Logistics Readiness Squadron, Ellsworth Air Force Base, trained using the VCOT for the first-time Wednesday and said the experience helped him better appreciate what his Army peers experience.

"The VCOT helps you understand their requirements. You understand the ammo they go through, the harm's way they get put in," said Ingram. "Golden Coyote provides an outside perspective for Airmen of what our Army counterparts are going through, so we can better support them."

In addition to supporting the joint environment, virtual platforms also support units' stateside missions.

"Minus the threat, stateside missions have a lot of the same components that overseas missions have, like driving hazards, weather challenges, radio communications and teamwork," said Olson. "We need to be skilled navigating all of those when we're called to respond to tornadoes, fires or floods."

Virtual training can also be fun by

providing a different perspective for warfighters.

Petty Officer 2nd Class John Holly, Expeditionary Medical Facility Great Lakes, appreciates the fresh approach he experienced in the VBS3 and said he prefers the virtual opportunities at Golden Coyote to more traditional training. His unit trained for a mass casualty event on the VBS3.

"This enhances your skill set and makes you better at doing what you need to do. It lets you experience the tactical environment in a completely different way," said Holly. "It's more fun and gives us the training we need."

Golden Coyote has offered virtual platforms for at least 10 years and the training has continued to improve every year, according to Olson, who has deployed twice.

"No matter if you're an E4 or an E9, what every single person wants is to take care of the buddy next to them," said Olson. "And if you train on these platforms, you'll be better prepared to do that."

Service members learn lifesaving skills

By Staff Sgt. Jorrie Hart
114th Fighter Wing



U.S. Army Soldiers carry a simulated casualty during a live combat training event which taught immediate lifesaving techniques on Rapid City, S.D., June 13. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Jorrie Hart)

Service members from the U.S. Navy Reserve and U.S. Army Reserve and National Guard came together to learn lifesaving skills during the Golden Coyote training exercise, June 13.

The training showed service members how to perform straightforward life saving techniques they can begin administering to a casualty immediately.

“We teach them the basics and things they can do to save people’s lives, said U.S. Navy Reserve Petty Officer 2nd Class Veronica Wiley, a hospital corpsman from Expeditionary Medical Facility Dallas One, Detachment F, Fort Worth, Texas.

Service members rotated through stations learning skills included assessing a trauma patient, controlling bleeding and proper medical evacuation procedures.

“The people who are sent out to combat environments need to know the skills taught here,” said Wiley. “If your medic is unavailable, you need to assist with these skills to help save lives.”

After all the teaching

U.S. Army Soldiers of the South Dakota Army National Guard’s 842nd Engineer Company assess a simulated casualty during a live combat training scenario designed to test their immediate life saving techniques, Rapid City, S.D., June 13. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Jorrie Hart)



stations were complete, the service members were sent on a training mission that would test what they had learned. The mission was made more realistic using simulated enemy live fire, flash bangs and yelling from the instructor and fellow teammates.

“I’m pretty good under pressure if I’m at the hospital, but if you hand me a rifle and tell me to go care for a patient while I’m being shot at, that’s intimidating,” said Wiley.

A portion of the training was to have a simulated wounded Soldier who

required care while the team was engaged with the enemy. The care would be given by a Soldier handpicked by the training staff.

U.S. Army Pvt. Cameron Cummings, a wheeled vehicle mechanic with the 842nd Engineering Company, South Dakota Army National Guard, was specially selected to play the role of a medic during the live training event in part to his inexperience and how he had graduated from his advanced individual training two months ago.

He used the skills taught

to immediately perform the life saving techniques on his wounded team mate.

“It gives us a taste of what it’s going to be like overseas and provides us with more experience than a classroom,” said Cummings. “It gave me a better idea of what it’s like to be in a combat environment rather than working on vehicle in a shop.”

Snapshots



U.S. Army Soldiers with the 3650th Maintenance Company attached to the 169th Fires Brigade, Colorado National Guard, conduct High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle Egress Assistance Trainer (H.E.A.T.) at Camp Rapid, S.D., June 13. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Jeffery Harris)



U.S. Army Col. Scott Petrik, Chief of Staff, and Brig. Gen. Tom Croymans, Commander of Troops for the Golden Coyote training exercise, South Dakota Army National Guard, brief South Dakota Lt. Gov. Matt Michels about the Golden Coyote training exercise, Rapid City, S.D., June 11. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Christopher Martin)



U.S. Army Spc. Jeremy Guadino, a construction equipment repairer, and Pvt. Nathan Dressen, a wheeled vehicle mechanic, both with the 842nd Engineering Company, South Dakota Army National Guard, work together to complete a Nine-Line during a live combat training event, Rapid City, S.D., June 13. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Jorrie Hart)

Snapshots



U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, Adjutant General, South Dakota National Guard and U.S. Army Pfc. Destiny Comer, Medical Command, District of Columbia National Guard, cut the birthday cake, celebrating the 243rd birthday of the U.S. Army. (U.S. Army Reserve photo by Sgt. Gary Silverman)



U.S. Army Pfc. Jonathan Cameron, 190th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Montana Army National Guard, drags U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Bo Ivers, 147th Army Band, South Dakota National Guard, to safety during the combat lifesaver course at the Range Road Armory, Rapid City, S.D., June 11. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Breanne Donnell)



U.S. Army Pfc. James Smith with the 982nd Signal Company (Combat Camera) (Airborne), Georgia Army Reserve, assists U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Karin Pastian, 28th Logistics Readiness Squadron, cross an obstacle in a team building Leaders Reactionary Course, in support of the Golden Coyote training exercise, Rapid City, S.D., June 13. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Gary Silverman)

Snapshots



U.S. Army First Sgt. Stacy Gonzales, 821st Transportation Battalion, Kansas Army Reserve, and Master Cpl. Cameron Arcand, 38 Canadian Brigade Group, take a moment to talk at the timber haul site during the Golden Coyote training exercise, Custer State Park, June 13. (Canadian Armed Forces photo by Cdt. Natasha Tersigni)



Members of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 147th Army Band perform during the Golden Coyote prayer breakfast, Rapid City, S.D., June 13. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. First Class Barbara Jensen)



U.S. Army Soldiers with the 137th Transportation Company, Kansas Army National Guard, react to a simulated improvised explosive device, Custer State Park, S.D., June 12. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Jeffery Harris)

Snapshots



U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Kenneth Brandt, Senior Army National Guard Chaplain and U.S. Army Deputy Chief of Chaplains, speaks in front of service members at the Prayer Breakfast during the Golden Coyote training exercise, Rapid City, S.D., June 13. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Tyler O'Connell)



U.S. Army Soldiers from the Kansas National Guard and Reserve clear a room while training on military operations on urban terrain training lane during the Golden Coyote training exercise, Rapid City, S.D., June 13. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Rachel Korzeniewski)



U.S. Army Soldiers of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 842nd Engineer Company, operate heavy equipment on 266 Road in Wind Cave National Park, S.D., June 12. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Kayla Cooper)