

**South Dakota National Guard
Public Affairs Office
2823 West Main St.
Rapid City, S.D. 57702**

Phone 605-737-6721
E-mail PAO@sd.ngb.army.mil

June 11, 2007
PAO 06-11-07

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Local Employers participate in Bosslift

CHAMBERLAIN, S.D. – Twelve local employers participated in the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve’s River Crossing Bosslift last Saturday, June 9, at Slicks Landing.

Don Kelpin, chairman of the South Dakota ESGR Committee, said, “It’s important for employers to participate in Bosslifts where they can see and experience the type and quality of training their employees receive while they are away from their civilian employment fulfilling their military obligations.”

Employers were transported to the military training site where they observed and gained a better understanding about the National Guard and Reserve members, who are currently supporting the Global War on Terror and Homeland Defense.

The 200th Engineer Company, South Dakota Army National Guard, conducted a launch and retrieval demonstration of a section of the bridge and a boat for the employers.

The unit can unload and put together the six-piece raft in approximately 26 minutes, according to Capt. LeeJay Templeton, commander of the 200th Engineer Company.

Employers observed Company B, 109th Medical Battalion, South Dakota Army National Guard, headquartered out of Vermillion, raft across the river. The 21-vehicle convoy entered the loading area at Slicks Landing, drove onto the floating bridges and rafted across the river to Pontoon Bay, on the northwest side of the Interstate. There they off-loaded the bridge and continued their convoy route to the 2007 Joint Thunder Annual Training Exercise, located in the Northern Black Hills of South Dakota.