

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 25, 2007,
PAO 06-25-07

MEDIA ALERT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Last Charlie Battery Soldier comes home

YANKTON, S.D. – Sgt. Corey Briest, a member of Battery C, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, South Dakota Army National Guard, and his family will arrive home between 3 and 4 p.m. CDT on Saturday, June 30, at the Chan Gurney Airport.

The public is encouraged to attend a short welcome home ceremony at 5 p.m. CDT at the Summit Activities Center gymnasium as the surrounding communities honor and celebrate the return home of the last Soldier from Battery C, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery.

Briest was wounded on Dec. 4, 2005, when a road side bomb exploded next to his vehicle that was part of a convoy he and fellow Charlie Battery Soldiers were conducting during the unit's mission to train and evaluate the Iraqi Police in one of many Baghdad districts. He has spent the last 12 months in physical therapy at a medical facility in Pomona, Calif.

“Corey is a true warrior who never quit fighting,” said Maj. Gen. Michael Gorman, adjutant general. “We are so happy he and his family will finally be home.”

The Briest family will be escorted to the Summit Activities Center by Patriot Guard Riders along a route west from the airport on 31st Street to Douglas Avenue, south on Douglas Avenue to 21st Street, then west on 21st Street to Summit Street and to the activities center.

During the ceremony, Sgt. Corey Briest will receive the Purple Heart Medal, the Bronze Star Medal and other awards.

Battery C, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, deployed to Iraq in October of 2005 and returned to South Dakota on Saturday, September 30, 2006.