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**MEDIA INVITATION FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Media information brief on the 2008 Golden Coyote Exercise**

RAPID CITY - The South Dakota National Guard Public Affairs Office will host an open house to South Dakota media representatives at 11:30 p.m. (MDT) on Thursday, May 29, at Building 450 on Camp Rapid. The purpose of the open house is to inform local media of the upcoming annual training exercise, Golden Coyote 2008, held in the Southern Black Hills from June 7-21.

Lunch will be served to all media representatives who participate in the open house. The SDNG PAO requests all RSVP no later than noon on Tuesday, May 27, by contacting Maj. Orson Ward at 605-737-6721, cell 605-431-8753, or E-mail orson.ward@us.army.mil.

Topics that will be discussed will be the background and purpose of exercise, U.S. and foreign military participants, news worthy events, and safety.

A schedule of the newsworthy events will be provided and as well as opportunities to interview leaders and planners involved in the exercise to include representatives from the U.S. Forest Service and Ellsworth Air Force Base.

**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE 2008 GOLDEN COYOTE  
EXERCISE**

THE SOUTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD WILL HOST THE ANNUAL GOLDEN COYOTE EXERCISE FROM JUNE 7 – 21 IN THE SOUTHERN BLACK HILLS. MORE THAN 4,000 SERVICE MEMBERS FROM 92 UNITS REPRESENTING 27 STATES AND FOUR FOREIGN NATIONS ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE EXERCISE. THE GOLDEN COYOTE EXERCISE HAS BEEN CONDUCTED FOR THE PAST 24 YEARS. THE EXERCISE PROVIDES RELEVANT TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN SUPPORT OF THE WAR ON TERROR AND HOMELAND DEFENSE.

RESIDENTS SHOULD BE AWARE OF AN INCREASE IN MILITARY

TRAFFIC THROUGHOUT THE BLACK HILLS AND AN INCREASE IN THE LEVEL OF NOISE DUE TO MILITARY OPERATIONS. AVIATION ACTIVITY WILL BE OPERATING OUT OF CAMP RAPID AND THE ARMY AVIATION SUPPORT FACILITY NEXT TO THE RAPID CITY REGIONAL AIRPORT.

AIRCRAFT WILL BE PRIMARILY TRAINING ON EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL TRANSPORT MISSIONS AS WELL AS MEDICAL EVACUATION. AIRCRAFT WILL RESPOND TO REAL-WORLD EMERGENCIES DURING THE EXERCISE AND REMAIN IN AN ALL-HOURS-READY STATUS DURING THE EXERCISE.

SPECTATORS TO MILITARY TRAINING ARE WELCOME, HOWEVER CAUTION IS WARRANTED AND SPECTATORS ARE ASKED TO REMAIN AT A SAFE DISTANCE FROM ALL MOVING MILITARY VEHICLES AND AIRCRAFT TO PREVENT INJURY TO PERSONNEL OR DAMAGE TO PROPERTY.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact Maj. Orson Ward at 605-737-6721, cell 605-431-8753, or E-mail [orson.ward@us.army.mil](mailto:orson.ward@us.army.mil).