

South Dakota National Guard

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

South Dakota recruiters win regional competition

By Staff Sgt. Theanne Tangen
SDNG Public Affairs Office

RAPID CITY, S.D. – South Dakota Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion was recognized as the top recruiters in Region 6 from May through July and were awarded the Lewis and Clark Challenge trophy for the fifth time in the history of the competition.

The SDARNG R&R Battalion placed ahead of Montana, Alaska, North Dakota, Idaho, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming in the annual challenge – designed to recognize recruiters for their efforts during the typically slow summer months.

The winner of the Lewis and Clark Challenge is determined by the number of Soldiers enlisted, the academic, physical and moral fitness of the Soldier, and the number of Soldiers who were shipped to basic training. All three areas are accumulated for the final score.

South Dakota rose to the top by having 68 out of 70 Soldiers ship to basic training and 97 percent of their enlistments are high school graduates.

“Our recruiter’s perseverance in finding new recruits has paid off. I am proud of every member of our recruiting force,” said Lt. Col. Joseph Jacobson, Recruiting and Retention Battalion commander. “In my opinion our region is the best in the nation and achieving this award means we are the best of the best.”

The entire Region 6 traveled to Whitefish, Mont., Aug. 23 for the three-day Lewis and Clark Challenge event to participate in sales and motivational training workshops, team building activities and network with successful recruiters from other states.

The event ended with a banquet where the SDARNG R&R Battalion received the traveling trophy to be displayed in the Recruiting and Retention office until next year.

“It’s going to be tough to win again next year. Region 6 is really good,” said Jacobson. “Any of the other states could have won this year but we are going to do our best and continue to exceed the standards and keep the trophy next year.”

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PHOTOS: High-resolution photos for this release are available upon request or at:
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110831-A-CW157-001: South Dakota Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion was recognized as top recruiters in Region 6 from May through July and were awarded the Lewis and Clark Challenge trophy for the fifth time in the history of the competition. The SDARNG R&R Battalion placed ahead of Montana, Alaska, North Dakota, Idaho, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming. The winner of the Lewis and Clark Challenge is determined by the number of Soldiers enlisted, the academic, physical and moral fitness of the Soldier and the number of Soldiers who were shipped to basic training. All three areas are accumulated for the final score. South Dakota rose to the top by having 68 out of 70 Soldiers ship to basic training and 97 percent of their enlistments are high school graduates.(SDNG photo by Staff Sgt. Theanne Tangen) (RELEASED)

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