

South Dakota National Guard

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SD Guard aviation unit awarded combat patch

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – South Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers from Rapid City’s Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, were awarded the 185th Aviation Brigade shoulder-sleeve insignia during a ceremony Sept. 5 at Camp Taji, Iraq.

The shoulder-sleeve insignia – more commonly known as the combat patch and formerly known as wartime service patch – signifies that a Soldier has been operating in a hostile environment or combat zone for 30 days or more.

The 189th has been serving in Iraq since June using their UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters to perform medical evacuations for injured service members. The unit currently has 65 Soldiers working as pilots, crew chiefs, medics, mechanics, avionics specialist and flight operations personnel.

During the ceremony, Command Sgt. Major Maynard Valeriano, 1st Battalion, 171 Aviation Task Force Dragonmasters, addressed the 189th Soldiers about the significance of the combat patch and the history of the 185th Aviation Brigade.

The combat patches were then presented to the 189th Soldiers by their senior noncommissioned officer 1st Sgt. Phillip Murphy. The patch is placed on the right arm of the Army Combat Uniform beneath the United States flag.

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PHOTOS: High-resolution photos for this release are available upon request or at:

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110905-A-1234-001: 1st Sgt. Phillip Murphy awards Staff Sgt. Gregory Holland, Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, South Dakota Army National Guard, with the 185th Aviation Brigade shoulder-sleeve insignia during a ceremony Sept. 5, 2011, at Camp Taji, Iraq. The shoulder-sleeve insignia – former wartime service patch, commonly known as the combat patch – signifies that a Soldier has been operating in a hostile or combat environment for 30 days or more. The patch is worn on the right arm of the Army Combat Uniform beneath the United States flag. The 189th has been serving in Iraq since June using their UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters to perform medical evacuations for injured service members. (Courtesy photo) (RELEASED)



110905-A-1234-002: Maj. Jon Murphy commander of Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, South Dakota Army National Guard, addresses his unit during the shoulder-sleeve insignia ceremony Sept. 5, 2011, at Camp Taji, Iraq. The shoulder-sleeve insignia – more commonly known as the combat patch and formerly known as wartime service patch – signifies that a Soldier has been operating in a hostile or combat environment for 30 days or more. The 189th has been serving in Iraq since June using their UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters to perform medical evacuations for injured service members. (Courtesy photo) (RELEASED)

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