

South Dakota National Guard Public Affairs Office

Phone: 605-737-6721 Email: pao@sd.ngb.army.mil
Web: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil>
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade changes command

By Sgt. Rebecca Linder
196th Unit Public Affairs Representative

SIoux FALLS, S.D. – Col. Kevin Griese, of Pierre, took command of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade from Brig. Gen. Ted Johnson during a change of command ceremony on Sunday, Sept. 11, at the Sioux Falls National Guard armory.

Griese, who has been a member of the National Guard for 29 years, will now oversee the unit that Johnson led while deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from May 2010 to May 2011.

"I am very humbled to have served as your commander," said Johnson, of Rapid City. "I appreciate your commitment, and it has been an honor to serve as your commander during our deployment and throughout the past couple of years."

As the commander of the 196th, Griese is responsible for the command and control of approximately 2,000 Soldiers, which is comprised of the 139th Brigade Support Battalion, 153rd Engineer Battalion, 1/147th Field Artillery Battalion and its subordinate units. Taking over the mission, Griese will continue to ensure that these units are equipped, manned, trained and prepared to carry out their state and federal missions.

"This brigade has always accomplished all tasks and missions in a phenomenal manner," said Griese, a geotechnical engineer for the South Dakota Department of Transportation. "My goal for the brigade is to continue to build upon the current successes that are in place; continue to take care of Soldiers; continue to train to standard; and continue to ensure all units are ready when called upon."

"Our Guard is the best it's ever been," said Maj. Gen. Timothy Reisch, adjutant general for the South Dakota National Guard, who was also in attendance at the ceremony. "I'm so proud of these two officers. You have all been so blessed to have Brig. Gen. Johnson as a commander, and Col. Griese is a perfect example of what I expect out of our leaders. I know he will do an outstanding job in this position."

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PHOTOS: High-resolution photos for this release are available upon request or at:
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110911-A-5816L-001: Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Marlette (center), assistant adjutant general for the South Dakota Army National Guard, passes the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade's colors to the new commander, Col. Kevin Griese, of Pierre, as former commander Brig. Gen. Ted Johnson, of Rapid City, watches during a change of command ceremony for the 196th on Sept. 11, 2011. The passing of the colors is a time honored tradition signifying the responsibility associated with assuming command. (SDNG photo by Sgt. Rebecca Linder) (RELEASED)



110911-A-5816L-002: Command Sgt. Maj. Darwin Rahder (right), passes the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade's colors to the outgoing commander, Brig. Gen. Ted Johnson, as Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Marlette (left), assistant adjutant general for the South Dakota Army National Guard, and incoming commander, Col. Kevin Griese, watch during a change of command ceremony for the 196th on Sept. 11, 2011. Johnson served as the commander of the 196th while the unit was deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from May 2010 to May 2011. (SDNG photo by Sgt. Rebecca Linder)

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Please contact Maj. Brendan Murphy at (605) 737-6721 or cell (605) 431-8753, or e-mail brendan.murphy1@us.army.mil.