

South Dakota National Guard Public Affairs Office

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

South Dakota's 196th Regiment changes commands

By 2nd Lt. Chad Carlson
SDNG Public Affairs Office

The South Dakota Army National Guard's 196th Regiment held change of command ceremonies Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 10-11.

Lt. Col. John Holter, of Rapid City, took command of the 196th Regiment, Regional Training Institute (RTI), during a change of command ceremony Sept. 10 at the Fort Meade parade grounds.

"In an officers career a command is a very special job," said Holter, who works fulltime as the director of operations for the SDNG. "It is a position of great responsibility and the work is very rewarding. This command will be no exception. The 196th RTI is an excellent organization with an important mission."

The regiment provides general instruction on a variety of military courses to include Officer Candidate School, Warrant Officer Candidate School and instruction in military occupational specialties such as truck driver (88M), multiple launch rocket system crewmember (13M) and operations/fire direction specialist (13P).

Holter took over the responsibilities from former commander Col. Kevin Griese, of Pierre.

Lt. Col. Orson Ward, of Lead, took command of 2nd Battalion (Modular Training), 196th Regiment, during a change of command ceremony Sept. 11 at the Sioux Falls National Guard armory.

"Our command exists to make other commanders successful," said Ward, who works fulltime as the 196th Regiment administrative officer. "We execute training to increase others readiness levels and that's meaningful."

The 196th Regiment, located at Fort Meade, with second battalion located in Sioux Falls, is one of the premier regional training institutes throughout the National Guard and earned "A Learning Institute of Excellence" rating by the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command in 2010.

"Our predecessors really took the organization up to a higher level, so to still try to keep the high momentum will be a challenge, but it will be exciting," Ward said.

Ward took over the responsibilities from former commander Lt. Col. Douglas Bogenhagen, of Omaha, Neb.

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PHOTOS: High-resolution photos for this release are available upon request or at: www.flickr.com/southdakotationalguard



DSC_0041: Lt. Col. John Holter (right), of Rapid City, receives the 196th Regiment colors from 196th Regiment Command Sgt. Maj. Patrick Couser, as Brig. Gen. Jeff Marlette (left), assistant adjutant general of the South Dakota Army National Guard, watches during a change of command ceremony for the 196th Regiment, Regional Training Institute Sept. 10, 2011, at the Fort Meade parade grounds. The passing of the colors is a time honored tradition signifying the responsibility associated with assuming command. (SDNG courtesy photo) (RELEASED)



DSC_0017: Lt. Col. Orson Ward (center right), receives the 196th Regiment colors from Lt. Col. John Holter (center left), 196th Regiment commander, as outgoing commander Lt. Col. Douglas Bogenhagen (left), and Master Sgt. Dan Konechne (right) look on during a change of command ceremony for the 196th Regiment Sept. 11, 2011, in Sioux Falls. The passing of the colors is a time honored tradition signifying the responsibility associated with assuming command. (SDNG courtesy photo) (RELEASED)

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