

# South Dakota National Guard

## Public Affairs Office

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **South Dakota's adjutant general meets Suriname's president**

By 2nd Lt. Chad Carlson  
SDNG Public Affairs Office

Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, the adjutant general of the South Dakota National Guard, took part in a historical multiday visit to the South American Republic of Suriname.

The meeting, taking part in July, marked the first time in the Suriname-South Dakota State Partnership Program (SPP) that South Dakota's adjutant general and Suriname's President Desi Bouterse were able to meet.

Reisch presented President Bouterse with a Minuteman statue which memorializes the heritage of the National Guard, its mission and its role in American history.

"He beamed with gratitude and happily posed for a photo of the presentation with me," said Reisch. "I hope that he will display the statue in his office and that it will serve as a continual reminder of how much South Dakota values this partnership."

"It's a rare opportunity to be able to do something like this," said Lt. Col. John Weber, South Dakota-Suriname State Partnership Program director. "It was a nice way to thank the president for allowing his senior military leaders to come participate in the partnership exchange in South Dakota."

Reisch also presented Suriname officials the South Dakota Coyote Patch which is worn on the left arm of the Army Combat Uniform of all SDARNG Soldiers.

Surinamese soldiers who have been presented the patch are authorized to wear South Dakota's coyote patch on their uniform.

"We started authorizing the wear of the coyote patch in 2006 when we established the relationship with Suriname," said Weber. "We typically try to give the patch to individuals who come to South Dakota and participate in our Golden Coyote training exercise."

The State Partnership Program was established to develop mutually beneficial partnerships between the State of South Dakota and the Country of Suriname.

"The South Dakota-Suriname partnership has not only become a priority in their military but has become a priority in their government," said Weber.

The SPP has worked with key leaders throughout South Dakota and Suriname's government, education system, military private businesses, tourist industry and communities.

“This partnership is a team effort and we hope to continue this relationship for many years to come,” said Weber.

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**PHOTOS:** High-resolution photos for this release are available upon request or at: [www.flickr.com/southdakotationalguard](http://www.flickr.com/southdakotationalguard)



**DSC\_0684:** Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch (left), the adjutant general of the South Dakota National Guard, presents Suriname’s President Desi Bouterse a Minuteman statue, which memorializes the heritage of the National Guard, its mission and its role in American history on a visit to Suriname in July. Reisch and Bouterse’s meeting marked the first time in the Suriname-South Dakota State Partnership Program that South Dakota’s adjutant general and Suriname’s president were able to meet. (SDNG photo by Capt. Mike Frye) (RELEASED)

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