

## **South Dakota National Guard Public Affairs Office**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **South Dakota Air National Guard Earns Governor's Safety Award**

SIoux FALLS, S.D. – The South Dakota Safety Council has awarded a Governor's Safety Award to the South Dakota Air National Guard for excellence in workplace safety and health.

The South Dakota Air National Guard is one of 41 employers who were recognized at the Governor's Safety Awards luncheon at the Sioux Falls Arena and Convention Center on September 28.

"An effective safety program reduces injuries and costs, maximizes productivity and builds morale," said Cary Swenson, executive director of the South Dakota Safety Council. "Employers like the South Dakota Air National Guard understand that safety is good business, now more than ever."

Since 1993, the annual Governor's Safety Awards have spotlighted South Dakota employers with above average safety records. Participants submit injury information which is compared with state and national data, as well as the entrant's past performance.

Ongoing safety programs and activities are also considered. Winners are recognized at three levels. The South Dakota Air National Guard received an Award of Honor, the highest of the awards, for exceptional accomplishment in reduction of injuries and illnesses in the workplace.

"My top priority is taking care of our Soldiers and Airmen and their Families," stated Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, the adjutant general of the SD National Guard. "Our Air National Guard's distinguished safety record demonstrates that they are truly living that priority every day."

The Governor's Safety Awards luncheon was part of the 19th South Dakota Safety & Health Conference, coordinated by the South Dakota Safety Council. The conference is the largest gathering of workplace safety and health professionals in the region. The South Dakota Safety Council, founded in 1949, is a non-governmental, not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in South Dakota by preventing unintentional injuries ("accidents").

Earlier this year the South Dakota Air National Guard was also selected as the 2011 recipient of the Air National Guard's William W. Spruance Safety Award. One Spruance trophy is awarded in the nation each year to the Air National Guard Unit which made the most significant contribution to accident prevention.

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