

South Dakota National Guard

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Camp Rapid unveils 3 new state-of-the-art buildings

By Staff Sgt. Theanne Tangen
SDNG Public Affairs Office

RAPID CITY, S.D. – The South Dakota Army National Guard held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Camp Rapid, Thursday, Oct. 27, for three new state-of-the-art facilities, which will enhance training and readiness for National Guard forces for years to come.

The ceremony showcased three new buildings; the Joint Force Headquarters Readiness Center, Barracks and Education Building 802, and the Troop Medical Clinic addition/alteration.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard, Sen. Tim Johnson, as well as senior SDNG officials, and local government and civic leaders were on hand for the ceremony.

“We’re here to celebrate buildings in one way, but we’re also here to celebrate the National Guard,” said Gov. Dennis Daugaard. “They are our own South Dakotans who come and rescue us and help us.”

The National Guard is no longer a strategic reserve, but an operational force, meeting the needs of today and ready to face the challenges of tomorrow, said Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general of the South Dakota National Guard.

“The National Guard leaders here will attest – it is our job to make sure these troops have the best training facilities possible as we move forward,” said Reisch, during the ceremony.

To help the National Guard move forward, the three new buildings combined provide the needed space for 404 workstations, an assembly hall, exercise rooms, classrooms and distance learning centers, kitchen and dining facility, company supply room and arms vault, auditorium, sleeping quarters for up to 600 troops, pharmacy, medical exam rooms and labs.

The new facilities are a part of South Dakota’s plan to replace older, inadequate armories and sites, which will save in operating costs and provide areas for training to meet readiness objectives for state active-duty missions and overseas deployments.

“What it’s really done is allowed us to bring in all the various staff sections and directorates into one building,” said Reisch. “It has fostered the communication necessary to run the National Guard.”

In addition to providing better training and readiness capabilities for service members, the state-of-the-art facilities are also designed to meet Leadership Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver criteria – making the buildings energy efficient and environmentally friendly.

The readiness center and barracks and education building include a geothermal heat exchanger for heating and cooling, automated temperature-control monitor, anti-terrorism/force protection measures, security fencing and site lighting, to name a few.

All three buildings combined cost \$54.1 million, which makes this the largest construction project in Camp Rapid history. The planning process began in the late 1980's and became a reality when the ground was broken in May of 2009.

Sen. Tim Johnson said he was able to secure funding for Camp Rapid by using his position as chairman of the Military Construction Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations.

"I know that this is a wise investment," said Sen. Tim Johnson. "Investments in the Guard are investments in the community and the security of our nation."

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



111027-A-CW157-035: Government officials, South Dakota National Guard leadership and business leaders celebrate the completion of the South Dakota National Guard's new Joint Force Headquarters Readiness Center with a ribbon-cutting ceremony Oct. 27, 2011, at Camp Rapid. The building is valued at \$37.8 million which features a large assembly hall, 404 workstations, 10 classrooms, five conference rooms, kitchen and dining facility, exercise room, and an arms vault. The new building will enhance training and readiness for National Guard forces for years to come. Cutting the ribbon left to right: Col. Kit Cline, James Scull, Brig. Gen. Wayne Shanks, Lt. Gov. Matt Michaels, Sen. Tim Johnson, Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, Gov. Dennis Daugaard, Mr. Jerry Wright, Brig. Gen. Ted Johnson, Brian Vulcan and Dale Ludens. (SDNG photo by Staff Sgt. Theanne Tangen) (RELEASED)



111027-A-CW157-001: South Dakota Army National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters Staff Sgt. Jason Gebhard, network administrator, explains the state-of-the-art communications system in the brand new Joint Force Headquarters Readiness Center during a tour Oct. 27, 2011, at Camp Rapid. The \$37.8 million JFHQ Readiness Center will enhance training and readiness for National Guard forces for years to come. (SDNG photo by Staff Sgt. Theanne Tangen) (RELEASED)



111027-A-CW157-002: The South Dakota National Guard held a ribbon-cutting ceremony Oct. 27, 2011, at Camp Rapid, for their new Joint Force Headquarters Readiness Center. The building is valued at \$37.8 million which features a large assembly hall, 404 workstations, ten classrooms, five conference rooms, kitchen and dining facility and an arms vault. The new building will enhance training and readiness for National Guard forces for years to come. (SDNG photo by Staff Sgt. Theanne Tangen) (RELEASED)



111025-A-DI382-048: The South Dakota National Guard held a ribbon cutting ceremony Oct. 27, 2011, at Camp Rapid, for their new barracks and classroom building 802. The building is valued at \$14.4 million which features a large auditorium, classrooms, a distance learning center, battalion and company supply rooms and sleeping quarters. Building 802 will enhance training and readiness for National Guard forces for years to come. (SDNG photo by Staff Sgt. Lance Schroeder) (RELEASED)



111025-A-WA247-011: The South Dakota National Guard held a ribbon cutting ceremony Oct. 27, 2011, at Camp Rapid, for their \$1.9 million addition/alteration to the Troop Medical Clinic. The clinic features four offices, three exam rooms, two labs, vision test room, hearing test room, dental exam, treatment exam rooms, and a pharmacy. The new clinic will enhance training and readiness for National Guard forces for years to come. (SDNG photo by Sgt. Jacqueline Fitzgerald) (RELEASED)

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