

South Dakota National Guard

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

196th MEB senior NCO changes responsibility

By Sgt. Rebecca Linder
196th Public Affairs

SIoux FALLS, S.D. – The 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade’s outgoing Command Sgt. Maj. Darwin Rahder released his senior-noncommissioned officer responsibilities to incoming Command Sgt. Maj. George Arends during a change of responsibility ceremony at the Sioux Falls armory on Dec. 17.

Since the unit first stood up 2008, Rahder, of Rapid City, has been the first and only CSM to help guide and lead the enlisted Soldiers of the 196th. Arends, of Sioux Falls, will continue the responsibility of care and keeping of the unit and its Soldiers.

Prior to serving with the 196th, Rahder has served as a CSM since 1995 with the 109th Engineer Battalion and the 109th Engineer Group. He also served as a first sergeant for the 109th.

“I want to thank the South Dakota Army National Guard for giving me this opportunity. I have wanted nothing more than this position throughout my career to help lead the Soldiers of this great organization, and the SDARNG gave it to me, so for that I am very thankful,” said Rahder, during his final speech. “To George, this is a great unit to lead and you are the right guy for the job. I wish you luck and Godspeed.”

Rahder also thanked his family who were in attendance for supporting him throughout his Guard career and his three deployments overseas (Operation Desert Shield/Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom). Members of the family received flowers during the ceremony, showing his grateful appreciation for standing by his side through his military career.

Since 1975, when Rahder first joined the South Dakota Army National Guard, he has received many awards to include The Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, four Army Commendation Medals, three Army Achievement Medals, the Combat Action Badge, and several more showing his outstanding leadership and commitment to service for more than 36 years with the SDARNG.

Incoming Command Sgt. Maj. Arends comes to the unit from 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, where he has served as the CSM since 2007. One of his most recent experiences as CSM was in 2009-2010 when he helped lead about 365 battalion Soldiers during their deployment to Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

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“Today is all about Command Sgt. Maj. Rahder and honoring him and his accomplishments,” said Arends, during the ceremony. “Standing on top of his shoulders is going to be hard, but...those accomplishments have made a clear, cut way for my new mission as the brigade command sergeant major.”

“We have a lot of years here that have helped mold the SDARNG. I want to thank you, Command Sgt. Maj. Darwin Rahder, for everything you have done. With more than 29 years of service in the Guard, Command Sgt. Maj. George Arends will continue to keep the MEB forward moving until he completes his mission,” said Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general of the SDNG, who was also in attendance at the ceremony.

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



111217-A-5816L-002: Outgoing Command Sgt. Maj. Darwin Rahder (center left), passes a sword to Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Zimmerman (center right), South Dakota Army National Guard state command sergeant major, during a change of responsibility ceremony at the Sioux Falls armory on Dec. 17, 2011. The noncommissioned officer’s sword symbolizes the symbolic exchange of the sacred trust placed in the NCO corps for the care and keeping of the unit and its Soldiers. The passing signifies the relinquishing of responsibility and authority from the outgoing CSM to the incoming CSM. (SDNG photo by Sgt. Rebecca Linder) (RELEASED)



111217-A-5816L-003: Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Zimmerman (center left), South Dakota Army National Guard state command sergeant major, passes a sword to incoming Command Sgt. Maj. George Arends (center right), during a change of responsibility ceremony at the Sioux Falls armory on Dec. 17, 2011. The noncommissioned officer’s sword symbolizes the symbolic exchange of the sacred trust placed in the NCO corps for the care and keeping of the unit and its Soldiers. The passing signifies the relinquishing of responsibility and authority from the outgoing CSM to the incoming CSM. (SDNG photo by Sgt. Rebecca Linder) (RELEASED)

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