

South Dakota National Guard

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pilot retires after 34 years of military service

By Sgt. Thia E. Monteith

Detachment 2, Company A, 1/112th Aviation

The South Dakota Army National Guard honored CW4 Robert Weaver (retired), of Rapid City, at the Army Aviation Facility in Rapid City Feb. 12 for his 34 years of military service. Weaver retired from the Guard Dec. 31, 2011, and will now fly for Life Flight out of Rapid City.

Robert Weaver joined the U.S. Army as a wheeled-vehicle mechanic in September 1977 at the age of 17 and served until 1986. His duty stations included Germany (1978-1981 and 1983-1985) and Fort Carson, Colo. (1981-1983 and 1985-1986).

In 1986, Weaver came to Rapid City and asked to be sent to flight school. At this time, he joined the South Dakota Army National Guard's 1085th Medical Company as a wheeled-vehicle mechanic before enrolling in Warrant Officer Candidate School and Initial Entry Rotary Wing School for the UH-1 Huey at Fort Rucker, Ala., in 1989.

In 1998, he went to the UH-60 Black Hawk qualification course when the 1085th was reorganized into Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, and from there to the maintenance test pilot course for the Black Hawk in 2000.

He transferred to Det. 2 Co. A 1/112 in 2008 and became OH-58A Kiowa qualified in 2003, maintenance test pilot qualified in 2005, and instructor pilot qualified in 2008.

By the time of his retirement from the SDARNG, Weaver had more than 34 years of military service, 22 years as a warrant officer and 4,002 accident-free hours as an aviator.

Weaver continues to serve as a mentor and a role model for all aviators even after his retirement.

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DSC 0202: Lt. Col. Michael Snow reads CW4 Robert Weaver's official retirement order, a letter from Gov. Dennis Daugaard, and a letter from the Secretary of Defense thanking him for is many years of service in the South Dakota Army National Guard. (SDNG photo by Sgt. Thia Monteith)



DSC 0226: Lt. Col. Michael Snow presents CW4 Robert Weaver with his 2011 Safety Award. Weaver was one of the most experienced aviators in the South Dakota Army National Guard aviation community. His knowledge and experience has been passed on to other aviators who he has flown with and taught during his career as a pilot. (SDNG photo by Sgt. Thia Monteith)

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