

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

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **South Dakota National Guard looks back on Iraq**

By Staff Sgt. Theanne Tangen  
SDNG Public Affairs Office

On March 19, 2003, President George W. Bush addressed the nation with words that would impact the lives of many Soldiers and Airmen in the South Dakota National Guard.

“My fellow citizens, at this hour, American and coalition forces are in the early stages of military operations to disarm Iraq, to free its people and to defend the world from grave danger,” said Bush.

Since President Bush addressed the nation, 20 communities and more than 3,360 citizen-Soldiers and Airmen throughout South Dakota have experienced a unit mobilization in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn.

The U.S. military and coalition forces have now withdrawn from Iraq. Some units however, who deployed to Iraq within the last year, remain in the Middle East, occupying a presence in Kuwait.

Two of those units include the South Dakota Army National Guard’s Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, of Rapid City, and the 139th Brigade Support Battalion, of Brookings, who moved to Kuwait from Iraq during the withdrawal process and now are conducting follow-on missions of retrograde operations, including the transfer of personnel and equipment from the Iraq theater back to the United States.

“It’s a good feeling for us to be finally out of Iraq,” said Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general of the SDNG. “This war has gone on a long time.”

The Iraq war is the second longest war in American history. It’s also said to have changed the National Guard from a strategic reserve to an operational force.

“We went from an ‘on the bench’ component during the Vietnam and Cold War eras, to one that has served in combat zones continually for the past decade,” said Reisch. “There are few, if any

instances during our 150-year history that the South Dakota National Guard has been relied upon to the extent that it has been during the period since 9/11.”

Virtually every unit deployed from the SDNG has received the meritorious unit commendation award, said Reisch.

The award is given to units for exceptionally meritorious conduct in performance of outstanding services for at least six continuous months during the period of military operations against an armed enemy.

“Our Soldiers and Airmen are of truly the highest caliber,” said Reisch. “The tremendous legacy of the South Dakota National Guard has been elevated even higher during this period of time.”

While more than 3,360 Soldier and Airmen and their family members made significant sacrifices in the Iraq War, seven SDNG Soldiers made the ultimate sacrifice and lost their lives while serving in Iraq.

“We have had enormous sacrifices from our South Dakota National Guard Soldiers,” said Lt. Col. Lynn Wilson, full-time support chaplain for the SDNG. “I have gone to homes as a casualty notification officer and have gone to families to bring the news that their loved one, their son, their Soldier, is now dead, and that news is absolutely devastating. So is the cost of war; it is always severe, it’s always great.”

Wilson deployed to Iraq in 2004 with 2nd Battalion, 147th Field Artillery as a chaplain, where he not only experienced the devastation and cost of war but also witnessed the positive effects.

“I think of the accomplishments as well as the loss, and the losses are terrible and severe,” said Wilson. “I don’t think you ever get over it. It is still a scar and it is deep, but then there are the accomplishments that we gave to a country.”

Wilson recalls a moment when he felt that the war in Iraq was worth it.

“I went to Babylon to one of Saddam Hussein’s palaces, one that his sons used to love to operate out of,” said Wilson. “They would take teenage girls and rape them, murder them and toss their bodies down the Euphrates River. We stopped that...that didn’t go on after we were there.”

During Wilson’s time overseas, he also witnessed a defying moment in Iraq’s history. For the first time they had more than one option on their election ballot.

“In January of 2005, about a month before we returned home, for the first time people had the freedom to vote and there is not just one name on the ballot, Saddam Hussein,” said Wilson. “The people of Iraq held up their ink-stained purple fingers and some of us Soldiers looked at each other and said ‘that’s why we are here.’”

The following is how the South Dakota National Guardsmen contributed to the war effort in one of the most extraordinary chapters of service in the history of our nation.

### **109th Engineer Battalion**

Jan. 16, 2003 - Aug. 15, 2003

The South Dakota Army National Guard's 109th Engineer Battalion, headquartered in Sturgis, deployed 39 Soldiers in 2003 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The unit arrived Feb. 18, 2003, and settled in an area called Camden Park, near the city of Arifjan, about 30 miles south of Kuwait City. The night the fighting started, the 109th endured eight SCUD missile alerts over their temporary station. The 109th arrived at their duty station, Tallil Air Base, approximately 160 miles southeast of Baghdad and 140 miles northwest of Kuwait City on March 26.

The 109th completed more than 250 engineer projects, to include mine clearing, building site preparation and horizontal construction that supported almost all of the major commands in southern Iraq. Soldiers from the battalion received 11 Bronze Stars and 10 Army Commendation Medals.

### **727th Transportation Company**

Jan. 17, 2003 - June 4, 2004

The South Dakota Army National Guard's 727th Transportation Company, headquartered in Elk Point with detachments in Brookings and Watertown, along with a platoon of Soldiers from the 1742nd Transportation Company out of Flandreau, deployed 122 Soldiers in 2003 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The unit mobilized to Fort Carson, Colo., Jan. 17, 2004, for 10 weeks before deploying to Kuwait on April 5. The 727th was attached to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) upon arrival in the Middle East and began their missions of hauling supplies and equipment into Iraq.

The unit completed 460 missions totaling more than one million mission miles. For their exceptional service to the 1st MEF, the 727th received the Navy Presidential Unit Citation.

### **200th Engineer Company**

Jan. 24, 2003 - June 3, 2004

The South Dakota Army National Guard's 200th Engineer Company, headquartered in Pierre with detachments in Chamberlain and Mobridge, deployed 173 Soldiers on Jan. 24, 2003, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 200th's main mission was building and maintaining bridges, providing security at bridges and hauling materials. In May, the 200th moved into Iraq and built a float bridge across the Tigris River, about 30 miles northeast of Baghdad.

Unfortunately, rocket and mortar attacks injured five Soldiers of the 200th.

### **740th Transportation Company**

Feb. 11, 2003 - Oct. 17, 2004

The South Dakota Army National Guard's 740th Transportation Company, headquartered in Milbank with a detachment in Brookings, deployed 147 Soldiers to Fort Carson, Colo., Feb. 11, 2003, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 740th arrived in Kuwait April 20 then moved to set up operations at Camp Navistar at the Kuwait/Iraq border.

Because of the increase of insurgency attacks on coalition forces and the need for transportation assets, the 740th's tour would extend beyond the one-year mark. The 740th was among 23 reserve component units extended from 15 different states.

The 740th conducted 355 haul missions throughout Iraq and Kuwait drove more than 2,300,000 miles in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

### **Company B, 109th Medical Battalion**

Feb. 24, 2003 - June 5, 2004

The South Dakota National Guard's Company B, 109th Medical Battalion based out of Vermillion, deployed 70 Soldiers on February 24, 2003, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

After arriving in Kuwait, Company B moved to Baghdad International Airport where they conducted their medical missions. At the close of their mission assignment, the 'Coyote Medics' treated more patients than any other level I and II facility in Iraq or Kuwait. Their patient numbers totaled 11,000 coalition troops, 1,300 civilians, 25,700 Iraqis for a total of 38,000 patients. The unit conducted 610 ambulance missions supporting 986 patients.

### **114th Civil Engineer Squadron**

March 2003 - September 2003

The South Dakota Air National Guard began its operations in Iraq in March 2003 when the 114th Civil Engineer Squadron deployed 50 members to Tallil Air Base, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

These members were among the first Air Force civil engineers to be placed at three of the only four bases in Iraq at the time. They worked alongside the South Dakota Army National Guard's 109th Engineer Battalion from Sturgis and assembled more than 336,000 square feet of bare base facilities, including a 7,100 square foot dining facility and a 4,300 square foot morale tent. They assembled 333,000 square feet of sunshades for use by A-10 aircraft, trenched more than 40,000 feet of electrical cable, buried more than 5 miles of underground water pipe, built the largest water plant for an Air Force installation in the area of responsibility capable of producing 80,000 gallons of water per day and maintained power plants generating more than five mega watts of electricity.

The unit received several prestigious awards as a direct result of their contributions in Iraq including the William H. Deneke Award, as the outstanding civil engineering squadron in the Air National Guard and the Maj. Gen. Robert H. Curtin Award, as the outstanding civil engineer squadron in the Air Reserve Components (ANG & AFRC). The 114th CES Readiness Flight was also presented the Col. Frederick J. Riemer Award, as the outstanding Civil Engineer Readiness Flight for both the ANG & AFRC in 2004.

### **1742nd Transportation Company**

March 11, 2003 - Aug. 6, 2004

The South Dakota Army National Guard's 1742nd Transportation Company, headquartered in Sioux Falls with a detachment in Flandreau and a 48-member platoon from the Kansas National Guard, deployed 154 Soldiers March 11, 2003, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The unit mobilized to Fort Carson, Colo., April 9. Upon arrival, the 1742nd set up operations at Camp Anaconda, located just northeast of Baghdad. The transportation company hauled supplies and equipment throughout Iraq, hauling 68,500 tons of supplies and equipment.

The unit completed 211 missions and logged nearly 2.5 million miles.

### **842nd Engineer Company**

March 15, 2003 - Nov. 30, 2004

The South Dakota Army National Guard's 842nd Engineer Company, split into four communities with the headquarters and support platoon located in Spearfish, Detachment 1 (two equipment platoons) in Belle Fourche, Detachment 2 (maintenance) in Sturgis, Detachment 3 (haul platoon) in Lemmon, deployed 153 Soldiers on 2003 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 842nd mobilized to Fort Carson, Colo., April 10, 2003, for 7 weeks before deploying to Kuwait June 3. The unit moved to Baghdad International Airport and worked on numerous construction projects as well as provided security for the operations base.

### **Charlie Battery, 2nd Battalion, 147th Field Artillery**

#### **1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery**

The South Dakota Army National Guard's Charlie Battery, 2nd Battalion, 147th Field Artillery mobilized to Fort Campbell, Ky., March 13, 2003, in anticipation of an overseas deployment but would return to South Dakota May 21. The battery was mobilized again and deployed in July 2005.

1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery mobilized to Fort Sill, Okla., March 15, 2003, also in anticipation of an overseas deployment but would also return to South Dakota May 27. The battalion was mobilized again and deployed in April 2009.

### **216th Engineer Detachment (Firefighting Team)**

Dec. 7, 2003 - June 3, 2005

The South Dakota Army National Guard's 216th Engineer Detachment (Firefighting Team), headquartered in Sturgis, deployed eight Soldiers Dec. 7, 2003, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The unit provided support to the 1st Infantry Division as the first response effort for all emergencies within their area of operations. They had primary responsibility for fire protection to the aircraft on the flight lines and always had medics available when they responded to an emergency.

### **153rd Engineer Battalion**

Dec. 7, 2003 - June 3, 2005

The South Dakota Army National Guard's 153rd Engineer Battalion headquartered in Huron, with subordinate units in Wagner, Winner, Parkston, Platte, Madison and De Smet, deployed 410 Soldiers to Iraq on Dec. 7, 2003, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The battalion conducted general engineering missions to include: reconnaissance and development of engineer estimates to repair or construct bypasses at all bridge and culvert locations on main supply route Tampa, construction of nine bridge bypasses on MSR Tampa where bridges were damaged by insurgent forces or at critical bridge locations, emplacement of culvers and construction of the entrance road into Forward Operating Base Kalsu.

The 153rd also provided two combat engineer line platoons that supported 1/5 Cavalry and 2/7 Cavalry with mobility, counter mobility and demolition efforts during combat operations. During route clearance missions the 153rd discovered and neutralized 95 improvised explosive devices.

Although combat engineers by trade, the 153rd also conducted non-typical combat engineer tasks that ranged from general facility maintenance to operating a detention facility for more than six months.

### **2nd Battalion, 147th Field Artillery**

Dec. 18, 2003 - June 4, 2005

The South Dakota Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, headquartered in Watertown with Battery A in Mitchell, Battery B in Aberdeen and Battery C in Redfield, deployed 381 Soldiers to Iraq Dec. 18, 2003, as a security force in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

While there, the unit secured and transported 145,000 tons of munitions to be kept at storage depots while slated for destruction. The battalion secured munitions at 18 different sites throughout Iraq, preventing enemy forces from using them as IEDs. The unit also provided vehicle convoy security for U.S. military, coalition forces and government contractors. These daily convoys totaled more than two million combined miles.

### **114th Logistics Squadron**

February 2004 – August 2004

The South Dakota Air National Guard's 114th Logistics Squadron deployed five members of their vehicle maintenance section from February to August 2004 to Camp Spiker, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

These five members served with the 158th Air Expeditionary Forces Company and completed 500 missions covering in excess of 350,000 miles.

Three of these members were among the first in the nation awarded the United States Air Force Combat Action Medal while assisting with security on the M-923 gun trucks.

### **Detachment 3, Company F, 238th Aviation**

Nov. 5, 2004 - April 12, 2006

The South Dakota Army National Guard's Detachment 3, Company F, 238th Aviation, headquartered in Rapid City, deployed 19 Soldiers to Camp Anaconda, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 238th provided intermediate level maintenance for Army helicopters supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. During the nine months spent in Iraq, the 10-member unit performed 20 UH-60 and CH-47 phases, completed more than 5,000 work orders and processed over 25,000 parts requests. The Soldiers also used their civilian skills to help with numerous construction projects that helped improve the working conditions and the quality of life for the battalion.

### **Detachment 3, Company A, 249th Aviation**

Dec. 1, 2004 - May 29, 2006

The South Dakota Army National Guard's Detachment 3, Company A, 249th Aviation, based out of Rapid City, mobilized eight Soldiers on Dec. 1, 2004, and deployed to the Middle East in January 2005.

The 249th was stationed at Logistic Supply Area Anaconda about 45 miles north of Baghdad. The 249th operated C-23 Sherpa cargo planes capable of hauling 3,500 pounds of cargo or about 20 personnel. The unit logged over 5,000 flight hours; airlifting a total of about 20,000 personnel and 5 million pounds of cargo.

The 249th consists of four pilots and four flight engineers. The unit deployed with three other detachments from three other states to form Company A, 249th Aviation.

### **Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery**

148 Soldiers mobilized July 13, 2005 - Sept. 30, 2006

The South Dakota Army National Guard's Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, headquartered in Yankton, deployed 174 Soldiers July 13, 2005, to Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The unit performed police transition team missions with the Iraqi police, conducting joint patrols, route security, reconnaissance missions, personnel and site security, and rescue and recovery missions within Baghdad and south into Kuwait.

The unit trained more than 1,000 Iraqi police, creating stability in the southern and eastern strategic districts of Baghdad and enabled a district in the center of Baghdad to become the first to transition the responsibility of security to the Iraqi police.

### **114th Security Forces Squadron**

February 2006 - September 2006

The South Dakota Air National Guard's 114th Security Forces Squadron, headquartered in Sioux Falls, deployed 13 Airmen in February 2006 to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

### **129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment**

April 13, 2006 - July 15, 2007

The South Dakota Army National Guard's 129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment headquartered in Rapid City, with a detachment in Bismarck, N.D., deployed 20 Soldiers on April 13, 2006, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

The unit conducted operations in U.S. Central Command's (CENTCOM) 27 areas of responsibility. MPAD Soldiers were also located at CENTCOM's headquarters at MacDill Air Base, Tampa, Fla. and the Digital Video and Imagery Distribution (DVIDS) hub in Atlanta, Ga., and traveled extensively throughout Iraq, Afghanistan and many other countries in CENTCOM's area of responsibility. The unit returned in June 2007 after 15 months of deployment.

### **114th Fighter Wing**

October 2006 – December 2006

The South Dakota Air National Guard's 114th Fighter Wing headquartered in Sioux Falls deployed 235 Airmen in October of 2006 to Balad Air Base, Iraq.

While deployed, they served as part of the United States Air Force's Air Expeditionary Force rotation plan in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

### **Detachment 3, Company A, 641st Aviation Regiment**

Oct. 10, 2007 - May 18, 2008

The South Dakota Army National Guard's Detachment 3, Company A, 641st Aviation Regiment, headquartered in Rapid City, deployed 10 Soldiers Oct. 10, 2007, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 641st was stationed at Logistical Support Area Anaconda, about 45 miles north of Baghdad. The detachment deployed with three additional detachments from Washington, Oregon and Oklahoma, to form Company A, 641st Aviation Regiment.

Specializing in transporting personnel and cargo with its C-23 Sherpa cargo planes, the 641st flew 4,045 hours, transported 21,047 passengers and hauled 9,140,165 pounds of cargo and equipment throughout the combat zone during the tour.

This was the unit's second deployment to Iraq as the unit mobilized as Detachment 3, Company A, 249th Aviation on Dec. 1, 2004, and deployed there in January of 2005 and returned in January of 2006. The recent name change from the 249th to the 641st is due to the Army's transformation.

### **Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery**

Oct. 25, 2007 - Oct. 23, 2008

The South Dakota Army National Guard's Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, headquartered in Salem with a detachment in Sioux Falls, deployed 177 Soldiers to Iraq Oct. 25, 2007, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

To fulfill the need for more security forces, Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion set up operations at Contingency Operating Base Adder located on Tallil Air Base near An Nasiriyah, Iraq, approximately 193 miles southeast of Baghdad.

While in Iraq, the Soldiers conducted a variety of security missions 1,900 hours of entry-traffic control points, 87 base-defense operations, 75 route-security missions and 17 recovery missions for American government contractors. The unit also provided security for logistical supply convoys, driving a total of 396,000 miles as convoy escorts.

### **114th Fighter Wing**

July 2008 - September 2008

The second 114th Fighter Wing's Air Expeditionary Forces deployment took place between July and September of 2008 and included more than 275 members of the unit. As with the previous AEF deployment to Iraq, various job specialties and several of the unit's aircraft participated in this deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Members received the Iraqi Campaign Medal for their service.

### **1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery and 147th Forward Support Company**

April 15, 2009 - April 14, 2010

South Dakota Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery and 147th Forward Support Company mobilized more than 350 Soldiers to Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The battalion trained at Fort Hood, Texas, and deployed to Kuwait City, Kuwait. There they secured the Kuwaiti Sea Port of Debarkation/Embarkation. At the time, this port accounted for nearly 95 percent of all supplies for both the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

The Soldiers were responsible for successfully performing more than 200,000 individual searches and more than 80,000 vehicle searches while stationed in Kuwait. The unit's quick reactionary force traveled more than 60,000 miles in performing 377 missions.

### **114th Civil Engineer Squadron**

December 2008 - July 2009

The South Dakota Air National Guard's 114th CES PRIME Base Engineer Emergency Force team deployed 52 Airmen to Kuwait in Dec. 2008 to work on numerous projects to support combat airpower in the Global War on Terror.

At home and abroad, CES performs several functions to maintain critical facilities. Examples include: plumbing, carpentry, power production, electrical work, emergency management, supply, engineering and project management, liquid fuels, heavy equipment operations and heating/ventilation/air conditioning.

### **114th Fighter Wing**

December 2009 - February 2010

The South Dakota Air National Guard's 114th Fighter Wing deployed one last time to Joint Base Balad, Iraq from December 2009 to February 2010 with 264 members. They provided 52 days of continuous Air Tasking Order (ATO) coverage with no sorties lost for either maintenance or operations factors. They flew 460 combat sorties totaling 1,500 flying hours and supported 94 convoys, 439 Counter Improvised Explosive Device (IED) missions and 30 raids during this time.

In addition to the mentioned unit deployments, the South Dakota Air National Guard has had approximately 65 unit members who have actively served in support of overseas contingency operations in Iraq. Many of these members returned to the unit with individual federal awards to include the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Outstanding Achievement Medal and the Iraqi Campaign Medal.

### **Detachment 3, Company A, 641st Aviation Regiment**

Oct. 20, 2010 - Sept. 16, 2011

The South Dakota Army National Guard's 641st, headquartered in Rapid City, deployed nine Soldiers to Joint Base Balad, Iraq, on Oct. 20, 2010 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The fixed-wing aviation unit transported more than two million pounds of cargo, 8,000 passengers and flew more than 150 missions, all at night.

This was the 641st's third deployment since Sept. 11, 2001. They deployed twice in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, first from January 2005-January 2006, and again from October 2007-May 2008.

### **Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment**

May 19, 2011 - present

The South Dakota Army National Guard's Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, headquartered in Rapid City, deployed 67 Soldiers to Iraq May 19, 2011, in support of Operation New Dawn.

The unit, made up of pilots, crew chiefs, medics, mechanics, avionics specialists and flight operations personnel, provides aerial-medical evacuation support with its eight UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters.

Since the end of the Iraq War on Dec. 15, 2011, the 189th is currently serving in Kuwait to fulfill their year-long deployment.

### **139th Brigade Support Battalion**

June 9, 2011 - present

The South Dakota Army National Guard's 139th Brigade Support Battalion, headquartered in Brookings, deployed 64 Soldiers to Iraq on June 9, 2011, in support of Operation New Dawn.

The 139th provided logistical support to U.S. Special Operations Forces while in Iraq. While in Kuwait, the unit is assisting in retrograde operations to help transition U.S. Army equipment from the Iraq theater back to the United States.

Despite the end of the Iraq War, members of the 139th are currently serving in Kuwait until the end of their year-long deployment.

### **The end of the war**

Since taking office, President Barack Obama has fulfilled his promise to the American people by withdrawing all U.S. troops from Iraq by the end of 2011. In his first speech about the Iraq War, President Obama spoke of the sacrifices and dedication service members have made in Iraq over the last decade.

“By any measure, this has already been a long war. For the men and women of America's armed forces – and for your families – this war has been one of the most extraordinary chapters of service in the history of our nation. You have endured tour, after tour, after tour of duty. You have known the dangers of combat and the lonely distance of loved ones. You have fought against tyranny and disorder. You have bled for your best friends and for unknown Iraqis. And you have borne an enormous burden for your fellow citizens, while extending a precious opportunity to the people of Iraq. Under the circumstances, the men and women of the United States military have served with honor, and succeeded beyond any expectation.”

In remembrance of the seven SDNG Soldiers who died in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom

April 17, 2004, Sgt. **Dennis Morgan**, Valentine, Neb./Winner, S.D., 153rd En. Bn. - Iraq

April 24, 2004, Staff Sgt. **Cory W. Brooks**, Philip, 153rd En. Bn. - Iraq

Oct. 17, 2005, CW2 **Paul J. Pillen**, Keystone, 249th Aviation - Kuwait

Dec. 4, 2005, Sgt. 1st Class **Richard L. Schild**, Tabor, Batt. C/1-147th FA - Iraq

Dec. 4, 2005, Staff Sgt. **Daniel M. Cuka**, Yankton, Batt. C/1-147th FA - Iraq

Feb. 7, 2006, Sgt. **Allen D. Kokesh Jr.**, Yankton, Batt. C/1-147th FA - Iraq

May 8, 2006, Staff Sgt. **Gregory Allen Wagner**, Mitchell, Batt. C/1-147th FA - Iraq

-30-

**PHOTOS:** High-resolution photos for this release are available upon request or at:

[www.flickr.com/southdakotationalguard](http://www.flickr.com/southdakotationalguard)



**100731-F-9119C-934:** Capt. Eric Cleveringa prepares to launch an F-16 Fighting Falcon for a mission July 31, 2010, from Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Captain Cleveringa is assigned to the South Dakota Air National Guard's 114th Fighter Wing in Sioux Falls. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Caycee Cook) (RELEASED)



**030417-F-7891V-001:** Senior Airmen Josh Lebrun (left) from the South Dakota Air National Guard and Tech. Sgt. Edward Hart from the South Carolina Air National Guard are at work in the "small bombs" section of the "ammo dump" belonging to the 379<sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Wing at a desert air base in Southwest Asia April 31, 2003. (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Edward Snyder) (RELEASED)



**060710-A-7895-003:** Soldiers from the South Dakota Army National Guard's Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, of Yankton, administer first-aid to a civilian July 10, 2006 in Iraq. (Courtesy photo) (RELEASED)



**060712-A-1234-001:** Soldiers from the South Dakota Army National Guard's Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, of Yankton, removes unexploded ordnance July 7, 2006 in Iraq. (Courtesy photo) (RELEASED)



**100723-F-9119C-047:** Tech Sgt. Michael Brizuela, a crew chief with the 162nd Fighter Wing, Arizona Air National Guard, prepares to launch a Block 30 F-16 Fighting Falcon, flown by Capt. Eric Cleveringa, a fighter pilot with the 114th Fighter Wing, South Dakota Air National Guard, for a mission from Joint Base Balad, Iraq July 23, 2010. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Caycee Cook) (RELEASED)



**030822-A-CW157-001:** Soldiers from the 740th Transportation Company, South Dakota Army National Guard, wait at a check-point before heading north with more than 60 trucks delivering supplies to camps throughout Iraq, 2003. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Theanne Tangen) (RELEASED)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Please contact Maj. Anthony Deiss at (605) 737-6721 or cell (605) 431-8753, or e-mail [pao@sd.ngb.army.mil](mailto:pao@sd.ngb.army.mil)