

South Dakota National Guard

Public Affairs Office

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Welcome home ceremony scheduled for Guard unit

Soldiers of the 200th Engineer Company, South Dakota Army National Guard, are expected to arrive in Pierre on Saturday, May 12, at approximately 8:45 a.m. (CT) after completing a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

A welcome home ceremony is scheduled for 10 a.m. at Riggs High School. The public is encouraged to attend.

A parade for the 200th will precede the welcome home ceremony starting at approximately 8:45 a.m. The parade starts at the Fort Pierre Fairgrounds and moves to Pierre using Sioux Ave, which will then turn north onto Jefferson St. and then proceed towards Riggs High School.

Governor Dennis Daugaard, Pierre Mayor Laurie Gill, Fort Pierre Mayor Sam Tidball, and Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, the adjutant general of the SDNG, will be featured speakers at the ceremony.

Community welcoming ceremonies are also planned for Chamberlain and Mobridge following the Pierre ceremony.

For details on the Mobridge ceremony, please contact Andy Shue, Dakota Radio Group, at 605-230-0038 or Katie Zerr, Mobridge Tribune, at 605-845-3646.

For details on the Chamberlain ceremony, please contact April Reis at 605-234-4416.

Members of the 200th arrived to the United States on May 2. Members of the 200th have spent a week at Fort Dix completing de-mobilization requirements before returning to South Dakota.

The 200th, of Pierre, Chamberlain and Mobridge, deployed with approximately 184 members in May 2011. As a multi-role bridging unit, the 200th had a mission to maintain, repair and replace existing military bridges throughout Afghanistan.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION regarding the welcome home ceremony in Pierre, please contact Capt. Jason Thomson at (605) 352-0200 or Maj. Anthony Deiss at (605) 737-6721 or cell (605) 431-8753, or e-mail pao@sd.ngb.army.mil.