

South Dakota National Guard

Public Affairs Office

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SD Guard transitions into new dress uniform

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen
SDNG Public Affairs Office

RAPID CITY, S.D. – The South Dakota Army National Guard’s United States Property and Fiscal Office at Camp Rapid is sending the new blue Army Service Uniform to units for enlisted Soldiers during the month of June.

Five Soldiers from the 139th Brigade Support Battalion, of Redfield, have unpacked hundreds of boxes to sort out sizes and organize uniforms needed for each Army National Guard unit in the state.

“There are approximately 5,541 pieces of clothing to sort out to include women’s slacks, coats, skirts and men’s trousers and coats,” said Staff Sgt. Damon Bohnet, USPFO supply technician.

The new blue Army Service Uniform will replace the green Army Service Uniform that has been issued to Soldiers since 1954. Soldiers will no longer be authorized to wear the green uniform after July 2014.

Although Soldiers are being issued a new uniform, there are still items of the green uniform that are the same: oxford shoes, necktie and beret.

The only item not readily available to the Soldiers will be the white blouse, which will be issued by their unit’s supply noncommissioned officer-in-charge.

Sgt. 1st Class Penny Dickes, Joint Force Headquarters, who has a total of 26 years of service in the SDARNG, is looking forward to wearing the new uniform.

“I am always up for change,” said Dickes. “I like how the combat patch is a pin placed on the front of the uniform instead of a patch on the arm.”

Dickes said when she first joined the military in 1979 she was issued a winter and summer version of the green ASU.

The new ASU will be one uniform worn year-round for special events and ceremonies.

“Financially, I am happy with the decision to have to maintain just one uniform,” said Dickes.

Sgt. Maj. Phillip Lakner, JFHQ, who has a total of 34 years of service in the SDARNG, says the new uniform looks sharp except for one detail.

“I believe the changes to the new dress uniform are 98 percent right,” said Lakner. “The problem I have is that the unit patch is not a part of the uniform. I feel that Soldiers should wear their unit patch to show their pride and dignity in the unit they belong to.”

The part of the uniform Lakner agrees with the most is the change from the color green to blue.

“If you look back at the Army’s history, you will find the color blue is the original color used for the uniform,” said Lakner.

During the American Revolution, in 1779, the British Army of King George III wore red. George Washington, commander-in-chief of the Continental Army chose the color blue for his Soldiers’ dress uniforms.

“Blue is a color that has more distinction and it has an elegant look to it, which is what it is needed for a dress uniform,” said Lakner.

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120523-A-CW157-001: Pfc. Colton Fawcett (right) and Pfc. Sean Schwartz both members of the South Dakota Army National Guard’s 139th Brigade Support Battalion, of Redfield, sort out sizes and organize uniforms for each Army National Guard unit in the state at Camp Rapid May 23, 2012. The new blue Army Service Uniform will replace the green Army Service Uniform that has been issued to Soldiers since 1954. Soldiers will no longer be authorized to wear the green uniform after July 2014. (SDNG photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen) (RELEASED)



120523-A-CW157-002: South Dakota Army National Guard’s 2nd Lt. Miranda Conklin, of Rapid City, 139th Brigade Support Battalion based out of Redfield, sort out sizes and organize uniforms for each Army National Guard unit in the state at Camp Rapid May 23, 2012. The new blue Army Service Uniform will replace the green Army Service Uniform that has been issued to Soldiers since 1954. Soldiers will no longer be authorized to wear the green uniform after July 2014. (SDNG photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen) (RELEASED)



120523-A-CW157-003: Pfc. Colton Fawcett (right) and Pfc. Sean Schwartz both members of the South Dakota Army National Guard’s 139th Brigade Support Battalion, of Redfield, sort out sizes and organize uniforms for each Army National Guard unit in the state at Camp Rapid May 23, 2012. The new blue Army Service Uniform will replace the green Army Service Uniform that has been issued to Soldiers since 1954. Soldiers will no longer be authorized to wear the green uniform after July 2014. (SDNG photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen) (RELEASED)

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