



National Guard News

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Commander-in-chief of Canada honors Rapid City man with meritorious service medal

By Army National Guard Sgt. Darron Salzer
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. (6/22/12) – Retired Army Maj. Gen. Raymond Carpenter, the former acting director of the Army National Guard, was invited by the governor general and commander-in-chief of Canada to an award ceremony at Rideau Hall June 22 in Ottawa, Ont., where Carpenter was awarded the Canadian Meritorious Service Medal.

Carpenter, who now resides in Rapid City, S.D., was recognized for his instrumental efforts in enhancing the Army Guard's relationship with the Canadian army reserve during his 29 months spent as the acting director.

According to the governor general's website, the Canadian MSM recognizes a military deed or activity performed in a highly professional manner, according to a very high standard that brings benefit or honor to the Canadian Forces.

According to the award citation, Carpenter's influence further enhanced the unique relationship between Canada and the United States, delivering considerable benefits to the Canadian Forces.

As the acting director, Carpenter was responsible for the execution of a budget of about \$40 billion, the procurement of more than 300,000 equipment items, and oversaw the deployment of 80,000 Soldiers.

Additionally, Carpenter balanced recruiting efforts to meet changing congressional mandates on the size of the Army National Guard while approximately 100,000 Soldiers were recruited and trained.

During Carpenter's time as acting director, the Army National Guard also supported the surge in Afghanistan and the withdrawal from Iraq, responded to Hurricane Irene, the tornado in Joplin, Mo., and Operation Deep Water Horizon.

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Photo outline:

Retired Army Gen. Raymond Carpenter (left), the former acting director of the Army National Guard, shakes hands with His Excellency the Right Honorable David Johnston, governor general and commander-in-chief of Canada, after being presented the Canadian Meritorious Service Medal (Military Division) at Rideau Hall June 22 in Ottawa, Ont. The decoration is an important part of the Canadian Honors System, which recognizes

excellence by either a single achievement or an activity over a specified period. (Photo by Canadian Sgt. Ronald Duchesne, Office of the Secretary to the Governor General of Canada)