

# South Dakota National Guard

## Public Affairs Office

Phone: 605-737-6721 Email: [ngsd-pao@ng.army.mil](mailto:ngsd-pao@ng.army.mil)  
Web: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil>  
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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Guard leaders get look at future battle command systems

By Sgt. Charlie Jacobson  
196th MEB Public Affairs

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. – Senior leaders from the South Dakota Army National Guard received a first-hand look at future command battle systems June 17, during a visit to the 2012 annual training site of 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade.

The distinguished visitors, including Brig. Gen. Jeff Marlette, assistant adjutant general – Army, SDARNG, were briefed by Soldiers of the 196th on how the unit has incorporated features of its new Army Battle Command Systems into its battle readiness training for future operations.

“There is so much information that comes into a headquarters that needs to be processed to keep everybody informed so that leadership and subordinates can all manage the battle,” Marlette said. “These systems allow us to create a common operating picture of the battlefield so that we are more able to effectively manage the battle.”

The Command Post of the Future, specifically, is a software system within the ABCS that allows units to create a common operating picture of the battlefield in several ways.

“The CPOF allows Soldiers to communicate and share real time plans, intelligence, schedules, notes, maps, briefings, and any other battlefield related information over an established secured network within the tactical operation center,” said Maj. John Breyer, 196th training officer. “In the past, our only option was to create and share data manually within the TOC. Now we have a digital TOC.”

Several other systems work in unison with the CPOF in the new digital TOC environment; the Blue Force Tracker System, the Battle Command Sustainment Support System, the Digital Topographic Support System, and Distributed Common Ground System (Army), to name a few.

Together, these systems and others all work together to help units create a common operating picture of the battlefield, as the CPOF allows a central place for all of the various data to be published and communicated, Breyer said.

The two-week home station annual training for the 196th provided the unit long awaited training on their ABCS equipment. Much of the new equipment was issued to the 196th in 2009.

However, the unit embarked on a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan in 2010, which delayed its integration of the new ABCS equipment.

Spc. Peter Lemons, an intelligence analyst with the 196th, valued the opportunity to demonstrate the ABCS training to Marlette and his staff.

“It was good to be able to show the VIP’s what we have learned and what we are capable of with these systems,” Lemons said. “We have proficient people and it was nice of the senior staff to let the junior enlisted guys showcase to the VIP’s our knowledge of these systems.”

Marlette also found a significant value in the training the 196th conducted.

“It was a great training event,” he said. “There are a lot of good things going on. I think the troops are excited about the new equipment and they have quickly adapted to all the new technology. They are well on their way to making it work in the battlefield.”

The 196th is scheduled to conclude their two-week annual training tomorrow. Next year, the unit is slated to incorporate all the elements of ABCS and the CPOF systems, as they will be the brigade element for Golden Coyote 2013.

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**120617-A-6297J-003:** Brig. Gen. Jeff Marlette (left), assistant adjutant general – Army, South Dakota National Guard, receives a briefing from Spc. Peter Lemons, an intelligence analyst with the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, on the Command Post of the Future software system June 17, 2012, at the 196th’s annual training site in Sioux Falls, S.D. The CPOF is a software system where units can publish any battlefield related information to create a common operating picture of the battlefield. Marlette, along with several other VIP guests from the SDNG, visited the 196th’s training site to observe how the unit is progressing with their new Army Battlefield Command System equipment. (SDNG Photo by Sgt. Charlie Jacobson)(RELEASED)



**120617-A-6297J-005:** Col. Marshall Michels (left), deputy chief of staff – Personnel, South Dakota Army National Guard, discusses network security information with CW2 Clinton Store, information technician for the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade June 17, 2012, at the 196th’s annual training site in Sioux Falls, S.D. The 196th is currently conducting their home station AT, where they are training on many new Army Battle Command Systems. Michels, along with several other VIP guests from the SDNG, visited the 196th’s training site to observe how the unit is progressing with their new ABCS equipment. (SDNG Photo by Sgt. Charlie Jacobson)(RELEASED)

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