

South Dakota National Guard

Public Affairs Office

Phone: 605-737-6721 Email: ngsd-pao@ng.army.mil

Web: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil>

www.facebook.com/SouthDakotaNationalGuard

www.flickr.com/SouthDakotaNationalGuard

https://twitter.com/SD_Guard



August 28, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

139th BSB members honored at Freedom Salute ceremony

BROOKINGS, S.D. – The 139th Brigade Support Battalion's Logistics Task Force held a Freedom Salute ceremony at the Brookings High School on Saturday, Aug. 18, to honor the Soldiers and their families for their sacrifice to the country for the unit's recent deployment.

Sixty of the 64 Soldiers that deployed with the 139th LTF to Iraq and Kuwait were present for the event.

Each Soldier received awards for their deployment, whether this was their first, second or third deployment since Sept. 11, 2001, in support of the Global War on Terror. The 139th had 29 first-time, 33 second-time and two third-time deployers.

The Freedom Salute program was created to recognize Soldiers and families for their service to the country. The program also included a presentation to the Brookings VFW Post 2118. Post 2118 was selected for the Distinguished Center of Influence Award. VFW Post 2118 went out of their way to ensure the families and Soldiers of the 139th LTF were looked after while their Soldiers were deployed. They adopted the unit prior to their deployment. Mr. Todd Struwe accepted the award for the VFW.

The Brookings Quilt Guild was also present at the event. This organization is a non-profit organization that makes quilts for service members deployed called Quilts of Valor. The Quilts of Valor is a national program with a mission to cover all combat service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing through the Quilts of Valor.

In 2012, the Quilt Guild completed their mission of making 64 quilts for the Soldiers deployed with the 139th LTF. These quilts were displayed at a special exhibit in April at their quilt show to honor the guard during the time they were deployed. Sixteen members of the Quilt Guild were present at the event and presented each Soldier their own Quilt of Valor.

-30-

High resolution photos are available at www.flickr.com/southdakotanationalguard

Additional stories and information are online at www.facebook.com/southdakotanationalguard



120828- A-AB123-001: A Soldier from the 139th Brigade Support Battalion's Logistics Task Force receives awards during the unit's Freedom Salute ceremony at the Brookings High School on Saturday, Aug. 18, 2012, which recognized the Soldiers and their families for their sacrifice to the country for the unit's recent deployment. (Courtesy photo)(RELEASED)



120828- A-AB123-002: Lt. Col. Anthony Verchio, 139th Brigade Support Battalion's Logistics Task Force commander, presents the Distinguished Center of Influence Award to Mr. Todd Struwe and VFW Post 2118 for going out of their way to ensure the families and Soldiers of the 139th LTF were looked after while their Soldiers were deployed, during the unit's Freedom Salute ceremony at the Brookings High School on Saturday, Aug. 18, 2012. (Courtesy photo)(RELEASED)



120828- A-AB123-003: The 139th Brigade Support Battalion's Logistics Task Force Soldiers were honored with quilts from the Brookings Quilt Guild, a non-profit organization that makes quilts for service members deployed during the unit's Freedom Salute ceremony at the Brookings High School on Saturday, Aug. 18, 2012. (Courtesy photo)(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.