

South Dakota National Guard Public Affairs Office

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Welcome home ceremony scheduled for National Guard unit

Soldiers of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 842nd Engineer Company are scheduled to arrive back in the Black Hills on Thursday, Sept. 27, after completing a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

A welcome home ceremony for the 160 Soldiers is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. at the Donald E. Young Center at Black Hills State University in Spearfish. The public is encouraged to attend.

Governor Dennis Daugaard, Rep. Kristi Noem, Spearfish Mayor Jerry Krambeck, Sturgis Mayor Mark Carstensen, Belle Fourche Mayor Gary Hendrickson and Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, the adjutant general of the SDNG, are scheduled featured speakers at the ceremony.

Members of the 842nd arrived in the United States on Sept. 17 and have been completing de-mobilization requirements at Fort Bliss, Texas before returning to South Dakota.

The Spearfish, Belle Fourche and Sturgis-based unit deployed in September 2011 with a mission to provide horizontal construction and engineering support. Equipped with bulldozers, scrapers, cranes, loaders and 20-ton dump trucks, the unit built and maintained roads, constructed base force protection measures and provided limited clearing operations.

Parades for the 842nd are scheduled to precede the welcome home ceremony and are tentatively scheduled in Belle Fourche, Whitewood, Sturgis and Spearfish with times yet to be determined.

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