

South Dakota National Guard

Public Affairs Office

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Watertown-area Guard unit hosts recruiting event

By Spc. Todd Beynon
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WATERTOWN, S.D. – A South Dakota Army National Guard unit recruiting event was held for prospective new enlistees at the site of the new National Guard Readiness Center being constructed in Watertown Sept. 9 to give potential recruits a taste of military training and equipment.

Soldiers from the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1-147th Field Artillery, with assistance from Detachment 1, Company A, 139th Brigade Support Battalion, designed a paintball course, displayed military vehicles and weapons, and gave about 20 participants a chance to plan and execute a mission during the event.

“This was an opportunity for these kids to see firsthand the level of training and abilities possessed by our South Dakota National Guard Soldiers,” said Staff Sgt. Sam Schaefer. “Our intent was to pair them with our Soldiers similar in age and allow them to work with and observe our Soldier’s ability to process the mission information, plan and execute the missions.”

The recruits were broken into four-person teams with each team being led and sponsored by one of the unit Soldiers. Each team was briefed with their specific mission in a military fashion to include a warning order, rules of engagement and safety brief. The job of each team’s unit member was to help translate the information and help them come up with the best possible plan of attack to accomplish their mission.

The unit designed the paintball course to represent a small village to include both paper targets and live Soldiers operating as enemy combatants. Each team’s mission was to move as a fire team through the obstacle course and retrieve a specified object, while taking out as many targets as they could along the way.

The mission was to be accomplished in a given time limit while defending their team and performing simulated medical first aid for any team members that may have been injured. They were awarded points for how many targets they hit and how quickly they accomplished their mission.

The recruits were also given the opportunity to ride in the back of a M1068 track vehicle and view various crew-served weapons.

Soldiers from the 1-147th said the event was a great way to bring excitement and knowledge of the South Dakota National Guard to possible recruits.

“It was a good combination of training and recruiting,” said Spc. Justin Redmond. “The recruits really seemed to enjoy the event.”

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



120909-A-AB123-001: Potential recruits exit a M1068 track vehicle while participating in a paintball course during a recruiting event held by members of the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1-147th Field Artillery and Detachment 1, Company A, 139th Brigade Support Battalion, South Dakota Army National Guard, in Watertown, S.D., Sept. 9, 2012. The recruiting event was an opportunity for prospective new enlistees to see firsthand the level of training and abilities possessed by South Dakota National Guard Soldiers. (Courtesy photo)(RELEASED)



120909-A-AB123-002: A potential recruit assaults a building while participating in a paintball course during a recruiting event held by members of the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1-147th Field Artillery and Detachment 1, Company A, 139th Brigade Support Battalion, South Dakota Army National Guard, in Watertown, S.D., Sept. 9, 2012. The recruiting event was an opportunity for prospective new enlistees to see firsthand the level of training and abilities possessed by South Dakota National Guard Soldiers. (Courtesy photo)(RELEASED)



120909-A-AB123-003: Potential recruits view weapons with South Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers during a recruiting event held by members of the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1-147th Field Artillery and Detachment 1, Company A, 139th Brigade Support Battalion in Watertown, S.D., Sept. 9, 2012. The recruiting event was an opportunity for prospective new enlistees to see firsthand the level of training and abilities possessed by South Dakota National Guard Soldiers. (Courtesy photo) (RELEASED)

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