

# South Dakota National Guard

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **SD National Guard earns Governor's Safety Award**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. – The South Dakota Safety Council has awarded a Governor's Safety Award to both the South Dakota Army and Air National Guard for excellence in workplace safety and health.

The Army and Air Guard were one of 59 employers who were recognized at the annual Governor's Safety Awards luncheon at the Sioux Falls Arena and Convention Center on Oct. 3.

"The South Dakota National Guard receives a lot of awards, but I can tell you that these safety awards mean a great deal to me because it aligns directly with my top priority of taking care of our Soldiers and Airmen and their families," said Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general of the SDNG.

The Governor's Safety Awards recognizes South Dakota employers with better than average safety records. Participants submit injury information which is compared with state and national data, as well as the entrant's past performance. Ongoing safety programs and activities are also considered and winners are recognized at three levels.

The Army Guard received a Meritorious Achievement Award, the entry level award, for better than average incident rates and answers to screening questions. This is the first time the Army Guard has submitted for and received an award.

The Air Guard received the Award of Honor, the highest level of award, for exceptional accomplishment in reduction of injuries and illnesses in the workplace. This is the second straight year the Air Guard has received this honor.

"These awards are significant because it indicates that our leaders deem safety as very important for the readiness of the South Dakota National Guard," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Lonny Hofer, SDNG state safety officer. "These supervisors engage their employees as stakeholders in their facility safety programs to use best practices and the freedom to report hazards to aid in accident prevention."

The Governor's Safety Awards luncheon was part of the 20th South Dakota Safety & Health Conference, coordinated by the South Dakota Safety Council. The conference is the largest gathering of workplace safety and health professionals in the region. The South Dakota Safety Council, founded in 1949, is a non-governmental, not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in South Dakota by preventing unintentional injuries ("accidents").



**121003-A-AB123-001:** Soldiers from the South Dakota Army National Guard receive a Governor's Safety Award for Meritorious Achievement awarded by representatives from the South Dakota Safety Council during the annual Governor's Safety Awards luncheon at the Sioux Falls Arena and Convention Center on Oct. 3, 2012. The Governor's Safety Awards recognizes South Dakota employers with better than average safety records. The Army and Air Guard were both recipients of awards this year. (Courtesy photo)(RELEASED)