

South Dakota National Guard

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SD Army Guard has new assistant adjutant general

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Brigadier General Craig D. Johnson is the new assistant adjutant general for the South Dakota Army National Guard.

A Transfer of Authority ceremony took place between Johnson and the outgoing assistant adjutant general, Brig. Gen. Jeffrey P. Marlette, at the Joint Force Headquarters on Camp Rapid in Rapid City Oct. 13.

As the assistant adjutant general, Johnson is responsible to the South Dakota National Guard's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, for strategic planning, strength management, troop readiness and mobilization support of the state's nearly 3,300 Army National Guard Soldiers.

Johnson, of Rapid City, replaces Marlette, who served in the position since April of 2011. Marlette, of New Underwood, will retire from the Guard after 32 years of service to the state and nation.

"I want to thank Brig. Gen. Marlette for his exemplary service and the great job he did serving as the assistant adjutant general. He is truly an outstanding leader, tremendous manager and fearless advisor," said Reisch, during the ceremony. "I have great trust and confidence in our new assistant adjutant general, and I wish Gen. Johnson the very best in this new position."

"Thank you Gen. Reisch, for this opportunity to work with you in this position, it has been an absolute pleasure," said Marlette. "It has been an honor to be a member of this organization and a greater honor to work with all the great Soldiers of the South Dakota Army National Guard. I wish Gen. Johnson the best of luck, and I know you are all in good hands."

During the ceremony, Johnson was promoted from the rank of colonel to brigadier general.

"Serving one's country is a noble calling, and I believe among life's greatest work. Therefore, this promotion is a new beginning; a rebirth of my commitment to work and serve my country with a renewed spirit," said Johnson. "I look forward to the responsibility of my continued service in this great organization."

Johnson began his military service by enlisting in his hometown Guard unit in Platte in 1976. He received his commission through the Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Ga., in 1977. Johnson's command assignments include serving as the commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 12th Engineer Battalion, 8th Infantry Division in Dexhiem, Germany, and as the battalion commander of the 109th Engineer Battalion. Johnson is a combat veteran, having led the 109th in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from January – August 2003.

Johnson began his full-time career with the South Dakota Army National Guard as the training technician for the 137th Engineer Battalion, where he also served as the administrative officer. He then went on to serve as the state equal employment manager and an administrative officer for the 109th Engineer Group. Upon his return from Operation Iraqi Freedom, Johnson was assigned as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Information Management. He later attended the United States Army War College, and upon his return, was reassigned as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Information Management. Johnson was then appointed as the United States Property and Fiscal Officer for South Dakota in March 2008, where he served until Sept. 30, 2012.

“My successful career isn’t really about my success; it is more about the hard working and dedicated non-commissioned officers, warrant officers and officers that have made up the great National Guard units that I have served in during my career,” said Johnson. “These are the individuals that were dedicated to making National Guard units and their members successful in all missions.”

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



121013-A-FY577-001: The new assistant adjutant general for the South Dakota Army National Guard, Brig. Gen. Craig D. Johnson, left, receives the Army guidon from Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general of the South Dakota National Guard, during a Transfer of Authority ceremony Oct. 13, 2012, at the Joint Force Headquarters on Camp Rapid in Rapid City, S.D. Johnson is responsible for strategic planning, strength management, troop readiness and mobilization support of the state’s nearly 3,300 Army National Guard Soldiers. (SDNG photo by Staff Sgt. Charles Butler) (RELEASED)



121013-A-FY577-002: The new assistant adjutant general for the South Dakota Army National Guard, Brig. Gen. Craig D. Johnson, speaks during a Transfer of Authority ceremony Oct. 13, 2012, at the Joint Force Headquarters on Camp Rapid in Rapid City, S.D. Johnson, of Rapid City, replaces Brig. Gen. Jeffrey P. Marlette, who served in the position since April of 2011. Marlette, of New Underwood, will retire from the Guard after 32 years of service to the state and nation. (SDNG photo by Staff Sgt. Charles Butler) (RELEASED)



121013-A-FY577-003: Craig D. Johnson is promoted to the rank of brigadier general by his two sons, John, left, and Joshua, during a Transfer of Authority ceremony Oct. 13, 2012, at the Joint Force Headquarters on Camp Rapid in Rapid City, S.D. Johnson is the new assistant adjutant general for the South Dakota Army National Guard. Johnson is responsible to the South Dakota National Guard’s Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, for strategic planning, strength management, troop readiness and mobilization support of the state’s nearly 3,300 Army National Guard Soldiers. (SDNG photo by Staff Sgt. Charles Butler) (RELEASED)