

South Dakota National Guard

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

National Guard combat lifesavers train in South America

By 2nd Lt. Chad Carlson
SDNG Public Affairs Office

PARAMARIBO, Suriname – The South Dakota National Guard sent three service members to South America on a medical training exchange with service members from South Dakota’s partner nation, Suriname, Nov. 23-25.

Lt. Col. Larry Debuhr, medical administrative officer with the South Dakota Air National Guard’s 114th Medical Group and South Dakota Army National Guard’s Sgt. 1st Class Kelley Crane, combat lifesaver and emergency medical technician, and Staff Sgt. Justin Schiferl, Medical Command readiness noncommissioned officer, conducted combat medical training in Paramaribo with Suriname medics and soldiers.

South Dakota’s service members focused their training on advanced life support, which included self-aid and buddy care, wound care, splinting, shock, airway management, IV application and transport.

“It helped raise awareness of what types of medical treatments are available and potentially introduced them to new first aid techniques,” Debuhr said.

Suriname’s medical personnel trained National Guard members on treatment using limited and natural resources, which included ‘bush’ medical training and techniques used in the jungle environments throughout Suriname.

“You have to adapt to your surroundings and make the best of what you have to work with,” Debuhr said. “They do what they can and work with what they have to make things happen.”

“It forced us to step out of our comfort zone and experience different things,” Crane said. “Our procedures are more advanced, only because we have access to more training and equipment. Even though it’s more difficult for Suriname to get the equipment, it seems as though they excel at survival-type training.”

The exchange also emphasized the importance of training on a wide spectrum of topics to include medical maladies that are no longer a concern in the U.S.

“There are many things that are medical concerns in other countries that have been eliminated in the U.S.,” said Schiferl. “These items could easily be overlooked or misdiagnosed if they are not considered. By participating in this mission, I was reminded of the importance of a wide scope of operations.”

Guard members concluded the exchange by traveling four hours west, to Nickerie, Suriname, where they worked with their counterparts providing medical oversight during National Day ceremonies.

“We were very well received and feel that our work was appreciated,” said Debuhr. “We take for granted in this country, to many of the simple amenities. We should be thankful for what we have.”

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



121124-A-AB123-0016: Lt. Col. Larry Debuhr, medical administrative officer with the South Dakota Air National Guard's 114th Medical Group, conducts combat medical training with soldiers from Suriname's armed forces, in Paramaribo, Suriname, Nov. 24, 2012. The National Guard Bureau established South Dakota's partnership with Suriname in 2006 to develop mutually beneficial partnerships between the two entities. (SDNG photo by Maj. Kathleen Dirk) (RELEASED)



121124-A-AB123-027: South Dakota Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Kelley Crane, combat lifesaver and emergency medical technician, conducts combat medical training with soldiers from Suriname's armed forces, in Paramaribo, Suriname, Nov. 24, 2012. The National Guard Bureau established South Dakota's partnership with Suriname in 2006 to develop mutually beneficial partnerships between the two entities. (SDNG photo by Maj. Kathleen Dirk) (RELEASED)



121124-A-AB123-035: South Dakota Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Justin Schiferl, Medical Command readiness noncommissioned officer, conducts combat medical training with soldiers from Suriname's armed forces, in Paramaribo, Suriname, Nov. 24, 2012. The National Guard Bureau established South Dakota's partnership with Suriname in 2006 to develop mutually beneficial partnerships between the two entities. (SDNG photo by Maj. Kathleen Dirk) (RELEASED)

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