

**South Dakota National Guard
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Military conducts exercise, Oglala Sioux Tribe receives timber

By Pfc. Phil Regina, 305th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

PINE RIDGE, S.D. – Members of two Army National Guard units delivered lumber Thursday, June 5, to various towns on the Pine Ridge Reservation as part of this year's Golden Coyote exercise.

Soldiers of the 1742nd Transportation Company of the South Dakota Army National Guard and the 1116th Transportation Company of the New Mexico Army National Guard supported a mission that involved hauling raw lumber to a number of towns within the reservation to help support the Oglala Sioux Tribe.

“Seven trucks hauling six cords of trimmed timber were delivered today,” said Maj. Jade Beehler of the 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, SDARNG, and the officer in charge of the timber-haul mission. “Our ultimate goal is to deliver 120 truck loads – roughly 600 cords of wood – to eight locations on the Pine Ridge Reservation.”

While the aim of the mission is ambitious, the Soldiers providing the support were eager to do their part.

“We were happy to be out here in support of this mission,” said Sgt. 1st Class Bradley Henio of the 1116th. “It was good training, and it gave us the opportunity to take part in something we’ve never taken part in before. It just feels good to do your part.”

The support provided to the Oglala Sioux Tribe was much appreciated, as well as needed.

“The National Guard has come out here about two years in a row, and the wood they provide us goes a long way in helping us sustain ourselves during the winter,” said Tim Yellow Bird Steele, the facility manager of the Oglala District Service Center.

“We use the wood for heat in the winter. We also use the wood to make fence posts and other general needs for the community here,” added Steele.

Certain members of the NMARNG and the Oglala Sioux Tribe share a very special bond. Many of the NMARNG are members of various southwestern tribes including the Navajo, the Pueblo and the Zuni.

“Many members of our unit are Native American, and yes, we share that bond with these people,” said Staff Sgt. Norman Martinez of the 1116th. “But ultimately, it’s all about helping people. When we put on this uniform, we take it upon ourselves to do the best that we can do for whomever it is we are helping, whether it be here or in New Orleans when Hurricane Katrina hit.”

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High resolution photos will be available at the following Web site:

LINK: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/sites/GC2008/default.aspx>

Photo Cut Lines:

080605-A-5202T-050.JPG: A forklift from the 1116th Transportation Company, New Mexico Army National Guard, provides support for a timber-haul mission Thursday, June 5, on the Pine Ridge Reservation in Manderson, S.D. (National Guard photo by Sgt. Theanne Tangen) (RELEASED)

080605-A-5202T-064.JPG: Sgt. Curt George of the 1116th Transportation Company, New Mexico Army National Guard, serves as a ground guide for a load of raw timber being hauled during a timber-haul mission Thursday, June 5, on the Pine Ridge Reservation in Manderson, S.D. (National Guard photo by Sgt. Theanne Tangen) (RELEASED)

080605-A-5202T-084.JPG: Corporal Kevin Hudlow of the 1116th Transportation Company, New Mexico Army National Guard, provides support for a timber-haul mission Thursday, June 5, on the Pine Ridge Reservation in Manderson, S.D. (National Guard photo by Sgt. Theanne Tangen) (RELEASED)

080605-A-5202T-98.JPG: Corporal Kevin Hudlow of the 1116th Transportation Company, New Mexico Army National Guard, removes a sideboard from his truck during a timber-haul mission on the Pine Ridge Reservation in Manderson, S.D. (National Guard photo by Sgt. Theanne Tangen) (RELEASED)

080605-A-5202T-166.JPG: Pine Ridge Reservation resident Oren Shoulders shakes hands with Sgt. 1st Class Kristie Palmer of the 1116th Transportation Company, New Mexico Army National Guard, during a timber-haul mission to the Pine Ridge Reservation in Manderson, S.D. Thursday, June 5. (National Guard photo by Sgt. Theanne Tangen) (RELEASED)

080605-A-5202T-82.JPG: Corporal Kevin Hudlow of the 1116th Transportation Company, New Mexico Army National Guard, provides support for a timber-haul mission Thursday, June

5, on the Pine Ridge Reservation in Manderson, S.D. (National Guard photo by Sgt. Theanne Tangen) (RELEASED)

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION about the South Dakota National Guard, please visit our Web site at <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/default.aspx>

NOTE: The South Dakota National Guard will host the annual Golden Coyote exercise from June 7 – 21 in the southern Black Hills. More than 4,000 service members from 92 units representing 27 states and four foreign nations are participating in the exercise. The Golden Coyote exercise has been conducted for the past 24 years. The exercise provides relevant training opportunities in support of the war on terror and homeland defense.

Residents should be aware of an increase in military traffic throughout the Black Hills and an increase in the level of noise due to military operations. Aviation activity will be operating out of Camp Rapid and the Army Aviation Support Facility next to the Rapid City Regional Airport.

Aircraft will be primarily training on equipment and personnel transport missions as well as medical evacuation. Aircraft will respond to real-world emergencies during the exercise and remain in an all-hours-ready status during the exercise.

Spectators to military training are welcome, however caution is warranted and spectators are asked to remain at a safe distance from all moving military vehicles and aircraft to prevent injury to personnel or damage to property.