

South Dakota National Guard
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

United Kingdom officer on exchange during Golden Coyote 2008

By Spc. Nicole Sullivan and Jasper DesLauriers

RAPID CITY, S.D. - Last month, Oxford student Christopher Stevenson attended lectures on German culture. Today he's learning the art of war in the Black Hills.

Stevenson, a second lieutenant from the 168th Pioneer Regiment of the United Kingdom Territorial Army, is participating in the Non-Commissioned Officer/Officer Exchange Program during the South Dakota National Guard annual training exercise Golden Coyote 2008.

The Non-Commissioned Officer/Officer Exchange Program offers U.S. Soldiers a chance to switch spots with a Soldier from a different country with similar rank who performs comparable job functions. Thirteen United Kingdom Soldiers will be exchanging with an equal number of South Dakota National Guard Soldiers during training exercises.

Stevenson, a German Studies major, will be in the U.S. for two weeks learning about the culture opportunities offered here, as well as military operations.

"My mission here is to further develop the relationships between U.S. and United Kingdom reserve forces," said Stevenson, a platoon commander in the Logistics Corps.

Stevenson added that many things have surprised him about his first trip to the U.S.

"The size of the U.S., how it looked and the military resources," said Stevenson. "The military resources are far more substantial than what the U.K. gets."

Capt. Greg Darlow, Rapid City, is the South Dakota National Guard exchange sponsor officer and will be traveling to the United Kingdom in September to learn how Stevenson's annual training is both similar and different from his own.

"I am curious to learn how their staff operates versus our staff," said Darlow, a training officer for the 109th Regional Support Group. "I am very excited to go to the U.K."

FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact Maj. Orson Ward at (605) 737-6721, or cell (605) 431-8753.

PHOTO CUTLINE: Maj. Gen. Steven Doohen, the adjutant general for the South Dakota National Guard (left), meets with United Kingdom officer 2nd Lt. Christopher Stevenson (right) on June 4 at Camp Rapid located in Rapid City, S.D. (National Guard photo 1st Sgt. Donald Matthews) (RELEASED)

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MEDIA WISHING TO EMBED are asked to **RSVP with Maj. Orson Ward at (605) 737-6721, cell (605) 431-8753 or via E-mail at orson.ward@us.army.mil.**

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.