

**South Dakota National Guard
Public Affairs Office
2823 West Main St.
Rapid City, S.D. 57702**

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**June 12, 2008
PAO 06-12F-08**

MEDIA ALERT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Public service announcement and media invitation to participate in protest training

RAPID CITY, S.D.- The South Dakota National Guard will conduct a mock protest from 8 to 11 a.m. on Sunday, June 15, at Camp Rapid to train military police during the 2008 Golden Coyote training exercise.

Media are invited participate and capture this exercise. Having media present will help create a heightened level of stress to those military police units conducting the training. This event will include protest signs and role-playing demonstrators.

The SDNG is also requesting assistance from local media to help inform the public that this is a mock protest and is a part of the 2008 Golden Coyote training exercise. The public should not be alarmed to see role-playing demonstrators in and around Camp Rapid. The public is encouraged to attend as spectators, and are asked to remain at a safe distance away from the mock protest.

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

Location of South Dakota National Guard Public Affairs Office:

2823 West Main Street
Building 400
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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.