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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Role players bring required reality to Golden Coyote

By Sgt. Lance Schroeder, 129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

RAPID CITY, S.D. — Soldiers playing the role of enemy insurgents carried out a daring training mission Wednesday, June 11, in the Black Hills.

Members of the 339th Military Police Company, an Army Reserve unit from Davenport, Iowa, staged a mock abduction of a high-ranking Army Soldier as part of the annual Golden Coyote training exercise. The unit is one of two currently providing exercise role players to plan and execute realistic opposing-force missions.

This type of training allows participating units to experience enemy tactics that have been used by various insurgent groups in the past, said Lt. Col. Harold Walker, officer-in-charge of the exercise role players.

“Our main mission is to provide support that enhances training for the units that are here,” said Walker.

The three primary missions that were conducted by the role players were supporting the various training lanes, helping with external evaluations, and catering to any special requests made by commanders to enhance the realism experienced by their units during training.

“These support missions vary depending upon the situation —from populating an urban training site with civilian nationals, to insurgent missions such as the one conducted by the 339th,” said Walker.

By employing insurgent tactics observed during Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, the 339th can convincingly simulate the unconventional forces they represent.

“We’re trying to use the same tactics the enemy uses so they (the participating Soldiers) can react more easily to these situations when they get deployed,” said Pfc. Dane Loomis, a student from Kansas City, Mo., attached to the 339th.

The exercise role players in the unit are getting the most out of the training by learning both military and enemy techniques, therefore turning a good training experience into a great one, said Loomis.

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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:

080611-A-3871S-026.JPG: Lt. Col. Harold Walker, officer-in-charge of the exercise role players for Golden Coyote 2008, briefs members of the 339th Military Police Company, an Army Reserve unit from Davenport, Iowa, who are preparing to play the role of insurgents Wednesday, June 11, during a training mission being conducted in the Black Hills. (Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Lance Schroeder) (RELEASED)

080611-A-3871S-032.JPG: Members of the 339th Military Police Company, an Army Reserve unit from Davenport, Iowa, play the role of insurgents Wednesday, June 11, during a training mission in the Black Hills north of Hill City during the annual Golden Coyote exercise. (Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Lance Schroeder) (RELEASED)

080611-A-3871S-035.JPG: Three exercise role players from the 339th Military Police Company, an Army Reserve unit from Davenport, Iowa, "kidnap" a Soldier Wednesday, June 11, while playing the role of insurgents during the annual Golden Coyote exercise being held in the Black Hills. (Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Lance Schroeder) (RELEASED)

080611-A-3871S-111.JPG: Three exercise role players from the 339th Military Police Company, an Army Reserve unit from Davenport, Iowa, portray enemy insurgents providing security while Lt. Col. Harold Walker, officer-in-charge from the South Dakota Army National Guard, interrogates a prisoner Wednesday, June 11, during the annual Golden Coyote exercise being held in the Black Hills. (Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Lance Schroeder) (RELEASED)

080611-A-3871S-122.JPG: Lt. Col. Harold Walker, South Dakota Army National Guard (third from right) and exercise role players from the 339th Military Police Company, an Army Reserve unit from Davenport, Iowa, list their demands while playing the role of kidnappers Wednesday, June 11, during the annual Golden Coyote exercise being held in the Black Hills. (Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Lance Schroeder) (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.