

**South Dakota National Guard
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Army Reserve units purify water for Golden Coyote

By Spc. Joe Bungert, 129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Clean water for drinking is essential for humans to survive, and several Army Reserve Quartermaster units are providing this precious liquid to the Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen participating in this year's Golden Coyote training exercise.

The 14th Quartermaster Company of Greensburg, Pa., utilizing two reverse osmosis water purification units (ROWPU) capable of treating 3,000 gallons of water an hour, is providing purified water to exercise participants for drinking, cooking and bathing.

“During the exercise, water is drawn from Rapid Creek into the ROWPU where it passes through a complex series of filtering media, removing particles and minerals from the water,” said Sgt. Paul Gamble of the 14th.

The purified water is then pumped into a 20,000-gallon holding bag. Once the bag is full, the Soldiers of the 971st and 825th Quartermaster Detachments of Rio Grande City, Texas, take over.

“We use a tactical water distribution system capable of pumping water to a series of 20,000-gallon storage bags, up to five miles from the holding bag at the ROWPU site,” said Sgt. Maria Rena of the 971st.

“Every day, we fill up either 400-gallon or 2,000-gallon tankers, which are then transported to the forward operating bases for use,” Reyna said. “At this point, we have distributed approximately 120,000 gallons, and expect to distribute 250,000 gallons of water during the exercise.”

In order to ensure the water purified for Golden Coyote is safe for consumption, the water purification specialists check the chlorine levels as the water comes out of the ROWPU and then every hour it is in storage.

“If the chlorine level is too low or too high, we run the risk of Soldiers getting sick,” said Reyna.

“We’re not the only people who check the water at Golden Coyote,” said Sgt. Charles Leonard of the 14th. “There are preventative medical detachments here that certify the water we produce is safe.”

Gamble said this year’s annual exercise provided the unit with fantastic training.

“Golden Coyote is giving us the opportunity to produce clean water, and the satisfaction of knowing it is being used by the exercise participants,” Gable added.

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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:

080607A-5356B-002.JPG: Water used by Soldiers in this year’s Golden Coyote exercise is purified by the 14th Quartermaster Company, an Army Reserve unit of Greensburg, Pa., in a reverse osmosis water purification unit Saturday, June 7, and stored in a 20,000 gallon bag prior to distribution. (Army National Guard photo by Spc. Joe Bungert) (RELEASED)

080607A-5356B-010.JPG: Spc. Daniel Luna of the 971st Quartermaster Detachment (Tactical Water Distribution System) from Rio Grande City, Texas, draws water to check chlorine levels Saturday, June 7, during this year’s Golden Coyote exercise in the Black Hills, S.D. (Army National Guard photo by Spc. Joe Bungert) (RELEASED)

080607A-5356B-016.JPG: Spc. Daniel Luna (left) and Sgt. Maria Reyna (right) with the 971st Quartermaster Detachment (Tactical Water Distribution System), of Rio Grande City, Texas, check chlorine levels of purified water Saturday, June 7, during this year’s Golden Coyote exercise in the Black Hills, S.D. (Army National Guard photo by Spc. Joe Bungert) (RELEASED)

080607A-5356B-018.JPG: Sgt. Maria Reyna from Alamo, Texas, and Spc. Daniel Luna from Rio Grande City, Texas, both with the 971st Quartermaster Detachment (Tactical Water Distribution System), check chlorine levels in purified water Saturday, June 7, during this year’s Golden Coyote exercise in the Black Hills, S.D. (Army National Guard photo by Spc. Joe Bungert) (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.