

**South Dakota National Guard
Public Affairs Office**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Guard units train to sustain during Golden Coyote

By Chief Warrant Officer Wanda Akers

RAPID CITY, S.D. - The South Dakota National Guard conducted a Logistics Enabler Course from June 4-9 at the Range Road Armory in Rapid City as part of the 2008 Golden Coyote training exercise.

The course included learning computer systems such as combat service and support (CSS) very small aperture terminal (VSAT), movement tracking system, portable deployment kit, battle command sustainment support system and the 3e Technology International's wireless bridge. The course was taught by experts from the National Guard Bureau and civilian contractors.

The Logistics Enabler Course started as a result of Hurricane Katrina by the National Guard Bureau to help Guard units become better informed of what supplies and equipment are needed when a natural disaster occurs.

All these logistics systems are linked together for functionality and visibility to help better serve the missions. The satellite in conjunction with the wireless bridge, provides network communication capability if local communications are disrupted. The systems, once bridged to the CSS VSAT, have the capability to track vehicle and container movement worldwide.

Capt. Eric Hopkins of the National Guard Bureau led a six-person instructor team that provided the training to about 40 Soldiers from units from across the nation. The course consisted of four initial days of "round-robin" training where each person got hands-on training in setting up, configuring, utilizing and then disassembling the equipment. The last two days of training consisted of the Soldiers joining their units at forward operating bases in the southern Black Hills and setting up the equipment for real-time use in tracking vehicle convoys and haul missions, as well as requisitioning supplies.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact Maj. Orson Ward at (605) 737-6721, or cell (605) 431-8753 or Chief Warrant Officer Wanda Akers at (605) 737-6770.

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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.