

**South Dakota National Guard
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Engineers give back to the community

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

RAPID CITY, S.D. – National Guard engineer units continued to work several vertical and horizontal construction projects throughout the Black Hills during this year’s Golden Coyote training exercise.

The 240th Engineer Company (Vertical), Nevada Army National Guard, and the 842nd Engineer Company (Horizontal), South Dakota Army National Guard, participated in projects within the Black Hills National Forest and surrounding areas June 7-21 as part of their required annual training.

“The projects conducted during Golden Coyote provide Soldiers with training in their military specialties and also enable them to give something back to the community,” said 1st Sgt. Michael Shay, an innovative readiness training manager with the SDARNG. “Without the support of Guard, these projects most likely wouldn’t be accomplished due to budget constraints.”

The 240th replaced roofs on several small structures ranging from storage sheds to campground shower facilities scattered throughout the Black Hills. Unit members removed the old rotten wooden shakes and replaced them with new asphalt shingles.

“Our unit consists of carpenters, masons, electricians, plumbers and concrete teams, but this is the first time we’ve done any roofing,” said Sgt. David Micciche, acting platoon sergeant with the 240th.

“We had everyone in the company working on these projects, even our cooks,” he added.

In two weeks, the 240th completed what would have taken several months to work into U.S. Forest Service project schedules, said Forest Service officials.

In the reservoir area of Belle Fourche, S.D., the members of the 842nd worked on several road maintenance projects; smoothing and graveling roads for the Bureau of Reclamation.

The State Veterans Home in Hot Springs, S.D., also benefited from the Golden Coyote training exercise. There, the 842nd removed stumps, leveled ground and spread gravel in the construction of a new parking lot and the extension of an existing one.

The projects completed during Golden Coyote are planned out a year in advance based on unit commitments and capabilities. Once the various projects are decided on, an environmental impact study is conducted along with an archeological survey of the proposed project site, Shay said.

“All of the engineering projects done during the exercise must meet two criteria: they must have a positive impact on the environment, and they must maintain the preservation of historical sites,” he 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:

080612-A-5356B-007.JPG: Spc. Arlyn Cook, a culinary specialist with the 240th Engineer Company, Nevada Army National Guard, removes old wooden shingles and tar paper from a roof of a shower house Thursday, June 12, in the Black Hills, S.D., as part of this year’s Golden Coyote training exercise. (Army National Guard photo by Spc. Joe Bungert) (RELEASED)

080612-A-5356B-015.JPG: Spc. Maximillian Boudreaux, a plumber with the 240th Engineer Company, Nevada Army National Guard, removes old wooden shingles and tar paper from a roof of a shower house Thursday, June 12, in the Black Hills, S.D., as part of this year’s Golden Coyote training exercise. (Army National Guard photo by Spc. Joe Bungert) (RELEASED)

080612-A-5356B-026.JPG: Spc. Edward GooSun and Spc. Ryan All of the 240th Engineer Company, Nevada Army National Guard, apply tar paper to a campground shower house roof prior to laying new shingles Thursday, June 12, in the Black Hills, S.D., as part of this year’s Golden Coyote training exercise. (Army National Guard photo by Spc. Joe Bungert) (RELEASED)

080612-A-5356B-044.JPG: Spc. Edward GooSun, an electrician with the 240th Engineer Company, Nevada Army National Guard, staples tar paper to the plywood sub-roof of a campground shower house prior to applying new shingles Thursday, June 12, in the Black Hills, S.D., as part of this year’s Golden Coyote training exercise. (Army National Guard photo by Spc. Joe Bungert) (RELEASED)

080612-A-5356B-055.JPG: Members of the 240th Engineer Company, Nevada Army National Guard, apply new asphalt shingles to a campground shower house Thursday, June 12, in the

Black Hills, S.D., as part of this year's Golden Coyote training exercise. (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.