

South Dakota National Guard

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SD Army National Guard receives medical readiness award

RAPID CITY, S.D. – The South Dakota Army National Guard was presented with the Top Small State Medical Readiness Award by the Army National Guard at the Medical Team Conference in Little Rock, Ark., April 23.

Col. Michael Pelzner, Army National Guard chief surgeon, presented the award to the SDARNG for having the highest percentage of Soldiers medically ready and deployable – achieving 92.5 percent in its highest categories.

States were also measured on how efficiently they executed their budget by cost per Soldier and how well they executed combat medic specialist sustainment.

“This award is for everyone in our state,” said Col. John Weber, G1 deputy chief of staff for personnel. “It represents the focus and efforts everyone made to achieving medical readiness, which includes all our medical professionals and teams, our units, commanders, and the Soldiers themselves. They all helped achieve this award.”

The state’s medical detachment, or Medical Command, also took on added responsibilities to help units complete their medical assessment and requirements.

“The medical detachment took on many additional opportunities to perform physical health assessments on our Soldiers, allowing our state to save money that would have been spent contracting those services,” said Maj. Penny McCarthy, SDARNG deputy state surgeon. “The medical detachment worked very hard to accomplish PHAs, as well as accomplish flu shot for our Soldiers in the same timeframe. They’ve really done an outstanding job.”

This award is based on the medical readiness of Soldiers from September 2017 – March 2018. McCarthy also emphasized additional medical professionals that help to contribute to the medical readiness mission.

“Follow-up medical case management has been enhanced with the addition of a part-time provider, Maj. Eric Eidem, who has greatly enhanced case management services,” said McCarthy. “Medical readiness non-commissioned officers are also an integral component to the medical readiness mission.”

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180423-Z-ZZ999-001: Soldiers with the South Dakota Army National Guard are presented with the Top Small State Medical Readiness Award by the Army National Guard at the Medical Team Conference in Little Rock, Ark., April 23, 2018. Pictured from left: Lt. Col. Murray Thompson, Medical Command commander, Col. Don Kosiak, SDARNG state surgeon, Maj. Penny McCarthy, SDARNG deputy state surgeon, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kim Harming, SDARNG health services, and Master Sgt. Penny Doty, Medical Command senior medical NCO. (Courtesy photo)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact the SDNG Public Affairs Office at (605) 737-6721 or e-mail ng.sd.sdarng.list.pao@mail.mil.