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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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South Dakota State Penitentiary wins award from National Guard Unit

(Pierre) – The South Dakota State Penitentiary is the recipient of a "Distinguished Center of Influence" award from the 1st Battalion of the South Dakota National Guard's 147th Field Artillery Brigade.

As part of the National Guard's "Freedom Salute Campaign", each mobilized unit that comes off active duty awards one "Distinguished Center of Influence" award to an individual or organization for their support of the unit's soldiers and their families.

The 147th presented a bronze casting of an eagle to the Penitentiary at a ceremony in Mitchell April 3rd. Associate Warden Bob Kuemper accepted the award on behalf of the Penitentiary.

The casting is inscribed "In appreciation for your dedication and support to the men and women of the Army National Guard who serve to defend freedom."

A total of twenty staff members of the Penitentiary and the Redfield Trusty Unit (RTU), a minimum-security unit under the supervision of the Penitentiary, serve in the South Dakota National Guard. Five employees of the Penitentiary currently serve in the 147th. An additional eight Penitentiary staff serve in the Army Reserves. There are nine staff members of the Penitentiary and RTU who are currently deployed on active duty.

The 1st Battalion of the 147th Field Artillery Brigade is based out of Mitchell, Salem, Sioux Falls and Yankton. They were activated March 15, 2003 and spent two months training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Because the initial portion of the war in Iraq ended quickly, they were not deployed overseas and the unit was deactivated May 27, 2003.



The 'Distinguished Center of Influence' bronze eagle.



The text on the base of the casting.