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## Shipping Out



**Warrant Officer Kenny Podzimek holds his son after answering role call during Tuesday's Community Recognition Ceremony for Detachment 1 of the 155th Engineer Company. The event was held at the Wagner High School Gym.**

RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D

## Wagner Guard Unit Preps To Deploy

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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WAGNER – For SFC Adam Sanderson, the upcoming deployment to Kuwait brings some familiar feelings.

He serves in the South Dakota National Guard (SDNG) with Detachment 1 of the 155th Engineer Company. The 95-member detachment, headquartered in Wagner, will join the rest of the Rapid City-based company for the year-long mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom – Spartan Shield.

For Sanderson, this isn't his first overseas mission. The 155<sup>th</sup> deployed to Iraq in 2002-03 in support of Operation Noble Eagle.

"I started with the National Guard 15 years ago. I was with (the Wagner unit) when they went to Iraq," he said. "The first time, we were at war. This time, it's one of those things where we're starting something (with this mission) for the long term."

On Tuesday, an estimated 1,200 people packed the Wagner High School gymnasium to recognize and say farewell

to the Wagner unit. The gym was so full that soldiers from other SDNG units gave up their seats to civilians attending the ceremony.

In a small community like Wagner, the deployment hits close to home, Sanderson said. He grew up in Wagner and still feels the community's support.

"It's nice to see the community still behind you after all these years," he said.

The Wagner unit departs at 8 a.m. today (Wednesday) for Rapid City. A ceremony for the entire 162-member company will be held at 2 p.m. MDT in the Civic Center's Barnett Arena. The public is encouraged to help send off the Wagner unit. A number of family members have indicated they are making the trip to Rapid City.

Planned speakers for today's ceremony include Gov. Dennis Daugaard, U.S. Sens. John Thune and Mike Rounds (both R-S.D.), Rapid City Mayor Steve Allender and Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, SDNG adjutant general.

The Wagner unit — even those without previous com-

bat experience — will benefit in the upcoming deployment from the previous mission in 2002-2003, Sanderson said.

"This one will be a little bit easier," he said. "There are a lot of young troops, but we have those who have gone through (combat) and know what to expect. We can help our fellow soldiers."

The unit members feel a kind of excitement about the upcoming mission, Sanderson said. In fact, some members from other units volunteered to join the 155<sup>th</sup> specifically go into combat.

"We have 28 who have joined the unit to go with us (to Kuwait). They're volunteers," he said.

The 155<sup>th</sup> is a vertical engineer company capable of providing engineer support in the construction of base camps and internment facilities.

The unit will report to Fort Bliss, Texas, to complete several weeks of theater-specific training prior to deployment overseas.

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RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D

**Signs in Pickstown recognize Detachment 1 of the 155th Engineer Company, which was recently activated for deployment. A community recognition ceremony was held in Wagner on Tuesday.**

## ROCS Honored On 50th Anniversary With State Day

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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LAKE ANDES – Deb Cahoy knows of one-family homes that house much more than one family.

"When we do emergency services like weatherization, we see three families living in a house sized for one," said Cahoy, executive director of the Rural Office of Community Services (ROCS).

The residents, usually low income, suffer from the overcrowding, she said.

"We may have 7 to 14 people living in a house," she said. "They aren't necessarily homeless, but they don't have adequate housing."

For 50 years, ROCS has served low-income persons, the elderly and handicapped with a number of programs. The Lake Andes-based agency, operated by a board of directors, serves 22 counties in south-central and south-east South Dakota.

Today, ROCS provides weatherization, hous-

ing, nutrition, transportation and basic needs to more than 25,000 persons annually. According to the U.S. census, 14 counties served by ROCS programs have a higher percentage of families living in poverty than the statewide rate.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard has declared Aug. 13 as Rural Office of Community Services Day in South Dakota in honor of the agency's 50th anniversary. ROCS will celebrate its anniversary Thursday with an open house at its Lake Andes headquarters.

Cahoy has been with the private, non-profit organization for most of its history. She joined the community action agency in 1977 and has served as director since 1992.

After nearly four decades with the agency, Cahoy remains amazed at the way in which many people manage their daily lives on limited resources.

"I'm looking at them trying to raise a family or maintain a family. They have little or no income, and they are making it somehow,"

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## Big Projects On Horizon For City

BY ROB NIELSEN  
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The City of Yankton is nearly ready to go through with the approval of its 2016 budget which is set to include a number of a large infrastructure projects.

The Yankton City Commission and department heads met Tuesday night for a review session to discuss many of the key points of the \$51,458,237 budget.

City Manager Amy Nelson said the budget will largely be dominated by road projects.

"We're going to see phase one of Highway 50 — that

was a project we were ready for this year, then the bids didn't come out as we had anticipated," Nelson said. "Douglas Ave., Anna to 31st St. — we're working with individual property owners along there and working out their specific concerns with them. We have one property left to reach an agreement with. Upon having that complete, we will move into the public hearing for establishing the need for a special assessment."

Additionally, the city will also be working on 15th St. between Dakota St. and West City Limits Rd.

Nelson said the city is

ready to get back to the task at hand on Highway 50 improvements.

"We'll be doing our utility improvements along with the road improvements," she said. "We're looking forward to that project. We had to change our schedule and then our budget because the first bid letting didn't result in a reward. I'm ready to have that project behind us and have that improvement made."

Bid letting for the project is anticipated to happen in the next month.

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TOMORROW: Boys & Girls Club Breaks New Ground

YANKTON RECYCLING FOR THIS WEEK  
**SOUTH**  
OF 15TH STREET