

CHARLIE

From Page 1

zone like its previous deployment, where the soldiers trained Iraqi police, Chase said. During the previous mission, Charlie Battery suffered four fatalities and major injuries.

However, that doesn't mean the recent mission was any less dangerous or important, Chase said.

"In Kuwait, there are a lot of bad guys who don't like us doing our work. They have a problem with freedom," he said. "We act every day as if a soldier's life depends on it, because it does."

With the stakes so high, Charlie Battery and other units can't afford to make mistakes, Chase said.

"The bad guys only have to get it right once, and we have to get it right every time," he said.

During its year-long mission in Kuwait, the 1/147 oversaw security for the Seaport of Debarkation/Embarkation (SEPOD/E). Through those efforts, massive amounts of ammunition and equipment streamed safely into Iraq and Afghanistan.

Chase noted the unit's massive number of security searches without a successful terrorist incident.

"If you are a sports fan and keeping track, it's 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery 588,297, the Bad Guys 0," Chase said, producing cheers from the audience.

On July 29, 2009, Charlie Battery took over security detail for the SEPOD and the southern half of Kuwait, Chase said. Charlie Battery worked with the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard during the operations.

"We handled 90 percent of the ammunition and equipment in the Global War on Terror," he said. "It's like a faucet. If you stop it, you shut off the water flow and that affects hundreds of thousands of lives every day."

Charlie Battery searched nearly 185,000 individuals and 114,000 vehicles, Chase said. Alpha Battery of Aberdeen searched nearly 205,000 individuals and 84,000 vehicles.

Combined, the two units searched about 390,000 individuals and nearly 200,000 vehicles, Chase said. Alpha Battery also worked with 12.5 million pounds of ammunition, he said.

Chase pointed to full auditorium at the deactivation ceremony and the sea of yellow ribbons around Yankton.

"You have the opportunity to rejoin your family and friends," he said. "It's not easy to start over. But as you look back, it's one of the best days for the rest of your life."

GOV. MIKE ROUNDS

"In South Dakota, we don't just deploy soldiers," he said. "We deploy communities, and that's evident when we see the support here today."

Chase gave thanks for the family, friends, employers and co-workers who cared for the home front during the mission. He also noted the sacrifices of veterans in the audience.

Much has changed — both in combat and at home — during the Kuwait mission, Chase said.

"A year ago, we stood before you for the activation ceremony," he said. "It seems like the year has gone by really fast. But it has also seemed really long."

SERVING WITH HONOR

At Tuesday's ceremony, Cpt. Scott Green credited Charlie Battery's success to the seven Army values — Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage — which form the acronym LEADERSHIP.

Green also recognized the "unwavering support" from the region. He reminded the soldiers of resources helping them reintegrate into everyday life.

The soldiers look forward to resuming their jobs after some down time, Green said.

"We will be back to work soon, but not too soon," he added with a grin.

On a somber note, Green described a Dec. 4, 2009, flag-flying ceremony to remember Charlie Battery's fallen from the last deployment. U.S. flags were presented to the families of Sgt. First Class Richard Schild, Staff Sgt. Dan Cuka, Staff Sgt. Greg Wagner and Sgt. Allen Kokesh Jr.

A flag was also presented to Sgt. Corey Briest, who suffered

traumatic brain injuries and multiple injuries during the last deployment.

"The flag today represents the sacrifice experienced by Charlie Battery. We will never forget you," Green told the families, who each received a standing ovation from the audience.

Tuesday's scene was far different than last year's activation ceremony at Yankton Middle School, said Maj. General Steven Doohen.

"Emotions were running high. Then we moved forward with the deployment, and we didn't know what to expect," he said. "We had 30 days at Fort Hood (Texas) and then off to Kuwait."

Doohen, the South Dakota adjutant general, said he was overwhelmed at the unit's achievements when he paid a Christmas visit to Kuwait.

"You see how much equipment came through that port. Strategically, it's very important," Doohen said. "I met with the brigadier commander. He wished all the units were like South Dakota, who was head and shoulders above all the units he had."

A GRATEFUL NATION

At the deactivation ceremony, Gov. Mike Rounds said he spoke "on behalf of a grateful state and nation" as commander-in-chief of the South Dakota National Guard.

Rounds noted at least one Yankton resident who couldn't welcome home the troops because of official duties. Monday night, the governor met with District 18 Sen. Jean Hunhoff and other legislative leaders in Pierre for final budget negotiations. The 2010 session

was scheduled to end Tuesday.

"I said that I would be in Yankton (for the deactivation)," the governor said. "Sen. Hunhoff said, 'I wish I was going to be there with you,' but she sends her best wishes."

Charlie Battery has formed bonds that will last a lifetime, Rounds said. The soldiers now begin the transition back to everyday life, he said.

"You have the opportunity to rejoin your family and friends," he said. "It's not easy to start over. But as you look back, it's one of the best days for the rest of your life."

Rounds saluted the soldiers for their sacrifices.

"This country is the land of the free because it's the home of the brave," he said. "Thank you for everything you have done."

The program featured greetings from the South Dakota congressional delegation of U.S. Sens. Tim Johnson and John Thune and U.S. Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin.

Yankton Mayor Dan Specht welcomed the troops. He noted that he received a 1/147 coin of excellence on April 18, 2009. The coin contains the four standards of discipline, courage, strength and loyalty. Specht said he put the coin next to a silver stone with the word "prayer."

The two symbols seem appropriate for the current Holy Week and the troops' homecoming celebration, Specht said.

As the ceremony concluded, LaCroix read the roll call, and Cpt. Martin Yost read the deactivation order. Command Sgt. Major George Arends delivered a safety message, while Green provided closing remarks.

After the ceremony, LaCroix said he appreciated working with tremendous leadership as well as the development shown by the unit during the mission. "We have outstanding personnel," he said.

With the deactivation complete, LaCroix said he looked forward to some time off and the upcoming Easter weekend.

"It will be great to relax and spend time with family and friends," he said.

RACES

From Page 1

• Charles Mix — Jennifer Rucktaeschel, Democrat, Wagner
• Clay — Ruth A. Bremer, Democrat, Vermillion
• Hutchinson — Jeanie Simonsen, Republican, Menno
• Turner — Sheila Hagemann, Republican, Parker
• Yankton — Paula N. Jones, Democrat, Yankton

• Bon Homme — Jason P. Bechtold, Republican, Tabor
• Charles Mix — Derek Laska, Democrat, Lake Andes; Randy L. Thaler, Democrat, Lake Andes; and James Chaney, Republican, Platte
• Clay — Andrew Howe, Republican, Wakonda
• Hutchinson — James Zeeb, Republican, Olivet
• Turner — Matthew Wetterling, Republican, Parker; and Byron Nogelmeier, Republican, Parker
• Yankton — Daniel Thompson, Democrat, Yankton; and Jim Vlahakis, Republican, Yankton

REGISTER OF DEEDS

• Bon Homme — Sandra Frasier-Shaffer, Democrat, Tyndall
• Charles Mix — Monica Walder, Democrat, Lake Andes
• Clay — Jane A. Olson, Democrat, Vermillion; Ray A. Hofman, Democrat, Vermillion; and Holly Meins, Democrat, Vermillion
• Hutchinson — Julie C. Herrboldt, Republican, Menno
• Turner — Carol J. Viet, Republican, Parker; and Lisa K. Carlson, Republican, Parker
• Yankton — Brian J. Hunhoff,

Republican, Yankton
County Commission
• Bon Homme/District 1 — Michael R. Soukup, Democrat, Scotland
• Bon Homme/District 3 — John H. Pesek, Democrat, Tyndall; and Duane Bachmann, Republican, Tyndall
• Bon Homme/District 5 — Russell R. Jelsma, Republican, Springfield
• Charles Mix/District 1 — Charon Asetoyer, Democrat, Lake Andes; Jack D. Soulek, Democrat, Lake Andes; and Francis Doom, Republican, Wagner
• Charles Mix/District 3 — Keith Mushitz, Democrat, Geddes
• Hutchinson/District 1 — Betty J. Bauer, Republican, Freeman; and Jerome E. Hoff, Republican, Republican, Menno
• Hutchinson/District 5 — Dallas Laffey, Republican, Tripp
• Turner/District 1 — James Adamson, Democrat, Centerville
• Turner/District 3 — Ronald E. Globke, Democrat, Marion
• Turner/District 5 — William W. Weegar, Republican, Parker

COUNTY COMMISSION AT LARGE

• Yankton — Allen Sinclair, Democrat, Utica; Garry A. Moore, independent, Yankton; Bruce D. Jensen, Republican, Yankton; Tom Fiedler, Republican, Yankton; and James L. Van Osdel, Republican, Yankton

COUNTY COMMISSION AT LARGE (VOTE FOR TWO)

• Clay — Les Kephart, Democrat, Vermillion; Alex L. Ufford, Democrat, Vermillion; Phyllis W. Packard, Democrat, Vermillion; Leonard Rasmussen, Republican, Vermillion; and Jere L. Chapman, Republican, Vermillion



Gary R. Johnson • Rick Merkel • Ben Merkel
Rural • Residential • Commercial
• Electrical • Telephone
• We trench H.O Lines, footings & Electrical Lines
• Our Bucket Truck Reaches 50' PLUS! • We Set Poles
FAST COURTEOUS SERVICE • 214 CAPITAL ST., YANKTON
605-665-5686



ULTIMATE[®]
custom window coverings



Unique collection of exquisite window coverings designed to coordinate with the painted walls of your home.

- Honeycomb Shades
- Roller Shades
- Wood Blinds
- Faux Wood Blinds

Exclusively for...



Benjamin Moore[®]
Paints

Yankton Paint & Decorating
406 Broadway, Yankton, 665-5032

YOUR NEWS!

The Press & Dakotan

YOU'RE NEWS!

BlackBerry[®]

Blowout!

BUY ONE GET ANY FREE

of equal or lesser value. Additional qualifications required.



BlackBerry[®] Pearl™
smartphone
\$2999*



BlackBerry[®] Curve™ 8530
smartphone
\$4999*



BlackBerry[®] Pearl™ Flip pink
smartphone
\$999*



BlackBerry[®] Tour™
smartphone
\$9999*

1 YEAR CONTRACTS
same low price. shorter contract.

Plus Add Lines
Get 3 Months FREE

\$25 activation fee applies per line. See qualifications below.

Promotional offers available at participating agent locations and the following Alltel retail locations only:

Alltel Retail Stores

- These Retail Stores Now Open Sunday.
- Aberdeen**
3315 6th Ave. S.E. | (605) 229-6635
- Brookings**
1707 6th St. | (605) 692-6464
- Huron**
289 Dakota Ave. S. | (605) 352-2001
- Kyle**
Lakota Trade Ctr. | (605) 455-2190
- Mission**
563 E. 2nd St. | (605) 856-2525
- Mitchell**
510 E. Havens | (605) 995-0091
- Pierre**
1005 E. Wells Ave. | (605) 224-5854
- Pine Ridge**
1001 Alltel Drive | (605) 867-2880
- Sioux Falls**
• 1224 W. 41st St. | (605) 332-4000
• 3709 W. 41st St. | (605) 361-2571
- Wagner**
116 S. Main | (605) 384-4451
- Watertown**
• 1414 9th Ave. S.E. | (605) 882-1111
- Yankton**
1100 Broadway Ave. | (605) 665-1935

Shop at a participating retailer:
Equipment & promotional offers at these locations may vary.

- Aberdeen**
Lang's TV | (605) 225-5372
Pro Cellular | (605) 262-6000

- Canton**
Pro Cellular | (605) 558-2500
- Chamberlain**
Wedmore's Cellular | (605) 234-5531
- Huron**
Pro Cellular | (605) 352-4670
- Madison**
Pro Cellular | (605) 256-0088
- Milbank**
Pro Cellular | (605) 432-9196
- Mitchell**
Select Comm., Inc. | (605) 996-0190
- Mohrville**
Pro Cellular | (605) 945-3950
- Parker**
Timmerman Cellular | (605) 297-2355
- Pierre**
Pro Cellular | (605) 945-0563
- Sioux Center**
Hills Elec. & RadioShack | (712) 722-2541
- Sioux Falls**
Pro Cellular | (605) 271-6100
Pro Cellular | (605) 325-1200
Wireless Etc. | (605) 334-1135
4511 E. 28th St. | (605) 371-5404
Empire Mail | (605) 382-9484
- Vermillion**
Your Wireless Store | (605) 624-2355
- Watertown**
Pro Cellular | (605) 882-9090
- Yankton**
Your Wireless Store | (605) 664-2355

alltel wireless

alltel.com
1-800-alltel-1

*phone prices after \$100 mail-in rebate for each device, activation & 1-yr. Smart Choice Pack agreement on each line. \$9.99 promotional price applies to the pink BlackBerry Pearl Flip, only.

Federal, state & local taxes & charges apply. In addition, Alltel may charge monthly connectivity, regulatory, administrative & 911 surcharges up to \$2.19 & federal & state Universal Service Fund fees (both may vary by customer usage). These additional fees may not be taxes or government-required charges & are subject to change. Additional information regarding your taxes, fees & surcharges is available from your Alltel customer service representative & on your monthly bill. Phone Details: Phones & applicable rebates available for a limited time, while supplies last, with activation of a qualifying rate plan. Rebate will be in the form of a VISA gift card. Limit 1 rebate per qualifying purchase. Phone may be returned within 15 days of purchase. If mail-in rebate certificate has been submitted, Alltel will refund the purchase price less the rebate amount. Customer pays applicable taxes. See rebate certificate for details. **Smart Choice Pack Requirement:** All new or existing customers activating or upgrading to a smart device, including all BlackBerry devices, are required to purchase & maintain a Smart Choice Pack of \$69.99 or higher/mo for the duration of their contract in order to qualify for the in-contract phone price. **Add Lines Free:** Offer not applicable on bundled Wireless Internet Plans. Valid on qualifying, newly-activated secondary lines only. New & existing post-paid customers may add up to four (4) new secondary lines, incurring no monthly access charges, for three (3) months to any qualifying primary line of service. New service agreement & \$25 activation fee required for each line in conjunction with phone promotion. Customer must remain on a qualifying plan throughout duration of three-month promotional period. Three Months Free refers to the waived monthly access charge for each qualifying line, according to your rate plan. Customer may be billed for a prorated portion of rate plan charges in the first bill following activation. Free access begins upon the first day of the first bill cycle following activation. Upon the fourth bill cycle following activation, each additional line reverts to the applicable monthly access charge, according to your rate plan. Limit of 4 secondary lines per primary account. Offer valid as of 7/10/2009 & may be discontinued at the discretion of Alltel. **Additional Information:** This offer may be limited due to time, supplies, coverage, or participating locations. \$25 non-refundable activation fee & possible \$200 early termination fee may apply per line. Offers are subject to the Alltel Terms & Conditions for Communications Services available at any Alltel store or alltel.com. All product & service marks referenced are the names, trade names, trademarks & logos of their respective owners. BlackBerry®, RIM®, Research In Motion®, SureType®, SurePress® & related trademarks, names & logos are the property of Research In Motion Limited & are registered &/or used in the U.S. & countries around the world. Used under license from Research In Motion Limited. Screen images are simulated. ©2010 Alltel Communications, LLC. All rights reserved.