



## **South Dakota Regiment**

**Whereas,** The Constitution of the United States of America reads, "*A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.*"

**And,** The Constitution of the State of South Dakota reads, "*The militia of the state of South Dakota shall consist of all able-bodied male persons residing in the state, between the ages of eighteen and forty-five years, except such persons as now are, or hereafter may be, exempted by the laws of the United States or of this state.*"

**We** hereby constitute a well regulated militia to serve the citizens of South Dakota and to provide for the defense of our state, our citizens, and our inalienable rights.

**The** South Dakota Regiment is formed by an all volunteer force of the citizens of South Dakota, sworn to uphold the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of South Dakota.

# DRAFT

**As** a well regulated militia, we hereby establish the following Table of Organization, Limited Subordination to State Control, Code of Conduct, Duty Positions, System of Promotion, and Training.

**As** the South Dakota National Guard is subject to Federal activation, the South Dakota Squadron's primary mission is to serve as the State of South Dakota's indigenous line of defense in the event of foreign invasion. The South Dakota Regiment will also serve in times of disaster to assist with Relief and Recovery efforts, as well as Search and Rescue. At no time during an unconstitutional act, or an act of tyranny by our own federal or state government, will the South Dakota Regiment subordinate itself.

## Contents:

Article I: Table of Organization

Article II: Limited Subordination to State Control

Article III: Code of Conduct

Article IV: Promotions and Leadership Selection

Article V: Weapons

Article VI: Rank Insignia and Uniform Appearance

Article VII: Member Pledge

## Table of Organization:

### Organizational Concept:

**The South Dakota Regiment** is formed as a Cavalry Regiment to honor and remember our past, as well as those great Americans who came before us, settling the Great Plains and Dakota Territories. The duties of a well regulated militia can be sufficiently conducted by a Cavalry organized unit, as well as an Infantry organized unit.

### Regimental Command:

The Regiment Commander, will serve as the Colonel of Troops for a two year period, will hold the power to administer discipline within the guidelines of this document, and also serve as liaison with the Office of the Governor of South Dakota and the Office of the Adjutant General of South Dakota. The Colonel of Troops will wear the United States Army Colonel rank insignia, as prescribed in this document. The Colonel of Troops shall appoint staff officers which will wear the United States Army Major rank insignia, as prescribed in this document.

The Regimental Second in Command shall be the Senior Squadron Commander.

The Regimental Command Sergeant Major shall serve as the Senior Enlisted Member, will be selected in alternating years from the Regimental Commander, will serve as an advisor to the Colonel of Troops, be responsible for the standards of training, discipline, and morale of the Regiment. The Regimental Command Sergeant Major will wear the United States Army Command Sergeant Major rank insignia, as prescribed in this document.

Staff Positions will include an Adjutant and aide, an Intelligence Officer and team, an Operations Officer and Operations Sergeant, a Regimental Training Sergeant, a Logistics Officer, and Communications Chief.

The Operations and Training Sergeants Major will wear the United States Army Master Sergeant rank insignia, as prescribed in this document. These will be appointed by the Regimental Command Sergeant Major.

## *Squadron Command:*

The Regiment will be divided in two Squadrons, the West River and East River Squadrons. The Missouri River provides the natural land boundary between the two Squadrons. Each Squadrons sector will overlap to the opposite banks of the Missouri River

Squadron Commanders will be selected in alternating years, serving for a two year period, with the Senior Squadron Commander serving as the Regimental Second In Command, will hold the power to administer discipline within the guidelines of this document, and will be responsible for the training and recruitment of the Squadron. The Squadron Commanders will wear the United States Army Lieutenant Colonel rank insignia, as prescribed in this document. The Squadron Commander shall appoint staff officers which will wear the United States Army Captain rank insignia, as prescribed in this document.

The Squadron Second in Command shall be the Senior Troop Commander.

The Squadron Command Sergeant Major shall serve as the Squadron's Senior Enlisted Member, will be selected in alternating years from the Squadron Commander, serving for a two year period, will serve as an advisor to the Squadron Commander, be responsible for the standards of training, discipline, and morale of the Squadron. The Squadron Command Sergeant Major will wear the United States Army Command Sergeant Major rank insignia, as prescribed in this document.

Staff Positions will include an Adjutant and aide, an Intelligence Officer and team, an Operations Officer and Operations Sergeant, a Regimental Training Sergeant, a Logistics Officer, and Communications Chief.

The Operations and Training Sergeants will wear the United States Army Master Sergeant rank insignia, as prescribed in this document. These will be appointed by the Squadron Command Sergeant Major.

## **Troop Command:**

The Squadrons will be divided in three troops. The West River Squadron will consist of the Black Hills Troop, the WyoDak Troop and the Badlands Troop. The Black Hills National Forest will provide the natural boundary for the Black Hills Troop. The rough latitudinal line which runs from Sturgis to Pierre shall be the North-South boundary for the WyoDak and Badlands Troops, as well as the Wyoming State border and Missouri River providing the East-West boundaries.

The East River Squadron will be divided in three troops. The East River Squadron will consist of the Lakota Troop, the MinDak Troop and the Lewis and Clark Troop. The Lakota Troop will be the area East of the Missouri River to Highway 281, with the North Dakota State border and I-90 serving as the North-South boundaries. The MinDak Troop will be the area from Highway 281 to the Minnesota State border, and from the North Dakota State border to I-90 as the North-South boundary. The Lewis and Clark Troops will be the region from the Missouri River to the Minnesota/Iowa State borders, and I-90 to the Nebraska State Border.

Troop Commanders will be selected in alternating years, with the Squadron's most populated Troop area elected one year and the remaining two troops of the Squadron in the opposite year, serving for a two year period, with the Senior Troop Commander serving as the Squadron Second In Command. The , Troop Commander will hold the power to administer discipline within the guidelines of this document, and will be responsible for the training and recruitment of the Troop. The Troop Commanders will wear the United States Army Captain rank insignia, as prescribed in this document. Each Troop will have an Executive Officer appointed by the Troop Commander, to evaluate training. The Executive Officer will wear the United States Army First Lieutenant rank insignia, as prescribed in this document.

The Troop Second in Command shall be the Executive Officer.

The Troop First Sergeant shall serve as the Troop's Senior Enlisted Member, will be selected in alternating years from the Troop Commander, serving for a two year period, will serve as an advisor to the Troop Commander, be responsible for the standards of training, discipline, and morale of the Troop. The First Sergeant will wear the United States Army First rank insignia, as prescribed in this document.

# DRAFT

The Troop Training Sergeants will wear the United States Army Master Sergeant rank insignia, as prescribed in this document. These will be appointed by the Troop First Sergeant.

## **Platoons, Squads, and Sections:**

Platoons will be determined by the Troop Commander, considering geographic dispersion and unit strength. At no time will a Troop have less than two Platoons. Platoons will consist of no less than two Squads, Squads will consist of no less than two Sections, and Sections will consist of no less than two Teams. Each Team will consist of no less than four members of the Regiment.

Platoon Leaders will be selected in even number years. Platoon Leader will be responsible for the training and recruitment of the Troop. The Platoon Leader will wear the United States Army First Lieutenant rank insignia, as prescribed in this document.

Platoon Sergeants will serve as the Platoon Second in Command, selected in odd numbered years, serve as the Platoon's primary trainer, and responsible for the discipline, and morale of the Platoon. The Platoon Sergeant will wear the United States Army Sergeant First Class rank insignia, as prescribed in this document.

Squad Leaders will be appointed from those having earned the permanent rank of Staff Sergeant. The Senior Squad Leader will serve as the Platoon's Assistant Platoon Sergeant. The Squad Leader will serve as the Squad's primary trainer, and responsible for the discipline, and morale of the Squad.

Section Leaders will be appointed from those having earned the permanent rank of Sergeant. The Senior Section Leader will serve as the Squad's Assistant Squad Leader. The Section Leader will serve as the Section's primary trainer, and responsible for the discipline, and morale of the Section.

Team Leaders will be appointed from those having earned the permanent rank of Corporal. The Senior Team Leader will serve as the Section's Assistant Section Leader. The Team Leader will serve as the Team's primary trainer, and responsible for the discipline, and morale of the Team.

## Regimental Members:

Regimental Members will serve in their assigned positions, primarily based on geographical location of residence. Cross assignments can only be approved by the Squadron Commander. Each Regimental Member will be held to the highest standards of conduct, training, discipline, and appearance as established in this document. No citizen shall be a Member of the Regiment unless a resident of South Dakota, at least 18 years of age, and able to pass the Regiment's initial assessment, as prescribed in this document. Every Member of the Regiment will certify their oath upon acceptance.

## Leadership:

The South Dakota Regiment will conduct leadership courses and training, as outlined in this document, for those seeking promotion to a leadership position.

## Recruits:

Recruits are South Dakota citizens which are in the process of passing the Regiment's initial assessment and are will be awarded the rank of Troop upon completion.

## Technicians:

Technicians are those Members which are physically not capable of performing the military duties aspect, but are still valued members of the Regiment. Technicians are extremely valuable as Camp Security, Communications, Medical Evacuation Center Staff, and Route Guides. Technicians will wear the United States Marine Corps Lance Corporal or Corporal rank insignia, as prescribed in this document, dependent upon their leadership position amongst Technicians.

## **Limited Subordination to State Control:**

**There** will be times in which the South Dakota Regiment will be required to subordinate itself to the control of the Governor, the Adjutant General, the Sheriff, local Emergency Management or other agencies based on the situation, and will be limited to a prescribed duration. The subordination must only occur in a constitutional environment.

**Only** the Colonel of Troops has the authority to subordinate the entire Regiment to the Governor or State Adjutant General. With the exception of a foreign invasion, subordination will not exceed a 30 day period without the consent of 3/4th of the selected leaders of the Regiment. After 90 days duration, the subordination can only continue in a declared disaster and with the consent of 3/4 of the members which have been permanently awarded the rank of Staff Sergeant. The Colonel of Troops will ensure the Offices of the Governor and Adjutant General have the ability to make contact with the Regimental Commander.

**Squadron** Commanders have the authority to subordinate any units under their command to a duly elected Sheriff's constitutional authority in the event of a regional disaster, emergency, or search and rescue. Subordination will not exceed a 7 day period without the consent of 3/4th of the selected leaders of the Squadron. After 21 days duration, the subordination can only continue in a declared disaster and with the consent of 3/4 of the Squadron members which have been permanently awarded the rank of Staff Sergeant.

**Troop** Commanders and Platoon Leaders have the authority to subordinate their units to local emergency services authorities, with the exception of law enforcement, for disaster relief, or search and rescue, for a period not to exceed 24 hours. After 24 hours, the Squadron Commander becomes the subordinating authority.

**At no time** will the South Dakota Regiment participate in or assist authorities with civil unrest, crowd control, and security of personal property. The duly elected Sheriff is the only law enforcement officer the Regimental elements are authorized to subordinate themselves to as the Sheriff has constitutional authority.



## **Code of Conduct:**

As a Member of the South Dakota Regiment, all members are required to conduct themselves in a professional, constitutional manner. We are the volunteer defenders of South Dakota. All members are entitled to be treated with respect.

All Members will Comply with the Law of War and the Geneva and Hague Conventions in the face of a foreign enemy.

All members have a constitutional duty and moral obligation to disobey any order which is deemed immoral or unconstitutional. In the event a Member of the Regiment is faced with this decision and disobeys said orders, the member is to sling arms with the muzzle pointed downward, or holster their weapon, and find a safe location to wait out the situation. The member may then rejoin the unit with honor, and/or request to speak with the next Commander in the chain of command.

All Commanders will maintain an open door policy.

All Members of the Regiment will remember that we serve the Constitution, the State of South Dakota and the Citizens of South Dakota.

## **Promotions and Leadership Selection:**

Promotions will be based on skill, leadership ability and positions available. In order to be eligible for permanent promotion, the Member of the Regiment must complete the Leadership course as well as demonstrate proficiency in all assigned duties of the next rank.

Promotion from Sergeant to Staff Sergeant will only occur after the Sergeant has completed the Regimental Senior Leader Course. Staff Sergeant is the highest rank which will be earned. The Sergeant will be required to demonstrate proficiency in all skill level four tasks prior to attendance and at the completion of the Senior Leaders Course.

Promotion from Corporal to Sergeant will only occur after the Corporal has completed the Regiment or Squadron Advanced Leader Course. The Corporal will be required to demonstrate proficiency in all skill level three tasks prior to attendance and at the completion of the Advanced Leaders Course.

Promotion from Trooper First Class to Corporal will only occur after the Trooper First Class has completed the Squadron Basic Leader Course. The Trooper First Class will be required to demonstrate proficiency in all skill level two tasks prior to attendance and at the completion of the Basic Leaders Course.

Promotion from Trooper to Trooper First Class will only occur after the Trooper has been determined as proficient at all skill level one testing, completed a 5 mile road march, and qualified with their personal weapon.

Promotion from Recruit to Trooper will occur after attendance of three consecutive drills, and proving proficiency in skill level one tasks.

Permanent promotion orders shall not be issued until the Member of the Regiment has completed all requirements for promotion and a vacancy exists.

All promotion orders will be drafted by the Regimental Adjutant and signed by the appropriate promotion authority. All promotions will remain on file with Regiment.

## **Promotion and Reduction Authority:**

The Platoon Leader is the promotion and reduction authority for Recruit to Trooper.

The Troop Commander is the promotion and reduction authority for Trooper to Trooper First Class.

The Squadron Commander is the promotion and reduction authority for Trooper First Class to Corporal and Corporal to Sergeant.

The Regimental Commander is the sole authority for promotion and reduction from Sergeant to Staff Sergeant.

## **Leadership Selection:**

To be eligible to serve as a Selected Leader in a position at Platoon level or higher, the Member of the Regiment must have been awarded, and currently hold, the rank of Staff Sergeant.

Selection to Platoon Sergeant will be based on nominations from Corporals and Sergeants of the Platoon. All members of the Platoon in the ranks Private through Staff Sergeant will elect their Platoon Sergeant.

Selection to Platoon Leader will be based on nominations from Sergeants and Staff Sergeants of the Platoon. All members of the Platoon in the ranks Private through Staff Sergeant will elect their Platoon Leader.

Selection to Troop Commander and First Sergeant will be based on nominations from the Staff Sergeants of the Troop. All members of the Troop in the ranks Private through Staff Sergeant will elect their Platoon Leader.

Selection to Squadron Commander and Command Sergeant Major will be based on nominations from the Staff Sergeants of the Squadron. All members of the Squadron in the ranks Private through Staff Sergeant will elect their Platoon Leader.

Selection to Regimental Commander and Command Sergeant Major will be based on nominations from the Staff Sergeants. All Members of the Regiment in the ranks Private through Staff Sergeant will elect their Platoon Leader.

## **“No Confidence” Procedures**

Any Staff Sergeant can bring a vote of “No Confidence” against any Selected Leader in their change of command. The vote of “No Confidence” will then be presented by the Staff Sergeant to all Members of the Regiment in which the leader in question has the authority to promote or reduce in rank. Those are the members which will hear the case, and make the decision to either acquit or proceed with the vote of “No Confidence.”

It is those that are under promotion or reduction authority which will decide and vote. The next higher commander will serve as the convening authority during the proceedings. In the event the Colonel of Troops is named, the senior Squadron Commander shall preside. If the Senior Squadron Commander is bringing the vote, the Junior Squadron Commander shall preside.

For purposes of leadership selection and votes of “No Confidence,” all selected leaders will revert to their permanent rank of Staff Sergeant to cast votes, with the exception of the exception of the Colonel of Troops.

## **Technicians:**

Senior Technicians will be appointed by the unit commander of the element assigned, in order to establish a chain of command among themselves. Technicians will either serve as Technician, or Senior Technician.

## **Training:**

Each Troop Commander, with input from the Platoon Leaders, will develop their Mission Essential Task List for the assigned and implied missions their Troop shall conduct.

Each Squadron Commander, with input from the Troop Commanders, will develop their Mission Essential Task List for the assigned and implied missions their Squadron shall conduct.

The Regimental Commander, with input from the Squadron Commanders, will develop the Regiment's Mission Essential Task List for the assigned and implied missions the Regiment shall conduct.

All skill level testing will be extracted from the United States Army's current Soldiers' Manual for Common Tasks, at the appropriate skill level, based on the appropriate level of Mission Essential Task List items for the unit of the promotion authority.

## **Weapons:**

Each Member of the Regiment shall supply arms and munitions. Each Member of the Regiment will be required to qualify with their weapons, annually.

All weapons will be transported and carried in accordance to state law. Only legally possessed firearms are permitted.

Each Member of the Regiment will be required to demonstrate proficiency in the ability to Clear, Field Disassembly, Assembly, Functions Check and provide Immediate Action to their weapon before the weapon is allowed to be brought to any training session.

Accountability of weapons is the individual Member of the Regiment's responsibility. Prior to dismissal from training events, all weapons will be accounted for to the next line of leadership.

## **Rank Insignia and Uniform Appearance:**

All Members of the Regiment will supply themselves with a military uniform, with acceptable patterns of the following styles, or variations of: Battle Dress Uniform, Army Combat Uniform (Digital Print), the MultiCam uniform, European Feldspar patterns, or indigenous hunting patterns of the prairie states.

Boots will be leather, and either black or tan suede.

The uniform will display the name tape on the left side, and SoDak on the right side.

Patrol caps will be worn in a matching camouflage pattern as the uniform worn.

Rank Insignias will be United States Army pin on rank, painted a light brown/tan color.

All uniforms will be clean and presentable at first formation and when serving the citizens of South Dakota.

Technicians will wear the United States Marine Corps Lance Corporal pin on rank insignia, while Senior Technicians will wear the United States Marine Corps pin on Corporal rank insignia, painted a red color.

## *South Dakota Regimental Member Pledge*

I \_\_\_\_\_ do solemnly pledge that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of South Dakota, against all enemies be they foreign and/or domestic; that I will, to the best of my ability, bear true faith and allegiance to the same.

I pledge to hold dear the truths contained in the Declaration of Independence which state: “that all men are created equal...” therefore, I shall hold no prejudice or animosity against any race, religion or ethnicity. I will strive to live a life worthy of the honor bestowed upon me as a citizen of this great nation.

I pledge that I shall obey the rule of law; that I shall be ever vigilant on watch, and stand ready to answer the call to arms in defense of our nation I will stand resolute in support, to reinforce the efforts of law enforcement and the organized military forces of the United States of America.

I do hereby pledge on my honor, my diligent obedience to the precepts contained in this “Citizen Soldiers Pledge” and that I will abide by the South Dakota Regiment Constitution, laws and regulations.

Pledged on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ in the year \_\_\_\_\_ .

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Citizen Soldier



## ***NOTE:***

*\*This document will serve as the governing regulation for the South Dakota Regiment until such time the Regiment has reached sufficient strength to fully amend and ratify this document, at which time this paragraph will be stricken.*