

South Dakota Military Academy moves to Fort Meade, SD



Ft. Meade Troops

The South Dakota National Guard Military Academy, which first organized at Mitchell in 1957, was moved to Fort Meade, SD in 1986. The summer of 1986 saw the first annual training exercises and Officer Candidate School (OCS) graduation conducted at the new location.

The transition from the Military Academy to the 196th Regional Training Institute (RTI) was a large-scale one that was orchestrated by Lt. Col. Robert Meier who was the Administrative Officer. Our national Officer Candidate School mission is very significant due to Meier's efforts and the vision of the Adjutant's General long-range planning staff. The South Dakota National Guard's RTI is one of two sites nationwide with an accelerated OCS.

Currently the 196th RTI has two battalions, 1st Battalion (OCS) stationed at Fort Meade and 2nd Battalion (Modular Training) at Sioux Falls.

The facilities licensed by the Veterans Administration for the sole use of the South Dakota National Guard are Building 54, Sheridan Hall (1st BN/Classroom); Building 58 Sturgis Hall (Barracks); Building 60, Knaak Hall (Regiment Headquarters); Building 68, Riding Hall (Gym); Building 108, Mule Barn (Unit Storage); Buildings 159 & 160, Comanche Hall (BOQ); and Building 161, Freedom Hall (DFAC).

To add to the folklore of the 196th RTI, on 21 August 1987 two long time Soldiers, WO1 Tim Moran and 1st Lt. Jeff Marlette were contacted by Capt. Tim Goodwin, Senior TAC Officer of the SDMA, and asked to become TAC Officers and work with the OCS Class. Both were young officers in the Troop Command and they "eagerly" agreed to the assignment.

The South Dakota National Guard's stationing of the 196th Regiment (RTI) is only the latest chapter in what has been a long and colorful military history at Fort Meade.



The first OCS Class to drill at Fort Meade was Class 30

**OCS CLASS
#30
1985-1986**

**CHARLSON, R.
CHARRON, D.
CLINE, KIT (HONOR & LEADERSHIP AWARD)
COMES, MARTIN
CROCKER, VANCE
FJERSTAD, MIKE
FREIDEL, WILLIAM
KEARNS, P. (ACADEMIC AWARD)
LANG, GARY
LEHMAN, JOHNATHAN
MALONE, M.
MILLER, M.
MONSON, M.
OMMEN, TERRY
OPBROEK, ANTHONY
ROECKER, P.
WELCH, W.
WOLLMAN, GORDON**

18 GRADUATES

**COMMANDANT: LTC DENNIS KRSNAK
CSM: CSM PAUL MECHLING
OUTSTANDING INSTR: SFC BRUCE GILLAM
OUTSTANDING TAC: 1LT DOUGLAS FREIDEL**

Duke Doering
CW5 (ret.)
Historian