



NEWS RELEASE

Department of Public Safety

118 W. Capitol Ave. • Pierre, SD 57501 • (605) 773-3178 • fax: (605) 773-3018 • www.state.sd.us/dps

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Friday, Aug. 26, 2011

Contact: Terry Woster, Public Information Officer, 605.773.3231

National Guard Being Released from Levee Patrols

PIERRE, S.D. – South Dakota National Guard members who have been patrolling emergency levees since Missouri River flooding began in late spring are being released from that duty.

The final 11 Guard members who have been providing levee security in the Pierre and Fort Pierre area were demobilized on Thursday, Aug. 25. Another 18 soldiers from the Pierre-Fort Pierre mission were released on Wednesday, said Trevor Jones, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Public Safety.

Demobilization of Guard members on levee patrol in the Dakota Dunes area of Union County could occur in the next several days. Currently, 21 Guard members are providing levee security and another 31 members are on a Quick Reaction Force in Union County. Their status and possible demobilization is being assessed as the water goes off the levees.

“Among many other responsibilities during this record flooding event, National Guard members have performed an essential mission of patrolling levees that protected riverside communities,” Jones said. “As the Corps of Engineers continues to reduce releases from the Missouri River reservoirs, flood waters are dropping and will soon be off the levees. Until that time, however, residents in those areas should remain vigilant and stay away from the levees until the river no longer poses a danger.”

At the height of the response to the Missouri River flooding, some 1,300 National Guard men and women were on duty.

“Much was asked of our Soldiers and Airmen, but much was asked of every citizen during this flood fight,” said Maj. Gen. Timothy Reisch, adjutant general of the South Dakota National Guard. “We have been together every step of the way. The men and women of the National Guard have been proud to be part of the fight. I know each of them joins me in thanking employers, family members and all other South Dakotans for the support we receive.”