



# 347th Regional Support Group

## *Golden Coyote 2009*

*SPC Beth Kocian*

**O**peration Iraqi Freedom Veterans brought their real life experience to the Golden

Coyote training exercise this past June. The 347th Regional Support Group and members of the 147th Human Resource Company traveled to Rapid City, South Dakota for a two week annual training period that was very different than past years annual trainings. This training exercise took place in areas throughout the Southern Black Hills. This year marked the 25th year that the South Dakota National Guard hosted the Golden Coyote exercise.

Golden Coyote is a multiple element training exercise that tests the ability of various units to mobilize personnel and equipment, deploy to a simulated battle zone, coordinate combat and support missions, and then re-deploy back to their home stations.

The 347th RSG deployed to theater (South Dakota) and established a Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration (RSOI) site and a Command & Control Tactical Operations Center (TOC) at Camp Rapid and Ellsworth Air Force Base training areas.

The RSOI teams mission was to in-process all troops who arrived at the exercise. This was a real life simulation of what it is like to arrive in country. Upon check-in the RSOI team validated training with units leaders, corrected and uploaded alpha rosters to the Golden Coyote AKO web page, and trained unit leaders on how to submit daily reports. The RSOI team in processed over 3500 personnel from different branches of service during this exercise.

Members of the TOC established the Task force operation center at Camp Rapid and provided support while helping to establish forward operating bases and training areas. TOC members also provided command and control to sub-



*Above: Members of the RSOI team*

ordinate units from various locations, directed RSOI operations, and facilitated and established a battle handover of forward operating bases in support of the exercise.

This exercise not only helped units to prepare for future deployments, but it also served as a way for OIF and OEF Veterans to train their counterparts with real life experience. This exercise was a excellent opportunity for Minnesota National Guard Soldiers to engage in a training exercise with units from all over the country and also to represent Minnesota.



*Above: Soldiers at the TOC running operations*