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## Local Guard armory rededicated after \$2.7M in renovations

By SALLY Y. HAYES  
Mt. Pleasant News

Federal, state, county and city representatives were present for the ribbon cutting at the rededication ceremony of Mt. Pleasant's National Guard Readiness Center on April 29, earlier this year. The ceremony was in honor of all of the \$2.7 million improvements made to the center from Sept. 2009-Dec. 2010.

Woodruff Construction, LLC, of Des Moines was the general contractor for the project. Overall, the center added approximately 2,950 square feet to the original structure built in 1969.

Improvements included the addition of office space, two classrooms,

storage space, a fitness center and remodeled kitchen space within the main structure.

A wash bay and a new loading dock were also constructed in the newly paved military vehicle compound area.

Next to the refurbished maintenance offices is the wash bay for military vehicles. Within the wash bay is an oil separator that cuts down on environmental issues and helps maintain the armory's vehicles.

The offices and recruitment center are now found at the entrance of the building for easier accessibility and better security. Two more class-

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# Armory

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rooms were added in the remodel; one of the classrooms has a partition to allow one large room to become two smaller rooms for fewer attendees.

The classrooms have been revamped to include an ICN, or Iowa Community Network, to connect Mt. Pleasant's center to other armories and schools throughout the state. The ICN allows the classroom to have video conferences with other instructors and classes. Sergeant Jeremiah Weis applauds the new classrooms and ICN, stating "these

facilities allow us to train more efficiently."

The ICN has also been used by local law enforcement and schools for training purposes.

The former firing range was transformed into storage space and a new fitness center. The fitness center is fully stocked with free weights, a treadmill, and other equipment.

In addition to training the National Guard members, the facility is also a community emergency response location, where members of the community may go in case of natural disasters and other emergencies for shelter and supplies. The remodeled kitchen area improves the cooking capacity of the facility should an emergency occur.



MPN file photo

Iowa National Guard Brig. Gen. Janet Phipps, keynote speaker during the Mt. Pleasant National Guard's rededication ceremony, cuts the ribbon with help from State Sen. Gene Fraise, center, and Congressman Dave Loebsack, right.

