

From South Dakota National Guard Facebook Page

First of new F-16's to arrive at Joe Foss Field

Today at 5:43am

April 26, 2010

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. – The next chapter in the history of the South Dakota Air National Guard begins at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 27. The new era will start as Colonel Russ Walz, commander of the 114th Fighter Wing, lands the first of the newly assigned Block 40 F-16's at Joe Foss Field in Sioux Falls.

The 175th Fighter Squadron of the South Dakota Air National Guard's 114th Fighter Wing has been flying Block 30 F-16 aircraft since 1991. These jets, soon to be retired or transferred, will be replaced by a squadron of newer Block 40 F-16's. The 22 replacement jets are scheduled to transfer from Hill AFB, Utah to Sioux Falls during the timeframe of April to September 2010.

The assignment of the enhanced Block 40 F-16's will ensure that the 175th Fighter Squadron remains fully combat capable for many years into the future. The new aircraft will provide significant contributions to the squadron's combat mission to deploy worldwide and execute tactical fighter sorties.

"The assignment of Block 40 F-16's provides strong affirmation by U.S. Air Force leaders of their confidence in the contributions of the South Dakota Air National Guard to our nation's defense," said Col Russ Walz, commander of the 114th Fighter Wing. "This aircraft conversion will ensure that the 175th Fighter Squadron remains ready and relevant for many years to come."