



**DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY  
AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

425 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501  
OFFICE: 605-773-8242  
FAX: 605.773.5380

FOR RELEASE: Monday, Nov. 16, 2009

For more information, contact: Audry Ricketts at 605-773-8242

[audry.ricketts@state.sd.us](mailto:audry.ricketts@state.sd.us) (South Dakota Department of Military and Veterans Affairs)

**HARDING NAMED DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR SOUTH DAKOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

PIERRE, S.D. – South Dakota Adjutant General Steven Doohen has announced that Steve Harding has been appointed deputy secretary of the South Dakota Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

Harding, who replaces Andy Gerlach as deputy secretary, retired as a full colonel after 34 years in the South Dakota Army National Guard. Harding has worked for the past 22 years in the Governor’s Office of Economic Development.

“Steve Harding is an excellent choice and brings both military and government experience to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs,” Doohen said.

Gerlach, who dedicated 13 years to DMV, is a Lieutenant Colonel in the National Guard and will be deployed to Afghanistan next spring as a member of the 196<sup>th</sup> Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, out of Sioux Falls. His leadership position in the National Guard will require extensive preparation time before the unit is activated. Gerlach will work with the Military and Veterans Affairs staff in the next few months to assist in the transition.

“We are all very proud of Andy and the leadership role he will play in this deployment,” Doohen said. “He has done an outstanding job as deputy secretary.”

Harding began his new duties Nov. 9.

“I look forward to working with the veterans and their families, the military leaders and the partners within the veteran organizations and networks,” Harding said.