

# Dept. of Vets' Affairs launches new Web site

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs is pleased to announce the launch of its new Web site. The new site is designed to offer veterans a centralized clearinghouse of valuable resources accessible from anywhere in the world.

In conjunction, the department has added a mobile website, making it easier for veterans to access information from their smartphones or tablets.

"If we are going to reach out to the new generation of veterans who grew up with computers and the Internet, we have to

capitalize on those technologies," said Secretary of Veterans' Affairs Larry Zimmerman. "Our new website is designed to highlight the benefits and programs available to them, as well as provide veterans with a list of experts ready to assist them in maneuvering through their benefits."

An estimated 75,000 veterans live in South Dakota and that number increases as our troops return home each month.

To view the Web site, visit <http://www.vetaffairs.sd.gov>.

## Delegation invites South Dakotans to apply to U.S. service academies

Rep. Kristi Noem, Sen. Tim Johnson and Sen. John Thune announced today that young South Dakotans interested in being nominated to one of the four U.S. Service Academies for the Class of 2018 should apply by Oct. 31.

South Dakota residents between the ages of 17 and 23 may apply to any of the four service academies if they meet eligibility requirements in leadership, physical aptitude, scholarship and character.

The four service academies are the Military Academy at West Point, NY; the Naval Academy at Annapolis, MD; the Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, CO; and the Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, NY.

"Nominating students each year for admission to our Service Academies

is one of my favorite responsibilities as a U.S. Senator. I am continually impressed by the caliber of South Dakota students who apply," said Johnson. "U.S. Service Academies are rigorous, but open a world of opportunity for their students."

"Our nation's service academies attract some of the best and brightest young men and women from around the nation," said Thune. "These military men and women serve our country with distinction and it is an honor for me to nominate students from South Dakota to serve at these fine institutions."

"The U.S. Service Academies help build up the next generation of American leaders, and it is a privilege to nominate South Dakotans to the four Academies," said

Rep. Noem. "South Dakota's young people continue to impress and inspire me, and I look forward to the nomination process."

Noem, Johnson and Thune will each compile separate lists and make nominations to the academies of the most qualified candidates by Jan. 31, 2014. Applicants are encouraged to submit applications to all three Congressional offices in order to better their chances of receiving a nomination.

The academies will make the final decision on acceptance and announce appointments next spring.

Interested applicants should contact Noem's office at (605) 275-2868, Johnson's office at (605) 332-8896 or Thune's office at (605) 334-9596.

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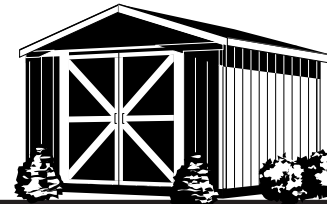
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