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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Christopherson named S.D. Air Guard's new chief of staff**

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Maj. Gen. Steven Doohen, adjutant general for the South Dakota National Guard, announced today that Col. Ruth Christopherson, rural Garretson, has been selected as the new chief of staff for the South Dakota Air National Guard.

“Ruth will do a fantastic job in her new position,” said Doohen. “I have tremendous confidence in her leadership and abilities, which will be heavily relied upon as we meet the future challenges presented to our Air National Guard.”

Prior to her selection, Christopherson served as the J5 for the Joint Staff where she prepared plans, policies and programs for the South Dakota National Guard. In her new role, she will work directly for the assistant adjutant general for Air and is responsible for the operational readiness of the South Dakota Air National Guard and the unit's ability to perform its federal and state missions.

"It is an honor to be selected for this position, and I look forward to working with General Doohen and the members of the South Dakota Air National Guard in meeting the challenges that lay before us," said Christopherson.

Christopherson enlisted in the South Dakota Air National Guard in 1978 and received her commission as an officer in 1987. She has previously served as a supply specialist, public affairs officer, logistics officer and commander of the 114<sup>th</sup> Services Flight in Sioux Falls.

Christopherson works full time as the managing director for the Wholesale Lending Channel Operations Division for CitiMortgage that is headquartered in O'Fallon, Mo. She is active within the Sioux Falls community and volunteers her time to support many civic organizations to include the Boy Scouts of America, the South Dakota Symphony and the Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce.

Christopherson replaces Brig. Gen. David Holman who was recently assigned as the assistant adjutant general for Air of the South Dakota National Guard.