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**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

ATTENTION EDITORS: Please help our office disseminate information to the public by announcing this significant public service event in your publication or broadcast.

## Retiree and Veteran Benefits Summit to be held in Watertown

WATERTOWN, S.D. – The South Dakota National Guard will host the Retiree and Veteran Benefits Summit in Watertown at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 16, at the Watertown armory. The intent of the meeting is to encourage veterans of all branches of services, active duty, Reserve and National Guard, and retirees from the South Dakota National Guard to attend and have questions answered regarding services, benefits and entitlements.

The summit will also update South Dakota Army National Guard retirees concerning the transformation of the National Guard and the Guard Recruiting Assistance Program.

The format for the summit will include brief presentations followed by opportunities for attendees to meet individually with representatives to discuss specific questions and concerns such as TRICARE, retirement and survivor benefits as well as veteran entitlements.

The long-term goal is to conduct a similar meeting in every community where there is a National Guard armory to reach as many retirees and veterans as possible.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact Maj. Orson Ward at (605) 737-6721 cell (605) 431-8753, Maj. Bruce Carter at (605) 882-9320, or Lt. Col. Terry Ommen at (605) 737-6711.