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# News Release

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 22, 2011

### **New VA Black Hills Health Care System Director Named**



The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Midwest Health Care Network (VISN23) has announced the appointment of Stephen R. DiStasio to the position of Director, VA Black Hills Health Care System, effective January 1, 2012. Mr. DiStasio has served as the Acting Director for the past 6 months and brings both clinical and administrative experience to his new role.

As Director, Mr. DiStasio is responsible for the oversight and management of two VA medical centers located in Hot Springs and Fort Meade, South Dakota, as well as 12 other sites of care located throughout western South Dakota, western Nebraska and in Newcastle, Wyoming.

Mr. DiStasio has a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Southern Mississippi and a Master of Science in Human Resource Management and Development from Chapman College. He has served as the Associate Director, VA Black Hills Health Care System for the past 6 years. Prior to that Mr. DiStasio had a distinguished career in the United State Air Force Medical Service and retired from military service at the rank of Colonel. His military career included deployments to Afghanistan and elsewhere. Mr. DiStasio served as Commander (Chief Executive Officer) of several military healthcare organizations and also served as Acting Director for both VA Black Hills HCS and Sioux Falls VA HCS in previous years.

Mr. DiStasio is a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE). In addition, he possesses a current registered nurse license and is certified as an Advanced Nursing Administrator by the American Nurses Credentialing Center. At the national level, he serves as a coach for the Health Care Leadership Development Program and as a mentor and preceptor for the Executive Career Field candidates. Additionally, he is active as a mentor for employees at both the local and network levels and for Veterans transitioning from active, reserve and National Guard service.

He and his wife Linda are the proud parents of Catherine Anne and Stephen Jared.

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