



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:  
Deb Eiring, Public Affairs Specialist  
605.745.2031  
605.890.2758 (Cell)

# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
July 12, 2010

## **VA to hold Veterans Stand Down in Mission on July 22**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Black Hills Health Care System is hosting a *Veterans Stand Down* on Thursday, July 22 from 11:00am – 3:00pm (CST) at the Sinte Gleska Multi-Purpose Room in Mission, South Dakota.

The July 22 Stand Down, according to Rodger Woeppel, Stand Down Coordinator for VA Black Hills, is intended to serve homeless and needy veterans from the Rosebud Reservation. There is no charge for any of the services. “It is a hand up, rather than a hand out, extended by a caring community,” said Woeppel.

Stand Down is a military term used to describe brief periods of rest and recovery that were provided to battle-fatigued troops who were periodically removed from the field of fire to a place of relative safety and calm.

Basic health services will be provided, including blood sugar testing and blood pressure screening. A variety of personal care items will be available to anyone wishing a hand up, and a complimentary noon meal will be served to all Veterans.

VA Black Hills and Vet Center staff will be available to hear issues, answer questions, and provide information on VA benefits, programs and health care enrollment opportunities. Included will be information specific Women Veterans and Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom Veterans. Representatives from the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home, Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), VA Vocational Rehabilitation Program and South Dakota Job Service will also be in attendance to provide information and assistance to Stand Down participants.

Veterans who have not previously enrolled with the VA are requested to bring a copy of their military discharge papers, DD 214, to the July 22<sup>nd</sup> Stand Down.

For more information about the Stand Down in Mission, contact Rodger Woeppel at the VA (605)745-2000 Ext. 92114 or Orlando Morrison at the Rosebud Vet Center (605) 747-2593.

# # #