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Penitentiary Warden Honored by National Guard

(Pierre) – Doug Weber, Warden of the South Dakota State Penitentiary, has been recognized by the National Guard and Reserve with a "My Boss is a Patriot" certificate, a national recognition award signifying his support of the Guard and Reserve.

Twenty-five penitentiary staff members also serve in the South Dakota National Guard. Eleven penitentiary staff members were activated for periods of up to two months during the past year. Five staff remain on active duty.

Penitentiary Unit Manager Keith Ditmanson, who is also a member of the South Dakota National Guard, submitted the recommendation for the award. Nomination for this award is subsequently used as the basis for consideration to receive higher level awards.

Ditmanson wrote, "Warden Weber supports the National Guard one hundred percent. With budgets and time lines to adhere to, it must have been difficult to maintain the same high level of security and safety to the community, staff and inmates minus the help of the staff that were deployed. Warden Weber has always been a strong supporter of the Guards throughout his tenure as the Warden of the SD State Penitentiary."

The award reads: "The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve recognizes Doug Weber, South Dakota State Penitentiary, as a patriotic employer for contributing to national security and protecting liberty and freedom by supporting employees participation in America's National Guard and Reserve Forces."

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Keith Ditmanson (left) presents South Dakota State Penitentiary Warden Doug Weber with an award for his support of the National Guard and Reserve.