



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

ADMINISTRATION

3200 East Highway 34
c/o 500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070
Phone: (605) 773-3478
Fax: (605) 773-3194

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Contact Mark Johnston or Roxy Everson at 605-773-3212

South Dakota Corrections Secretary Reisch returns from Army War College

PIERRE, S.D. – Gov. Mike Rounds announced today that Corrections Secretary Tim Reisch has returned to the job following an 11-month leave of absence to attend the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

”I am pleased to welcome Secretary Reisch back to South Dakota and commend him for his success during this extensive training,” said Gov. Rounds. “I’m also very appreciative of Warden Doug Weber, who stepped up to fill in during Reisch’s absence.”

Reisch earned a Masters Degree in Strategic Studies while attending Army War College.

"I feel very fortunate to have been selected to attend Army War College," said Reisch. "I am extremely grateful to Governor Rounds for granting me a leave of absence, and to Doug Weber for performing my duties during the time I was away. I am returning to state government energized, and better prepared to execute my duties as Secretary of Corrections."

Weber, the Warden of the South Dakota State Penitentiary and Chief Warden overseeing the adult prison system, served as Interim Secretary of Corrections during Reisch’s absence. The secretary of corrections oversees 835 employees, and manages an annual budget exceeding \$85 million.

Reisch was elected Vice-President of his 300-member class at Army War College, most of which are active duty military. He also served as a sponsor for a military officer from Uganda, one of 41 foreign military officers in the class.

Reisch’s class visited several government and corporate organizations in New York City and Washington, D.C. to observe how they did strategic planning and conducted their day-to-day activities. The class also participated in a strategic crisis exercise involving multiple catastrophic events worldwide. Hundreds of civilian, business and government leaders from across the country appeared before the class for lectures and dialogue on topics of current and future importance.

Reisch holds the rank of colonel in the South Dakota Army National Guard. He is a 26-year veteran of the National Guard, including formerly serving as commander of the 153rd Engineer

Battalion. Reisch was one of just nine traditional members of the National Guard selected to attend the Army War College this past year.

Reisch was appointed Deputy Secretary of Corrections May 1, 2000, after serving 17 ½ years as the Sheriff of Miner County. He was named Secretary of Corrections in December 2002.