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Penitentiary Warden Weber announces retirement plans

(Sioux Falls, S.D.)- Doug Weber, director of prison operations and chief warden for the South Dakota Department of Corrections, plans to retire from his position in June 2013.

Warden Weber has worked at the South Dakota State Penitentiary for more than 32 years. After starting as a correctional officer, he worked his way through the ranks and was promoted to training officer, major for special investigations and associate warden for security. He was named warden of the State Penitentiary in 1996 and chief warden overseeing all adult institutions in 1999. He also served as interim secretary of corrections in 2004-2005.

“South Dakota has benefited from Warden Weber’s leadership,” said Governor Dennis Daugaard. “Even during difficult times, Doug has been a strong and steady leader. I have appreciated his advice, and I wish him the best in his retirement.”

Warden Weber will retire as the second longest serving warden in the history of the Penitentiary. Warden G. Norton Jameson oversaw the facility from 1938 to 1963.

“Doug is an excellent warden and he will be missed. He possesses the right measure of both kindness and firmness while always maintaining focus on the safety and security of our facilities. His leadership instills consistency, integrity and character in those that he works with,” said Corrections Secretary Denny Kaemingk. “I have accompanied him on his daily rounds and have observed first hand his interaction with his staff and with inmates. He provides instant feedback to staff and has great concern for their safety, security and well-being. He shows care and concern in his communication with inmates which helps give him a great understanding of the pulse of the institutions.”

Secretary Kaemingk plans an extensive process in selecting the next warden. He plans to meet with people inside and outside of the department to identify the characteristics required for the position.