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(Neb.)-Dawes County VSO To Ellsworth Air Force Base

By: Chris Fankhauser Posted at: 10/03/2012 02:56 PM

(Chadron)-As announced at the Dawes County Commissioner's meeting on Wednesday morning, Mike Kohler, the Veteran's Service Officer for Dawes County, will be leaving the position. Kohler stated his last day will be October 15. He has been on the job since May of this year.

Kohler said the decision to leave Chadron was a tough one, as he and his family love the community, and he enjoys working with the vets and his office assistant, Martha Quay. However, he stated this move will be better for his family. Kohler will be working at Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota, helping veterans transition from deployment, or military families transition to civilian life. Kohler's wife, Kim, will be working at the VA in Hot Springs, so he said they hope to find a place to live that will split their commutes evenly.

Kohler served active duty in the Army, being deployed three times during his service. He was a part of Operation Joint Guard in Hungary and Bosnia, was deployed for 6 months in Jordan, supporting the Special Forces who were traveling in and out of Iraq, and also was stationed in Mosul, Iraq. He said on his first day in Mosul, a suicide bomber killed several troops in the mess hall. Having gone through this transition himself will help him as he helps other vets transition.

The Commissioners will begin looking for Kohler's replacement soon, and hope to find an interim for the position until a permanent replacement can be found.

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