

## **Press Release**

Date: July 19, 2012

## **Re: Veterans Services Office**

On Monday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, the Kootenai County Veteran Services Office opened its doors after a month long renovation project. The renovation served a two-fold purpose. First, improvements to the customer service area were made, allowing for better customer contact. Second, two offices spaces were added. One office will be utilized as a resource room for work studies while the second office provides for an Idaho Division of Veteran Services (IDVS) officer. That new IDVS officer is Darryl Heisey. Darryl was the previous County Veteran Services Officer, recently selected to represent the State of Idaho's Veterans in the four northern counties of Kootenai, Shoshone, Bonners and Boundary. Scott Thorsness has joined the county as the new County Veteran Services Officer.

The idea to place a State and County officer in the same facility is unique to Kootenai County. This setting will create needed continuity between the State and County, which is critical to ensure a Veteran's claim is processed both correctly and in a timely manner. Kootenai County currently serves a growing population of approximately 14,700 veterans and the Veteran Services Office serves close to 6,700 veterans annually. The improvements made by this remodel, and the re-alignment of State and County Officers into one location, will provide the resources Kootenai County veterans need and deserve.

If you're a veteran, dependent of a veteran, or just a good friend trying to help out a fellow veteran, encourage them to visit with a Veteran Services Officer.

The Kootenai County Veteran Services Office and the Idaho Division of Veterans Service are located at 120 E. Railroad Ave in Post Falls. Their phone number is (208) 446-1090 and office hours are 8:30am to 5:00pm, Monday thru Friday.

A ribbon cutting is scheduled for Friday, July 20, 2012 at 1:00 p.m.