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**HEDGER REPRESENTS DAKOTA BUSINESSES AT WHITE HOUSE FUNCTION**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (Dec. 23, 2009)**- Kristin Hedger, Vice President of Killdeer Mountain Manufacturing, and Executive Director of the Dakota Defense Alliance, will attend a White House holiday event hosted by the Society of White House Military Aides, today.

The Society's members include prominent leaders of the business and military communities who have taken their experiences serving in the President's inner circle to prominent positions in the defense industry. Notable Society members include former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Marine Corps General Peter Pace, and former United States Senator Charles "Chuck" Robb.

"I'm honored to attend this event at the White House," said Hedger, "which is not only an enjoyable social occasion but also an opportunity to discuss North Dakota economic development with the 'movers and shakers'. As we all know, so much of business development is about marketing our companies and letting the players in industry know of our capabilities."

"Over the last three years, the Dakota Defense Alliance has worked to successfully secure a number of private sector contracts in new business for North Dakota companies, as well as a number of new prospects and opportunities for our state. It is gratifying to work together to bring about opportunities to diversify our market with high tech and manufacturing jobs," continued Hedger.

"Social events like this allow us to build bridges that help us diversify our economy," stated Hedger.