

CFM TODAY

Message From the Director



Donald H. Orndoff

Over the past several years, leasing has emerged as an increasingly important procurement strategy to meet VA's growing need for facilities and space. We tend to focus on VA's larger and more visible major construction projects, but leasing frequently is the option of choice when dollars alone cannot fulfill VA's space needs in a timely and cost-effective manner. CFM's Real Property Service is currently at work on 59 major leases. These are prospectus-level leases of \$600,000 or more in annual unserviced rent charges and require Congressional authorization. In nearly all cases, these leases are being used to meet VA's growing demand for Community-Based Outpatient Clinics. The Department's FY 2009 budget requested funding and authorization for 12 additional major leases. VA is also now pilot testing the use of leasing to acquire much larger Health Care Center Facilities (HCCF) at Walla Walla, WA, Lexington, KY, and Livermore, CA. Twenty-two of these super-clinics of over 300,000 square feet are planned in the coming years.

During the week of August 18, 2008, staff from across CFM will gather at the Hilton Las Vegas for our biannual national training conference. Again as in 2006, I am pleased that we are partnering with our colleagues in VHA to plan this major event. "Partnerships for Healing Environments" will assemble over 700 staff from across VA involved in capital asset management, including our own staff, chief engineers, biomedical engineers, capital asset managers, and safety/environmental managers. The planning committee is putting together an exceptional program, with special tracks tailored to the needs of Resident Engineers, project managers, new employees, and other disciplines. Lyn Costaldo, who is chairing CFM's portion of the conference, is providing information to CFM staff who have been selected to attend. This will be a terrific learning experience and a great opportunity to come together as an organization. I look forward to seeing many of you in Las Vegas.

Oasis in the Desert: The New Las Vegas Medical Center

By Robert Clifton

The desert in North Las Vegas is undergoing a major transformation with the construction of the new VA Medical Center changing the landscape. Located on 150 acres provided to VA by the Bureau of Land Management, the Medical Center is being constructed in four phases, three of which are in progress.

Construction began in December 2006 when the Clark Construction Group was awarded a contract for \$41M to begin the first phase of the project. This work included a 47,000 square foot energy center; site development; public roads around the site; and extending utilities such as power, water, sewer, and natural gas. Unlike most VA projects, we were required to act as the developer in this remote area. As such, we were responsible for constructing the public roads and utilities to the site. Close coordination with the City of North Las Vegas and several public utilities, along with a tight partnership between the VA and Clark Construction, resulted in timely completion of each of these features.



RE Staff, Las Vegas

CFM Senior Management Team Update

CFM KEY STAFF

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Director, Strategic Management Office

Lloyd H. Siegel

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The Office of Construction & Facilities Management (CFM) is the principal construction and real estate arm of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The Director provides advice on a wide variety of issues concerning VA's capital facilities programs. CFM executes VA's major construction program and provides leasing, real property management, and other capital asset services in support of VA missions.

Effective May 12, 2008, Mr. Rick Petersen became the project director for the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) Team in the Project Management Service. In this capacity he is responsible for leading project managers and resident engineers to implement design and construction of major NCA projects located throughout the United States. Rick joined the Office of Construction & Facilities Management in 1989 and has served at numerous locations as a resident engineer and senior resident engineer, managing major VHA and NCA construction projects including a replacement hospital, new outpatient clinics, seismic renovations, and cemetery development. Rick obtained his degree in Construction Management from Antelope Valley College and is a Certified Construction Manager. During the late 1990s, Rick took a four-year hiatus from VA to work for Walt Disney Imagineering as a principal construction manager on the new Disney's California Adventure theme park.



Rick Petersen

Rick is a graduate of CFM's Leadership Development Program and served as a mentor for the 2007-2008 program. From December 2003 to January 2008, Rick served as a member, vice chairman, and chairman of the CFM Field Advisory Board. A veteran, Rick served in the United States Army from 1971 to 1974.

NCA Team Update By David Starkie

As CFM's National Cemetery Administration (NCA) Team completes the third quarter, it looks forward to awarding six design contracts and seven construction contracts. The team had two bid openings in an economic climate conducive to low bids. The Sacramento, CA, project was awarded within budget. The construction bids were restricted to Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses. The advertisement for bids received an exceptionally large response, with at least 150 contractors present at the pre-bid meeting. The project is for construction of the first phase of the new cemetery. The fast-track phase of the project will be completed earlier, allowing the cemetery full operation with temporary trailers housing the staff until permanent structures are erected as part of a future contract.

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Pittsburgh Consolidation

By Eric Hoover

The Office of Construction & Facilities Management has approximately 500,000 square feet of development underway in Pennsylvania. The Pittsburgh Consolidation project merges three existing VHA campuses into two locations at the University Drive and H.J. Heinz III campuses. At project completion, the 50-year-old facilities at the Highland Drive campus will close.

Preliminary planning for the project began in 2004, with a field office established in 2005 at the University Drive location under the leadership of Joseph Richetti, Senior Resident Engineer.

This team recently completed the 1,500 car parking garage. Construction award of a new 200,000 plus square foot behavioral health pavilion is planned for the fourth quarter. This hospital addition will house both behavioral outpatient clinics and psychiatric inpatient nursing units. In addition to these larger contracts, the resident engineer staff has successfully managed over 24,000 square feet of renovations at the existing medical center building, including a



Villa Complex, Heinz Division



Rendering of the Mental Health Building, Pittsburgh

new eye clinic, pharmacy expansion, and the emergent care center. The final piece of the University Drive Consolidation includes the new research building with the award of the AE construction documents contract planned in the coming months.

On the other side of the Allegheny River at the H. J. Heinz III Division, construction of Residential Villa Buildings and an administration building is well under way. The Villa complex has six separate living units to include townhouse, apartment, and patio-style homes. The patio-style homes are single story with three veteran accommodations in each unit.

This unit style features one private handicap-accessible room in each unit, as well as a full kitchen, living room, and two full bathrooms. Adjacent to the Villa complex, the administration building will house approximately 250 employees in a facility designed to allow daylight into the work areas and to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design accreditation.

The Heinz Division projects are managed by a resident engineer field office led by Richard Martire, Senior Resident Engineer. This team recently completed \$10 million of construction with the opening of the engineering shops building and an early site infrastructure project. The final phase of this development effort will culminate with the construction of a 117,000 square foot ambulatory care center housing primary care, specialty care, audiology, dental, prosthetics, rehab medicine, and community services.

Real Property Service Update

By Christine Richard

Awarding a lease is a major project milestone in the process of opening new VA clinics and medical facilities. Following award, design and construction schedules can be formalized to provide realistic delivery dates for the facilities. Several leases awarded over the last few months include:

- A Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) in Santa Rosa, CA, for 22,000 square feet. This more than doubles the size of the existing clinic and will allow VA to expand its services to veterans in northern California to include radiology, eye and dental care, physical therapy, audiology, and nutrition.
- A replacement Outpatient Clinic (OPC) in Fort Worth, TX, for 161,000 square feet that will serve the ever-increasing patient demand for primary care and mental health services.
- A CBOC in Portland, OR, for 22,000 square feet that will establish a new presence in the Metro West Portland area. It will provide primary care and mental health services, and allow the Portland VAMC to expand their specialty care offerings.
- A replacement OPC in San Diego, CA, for 65,500 square feet that will house primary and specialty care, mental health, ancillary, and diagnostic services.

- Two leases in Tampa, FL, that will support the James A. Haley VAMC—one for approximately 21,000 square feet of office space for an administrative business office, and one for 19,000 SF of clinical space for a patient safety center.

- A Center for Acquisition Innovation in Frederick, MD. At 41,000 square feet, the office and training space will house both operations and an Acquisition Leadership Academy.

Another lease that is on the brink of award is a 16,000 square feet CBOC in Mt. Vernon, WA—the lease documents are prepared and the potential awardee is making a final review of costs, terms, and conditions. Other leasing projects that are not as close to award but are nearing other milestones include clinics in Crown Point, IN, and Las Vegas, NV.

The 40,000 square feet replacement OPC in Crown Point, IN, had a land option signed and a solicitation for offers (SFO) issued in late March, which was followed by a prebid conference on April 15, 2008, that was attended by approximately 50 interested developers. Progress is being made on many fronts on the four OPCs in Las Vegas: the IDQAE is working on conceptual layouts, the broker is developing the SFO, and a team effort between CFM and General Counsel is working to revise language for the land option agreement.

VA Celebrates National Preservation Month

By Doug Pulak



Manager's Quarters/Historic Governor's House, Togus, ME

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs joined Federal, state, and local partners in celebrating National Preservation Month during May. The month provided an opportunity to celebrate the diverse and unique heritage of our country's cities and states. This year's theme, *This Place Matters*, is especially applicable to VA facilities across the country.

VA is steward to hundreds of historic properties, including two designated National Historic Landmarks (NHL)—properties that possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States. The Togus, ME, VAMC is the oldest campus built by the Federal government specifically for veterans. It opened in 1866 and retains the 1869 Governor's House, designated an NHL in 1974.

The 1867 Milwaukee, WI, VAMC contains the Department's earliest historic cultural resource—the 400-million-year-old Silurian Rock Reef. The large, hill-like prehistoric fossil bedrock dome contains ancient reef rocks. It was designated an NHL in 1993.

A National Historic Landmark thematic study of the 11 original branches of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers was completed in 2007. VA is currently working with the National Park Service on designations for four of these campuses.

For more information about VA's preservation program and places that matter, visit www.va.gov/facmgt/historic or call the historic preservation office at 202-461-8254 or 202-461-8255.

Cleveland Energy Center, Phase I

By Chanda Josh and Jason Lambie

The CARES Decision Document of 2004 called for the consolidation of the Brecksville Division into the Wade Park Division of the Cleveland VAMC. This consolidation involved a major construction project to create a single campus at Wade Park in downtown Cleveland. The consolidation to one campus will reduce by 931,000 gross square feet the amount of infrastructure to be maintained and operated by VA.

Congress provided \$15,000,000 in the FY 2004 budget and \$87,300,000 in the FY 2006 budget for a total project cost of \$102,300,000.

The design for the project was awarded to Westlake, Reed, and Leskosky (WRL) of Cleveland, OH. The project consists of utility improvements and utility routing for a new bed tower, new chiller and switchgear building, installation of the new switchgear, additions to the existing chiller plant, relocation of the existing generators, and new telephone service.

As the design progressed, the overall project was split into two phases—Phase I, the Energy Center, and Phase II, the Bed Tower.

The Energy Center design was completed in June 2006; the construction contract was awarded in September 2006 to LDV of Cleveland for \$10,335,000, with construction duration of 580 days.

Construction is expected to be completed in September 2008.

The Eastern Team would like to thank Chanda, Jason, the Cleveland resident engineer staff, and the contracting officer, John Blake, on an outstanding project.



Relocated and new cooling towers; new addition housing new chiller and associated pumps.

CFM Extends a Warm Welcome to Those Joining Us

Stephen Azzinari
Vivencio Bagalso
Ben Barker
Euclides Barrera
Thomas Basham
Mikisha Bond
Elizabeth Bunn
Robert Capers, Jr.

Alejandra De La Torre
Katherine Dols
Timothy Ethier
Myles Haspiel
James Higginbotham
Anthony Horthy
Joshua James
Andrew Lamendola

Oskar Litton
Celeste Lucas
Carlos Montenegro
Kashief Moody
Robert Novak
Alan Prismantas
Douglas Pulak
Byron Reed

Todd Sanders
Max Spector
Kathleen Volpe
Lam Vu
Sheila Walker
Jeffrey Wehrmann
Thaddeus Willoughby
Geoffrey Winston

CFM Excellence Award Winners

By Mike Bowen



Christine Richard (June Winner)

Christine Richard serves as a realty specialist in the Real Property Service. Christine joined VA last fall and has contributed significantly to CFM in a short period of time. She consistently delivers a high quality work product while maintaining a superior level of client focus. Her thoughtful and proactive manner results in collaborative support of VA clients. Not only does Christine meet or exceed project deadlines, but she often volunteers to assist with programs and side projects. Despite her heavy project assignment workload, Christine consistently fills in and assumes responsibility for many projects when lead project managers are away from the office. A recent example of this involved the Denver and Orlando land acquisitions. Christine took temporary charge of both of these high-visibility acquisitions, pushing them forward efficiently and preparing numerous high-quality status reports for upper management and the Secretary. Christine continually rises above and beyond expectations in order to support CFM and the field.

Christine was nominated by Jacquelyn Post and George Szwarcman.

Rick Petersen (May Winner)

At the time of his nomination, Rick served as the senior resident engineer for the VAMC San Diego Seismic Correction Project. Rick has recently been appointed project director for the NCA Team.

Through Rick's outstanding management, this \$55M seismic retrofit project was completed 4 months ahead of schedule, with no lost time to work accidents, with minimal complaints from staff and patients, and with much less disruption to Medical Center operations than expected. Rick took the lead and worked closely with the Medical Center Leadership and engineering staff to minimize impacts to patient care. The firm hired to provide the partnering support for the project indicated that this project received the highest rating for partnering of any project they have been involved with to date, and plan to submit the project for an "Excellence in Partnering Award." Because of Rick's efforts and the efforts of the resident engineer team, VA had a record-breaking final settlement on the project—free of claims—a week after the Custody and Transfer Receipt.

Rick was nominated by Tim Pogany.

Rick is the first to state that the success of this project was a TEAM effort. It is a pleasure also to recognize the contributions of Alex Simich, Arbenz Berthoud, Tom Basham, Oscar Rutab, and Mike Russell. Each of whom will receive a Special Contribution Award for their efforts. Congratulations to Rick and Congratulations to the RE Team at VAMC San Diego.



Orest Burdiak (April Winner)

During the past 18 months, Orest has played a very significant role in the VA Space and Equipment Planning System (VA-SEPS) training program. VA-SEPS is an electronic space planning tool for major and minor projects. While an excellent tool, ultimately its success depends on effective communication of its applications and acceptance by VA's project development staff. Although not in his regular duties, Orest has become a recognized expert and leading trainer of VA-SEPS. He has conducted training throughout VA to more than 250 people who, in turn, have assisted others in implementing the SEPS system. Through his talent, skills, and enthusiasm, he has brought clear focus to this training program and, in so doing, has been instrumental in establishing this high-quality, systematic training experience. By stepping up and assuming responsibilities outside his comfort zone, Orest has made a very important contribution to our organization.

Orest was nominated by Kurt Knight and Don Myers.



Estelle Meyer (March Winner)

Estelle, Senior Resident Engineer for the construction of a new mental health building in Tucson, exemplifies all the characteristics of a leader who understands organizational stewardship. She has demonstrated the flexibility and adaptability necessary to maintain excellent relationships with CFM's internal customers while also developing the skills her staff needs to become future leaders within the organization. She accomplishes this by empowering staff to make decisions; trusting her staff to make the right decisions; recognizing we learn from our mistakes; providing clear instructions; always being approachable; demonstrating a commitment to the organization; always looking to improve processes; and serving as an excellent mentor. According to her staff, Estelle makes it fun to come to work, even with the challenging tasks they face every day.

Estelle was nominated by Robert Pulver and David Kerner.



Steve Knapowski (February Co-Winner)



Steve is a staff engineer at VA's major construction project at VAMC Indianapolis, and was recognized for his outstanding leadership on the sanitary waste and storm piping portion of the project. This was arguably the project's most challenging phase due to its association with an active medical intensive care unit (MICU) and cardiac catheterization/procedures rooms. Steve worked closely with the construction coordinator, major subs, the medical center project coordinator, the chief engineer, and nurse managers for MICU and Cardiology. The project required strict adherence to infection control standards and the ability to avoid disruption to clinical activities. Steve worked tirelessly, including many weekends, to meet the aggressive schedule. In addition, he recommended several improvements in the piping routes to minimize disruption and improve the project schedule. He also reviewed and negotiated several complicated proposals from the contractor on utility-related issues.

Despite these many challenges, the project was completed ahead of schedule, and the medical center director, chief engineer, and nursing managers were extremely pleased with the outcome. Steve demonstrated exceptional customer service, was innovative, and accomplished his mission.

Steve was nominated by Mike Souder.

Dennis Milsten (February Co-Winner)

Dennis is the director of CFM's Quality Assurance Service. He has provided outstanding assistance in initiating and assuring awards of several high-profile minor projects at VAMC New Orleans and other Gulf Coast facilities. In addition, he has demonstrated exceptional customer service by keeping the resident engineer staff and medical center management abreast of his actions and involvement in each project. Dennis has a wonderful working attitude, and has contributed to CFM's efforts in moving forward with its initiatives on CFMIS - CFM Information System and eCMS - Electronic Contract Management System. Dennis might have backed away from involvement in these projects when he was recently appointed chief of the Quality Assurance Service. Instead, he chose to remain committed to the projects and share his invaluable expertise. In doing so, his efforts reflect what the CFM Excellence Award is all about.

Dennis was nominated by Michael Jackson and independently by Vicki Lang.



The *CFM Excellence Award* recognizes customer service, innovation, and important staff contributions to CFM missions. In addition to recognition at CFM's monthly Town Hall meeting, the winner receives a certificate, CFM coin, and cash award. Congratulations to our recent recipients. *Email nominations to Carolyn Gill, citing specific contributions in terms of innovation, client focus, or accomplishment to support consideration for the award. Deadline for July nominations is June 30.*

Leadership Development Mentoring Program

By Lyn Costaldo

The VACO Leadership Development Mentoring Program (LDMP) has successfully completed its 2007-2008 program. Now in its fourth year, the LDMP is designed to develop high-performing employees stationed at Central Office. All administrations and staff offices are represented. Modeled on Leadership VA, the program is developed and conducted jointly by VA Learning University (VALU) and Office of Construction & Facilities Management (CFM).

In this 9-month program, LDMP participants develop a greater understanding of the VA structure and culture outside their own area of expertise. Mentorees gain skills in leadership, conflict resolution, communications, problems solving, and diversity to better serve the VA mission.

Mentorees develop a mentoring action plan (MAP) based on the VA High Performance Development Model (HPDM) and Executive Core Competencies. They then use the MAP to identify goals and learning modalities and to evaluate accomplishments. The mentors and mentorees work together to ensure the best learning and leadership development experience. Mentors receive specialized training to enable them to receive VA mentor certification.



Mentoree Mark Brideweser (right) with his supervisor, Fred Webb

provided food, beverages, and comfort items, and helped escort veterans to the booths for health services and counseling. (see related story, page 10)

This year's class hosted 24 mentors and 24 mentorees. CFM mentors were: Don Orndoff, Rose Quicker, Mike Johnson, Mark Eney, Dana Quel, and Rick Petersen. CFM mentorees were: Mark Brideweser, Brian Osberg, Tom Basham, Ruben Romero, Delisa Smith, Terry White, and JoyLyn Winter.



Mark Eney with mentoree Brian Osbert

As part of the leadership curriculum, the LDMP provides mentors and mentorees a chance to participate in local service opportunities. Earlier this year, participants volunteered at the annual Winterhaven Homeless Veterans Stand Down, an all-day health and job fair at the VA Medical Center in Washington, DC. The LDMP class

Program evaluations from mentors, mentorees, and supervisors for this year's LDMP show that the program broke all records for success—record highs were received in all categories over previous years.

Highlights

94 percent of all participants rated the mentoring program as effective at helping mentorees develop.

92 percent of all participants (including supervisors) reported that the program has helped mentorees recognize the skills they need to succeed at a higher administrative level.

100 percent of participants rated the CFM and VALU program coordinators as being very supportive in the mentoring process.

100 percent of supervisors agree that the benefits of this program are well worth the time commitment required of the participants.

Representative Comments

"My mentoree is not afraid to be out there making suggestions—she is learning that leadership is, in part, about thinking boldly."

"My mentor is really being my guide. He's a terrific listener. I feel like I can talk to him about anything without judgment and in confidentiality."

"The most important accomplishment for me is building my self-confidence in the area of performance-based interviewing, resolving conflicts, and pursuing leadership opportunities."

The 2007-2008 class graduated on May 22.

The 2008-2009 LDMP will be announced in September. Candidates for mentor must be GS 14 or higher; candidates for mentoree must be GS 12 or higher.



Mentoree Delisa Smith (center) with her mentor, Traci Hummer (right), and supervisor, Carol Gill (left)

Las Vegas, from page 1

In addition to the boilers and chillers, the energy plant buildings will house the emergency generators that will provide 100 percent power backup to the entire facility. A total of nine 20,000-gallon fuel tanks will maintain the power for up to four days. Additionally, four 360,000-gallon above-ground water tanks will provide backup service for both domestic and industrial water needs at the site in the event of a disruption in service from the public provider. Construction of this phase was completed on schedule in April 2008, with the equipment being installed under the final phase of construction.

Phase II, which started in November 2007, provides a head start on the construction of the main hospital. Awarded to Whiting-Turner Contracting Company of Las Vegas for \$9.17M, this phase will construct the foundations for the hospital (scheduled to begin this fall). Of special interest is the 1200 feet long, 21 feet high soldier beam shoring system that is being constructed to allow the installation of foundations for both the ground and first levels. The shoring will be left in place, forever entombed behind the basement walls that will be constructed during the hospital building phase. Construction is scheduled to be completed this month—two weeks ahead of schedule and well in advance of the start of the new hospital.

Phase III, which also started in November 2007, is a design-build 120 bed NHCU. Awarded to Clark Construction Group, the design of this \$47.8M building is well underway by the firm of Carter-Burgess. Construction is scheduled to be completed in September 2009.

The final phase, scheduled to start this fall, will be the crown jewel in this multi-phase project. Phase IV will construct the main hospital on the foundations currently being installed under Phase II. When finished in early 2011, this facility will include approximately 830,000 gross square feet.

Robert Clifton, Project Manager, has worked closely with the Las Vegas VAMC staff and the joint venture design team of RTKL/JMA to produce the construction documents. The construction has proceeded under the guidance of senior resident engineer Tom Kupris; resident engineers George Cox, Jes Delphin, Scott Kelly, James Chang, and Preston Maseda; and administrative Assistant Suzanne Jett. All three phases have realized success due to the cooperative efforts of project partners.

While the site of the construction may seem like a mirage in the desert, there is no doubt that this transformation will provide an oasis that will serve the needs of the veterans for many years to come.



Shoring Installation, Las Vegas

Updated Heating, Ventilating, and Air-Conditioning Design Manual By Kurt Knight

VA recently made extensive updates to the content and format of its Heating, Ventilating, and Air-Conditioning (HVAC) Design Manual. The HVAC Design Manual is required for HVAC systems designs of new and replacement hospitals, ambulatory care, clinical additions, energy centers, outpatient clinics, animal research facilities, and laboratory buildings.

This updated version has been benchmarked with other government agencies and private organizations, including the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers and VA's own medical and technical experts.

Much of the manual is devoted to applications for specific room design requirements for several hundred specialized rooms, and addresses many new issues, such as federal mandates; energy conservation (EPACT 2005; DOE Final Rule for implementation of EPACT 2005; Executive Order 13423 - Strengthening Federal Environment, Energy, and Transportation Management); the Federal Leadership in High Performance and Sustainable Buildings Memorandum of Understanding; physical security requirements; sustainable design considerations; and commissioning.

The updated HVAC Design Manual presents information in a concise and user-friendly format with hyperlinks for easy access to cross references within the document. It is available in CFM's Technical Information Library at <http://www.va.gov/facmgt/standard>.

Winterhaven Homeless Veterans Stand Down

By Lyn Costaldo

Earlier this year, the annual Winterhaven Homeless Veterans Stand Down was held at the VA Medical Center in Washington, DC. The Stand Down was hosted and coordinated by the VA Medical Center, various veteran service organizations, corporate sponsors, and community organizations and services.

Stand Downs are held by VA across the country in an effort to reach and provide services to homeless veterans. The Winterhaven Stand Down provided medical screening and exams, mental health consultations (including referrals for veterans suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder), employment support, and housing services to approximately 400 homeless veterans in the District of Columbia. Veterans also received hot meals, haircuts, clothing tokens, and comfort items.



Winterhaven Stand Down



Winterhaven Stand Down

Stand Downs are typically one- to three-day events providing services such as food, shelter, clothing, health screenings, VA and Social Security benefits counseling, and referrals to a variety of other necessary services, such as housing, employment, and substance abuse treatment. Stand Downs are collaborative events, coordinated between local VAs, other government agencies, and community agencies who serve the homeless.

The first Stand Down was organized in 1988 by a group of Vietnam veterans in San Diego. Since then, Stand Downs have been used as an effective tool to reach out to homeless veterans across the country. There are 143 Stand Downs held yearly at VA medical centers. On average, 28,000 homeless veterans are served by 18,000 volunteers annually. Please consider this volunteer opportunity. For information, contact the Volunteer Services at a nearby medical center or call the Homeless Veterans Programs Office at 202-461-7401.

North San Diego County, California, VA Outpatient Clinic

By Hong Hitchings

Veterans in San Diego County are currently serviced by the VA Medical Center (VAMC) in La Jolla, along with small Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) in Vista and Escondido. The VAMC currently serves more than 55,000 patients, with 2,000 new patients added every year. The existing CBOCs are stretched to capacity, unable to add additional services and make them available to veterans nearer to their homes.

In order to provide better service to local veterans, CFM awarded a 20-year lease for a 65,465 net usable square foot, build-to-suit, Outpatient Clinic (OPC) in San Diego County on May 6. In addition to primary care and mental health services, the new OPC will also provide ancillary and specialty care programs including radiology, laboratory and pharmacy services, eye and dental clinics, audiology, physical therapy, and nutrition. The anticipated completion date is August 2010.



Rendering of the North San Diego County Outpatient Clinic