

**FOR  
IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE**

**VA ANNOUNCES FULL COMPLIANCE WITH HITECH ACT TRANSPARENCY  
REQUIREMENTS**

***Eligible Veterans Have Received Information in Mail***

DENVER – April 16, 2010 – The Department of Veterans Affairs is responding to the requirements in the new HITECH Act. HITECH stands for the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act. The HITECH Act is part of The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, which is also referred to as the Stimulus Bill.

VA's Eastern Colorado Health Care System (ECHCS) has learned that the personal health information, name, full and a few with partial Social Security numbers of some Veterans was left unattended in the Employee's Parking Garage in December of 2009. There is no reason to believe any malicious activity has resulted from this incident, and ECHCS has taken proper steps to rectify any potential problems from this situation.

Arrangements have been made with Equifax Personal Solutions to help protect these Veterans' identities and their credit information at no cost for one year. Eligible Veterans have received a letter and promotion code to access the program in the mail.

In accordance with the HITECH Act, VA is providing this press release and will be publishing this breach on the Health & Human Services (HHS) website. The HITECH Act requires HIPAA covered entities to send press releases on all breaches affecting 500 or more individuals which have occurred since September 23, 2009.

VA is committed to protecting Veterans, their families and our employees, and we are constantly reviewing our processes for any improvements to avoid any further recurrences.

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