
Office of Tribal Government Relations Newsletter ~ August 2014

Greetings and welcome to the August edition of the Office of Tribal Government Relations (OTGR) newsletter. As students head back to school, vacations wind down and the world settles back into the daily routine, we reflect on August not as a calendar moment where the minutes drift by so slowly that it's as though time has stood still, but instead, we marvel at the flurry of activity and transformation that is upon all of us here at VA. It has been a memorable month busy and filled with several milestones and important events. We are pleased to announce that the VA Office of Intergovernmental Affairs welcomed a new Deputy Assistant Secretary (DAS), Mr. David Montoya. Mr. Montoya is from New Mexico and has hit the ground running meeting with state directors and has plans to make several visits to tribal locations in the very near future. I'm sure many of you will have the chance to visit with DAS Montoya in the days ahead as he is very much a champion of the importance of establishing and maintaining positive government to government relations between the VA and tribal governments. You'll hear more from him in our September newsletter.

Before Congress adjourned for recess we saw President Obama sign the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014, PL 113-146 (VACAA). Some of the provisions of this legislation are new and complex but VA is dedicated to implementing the legislation as quickly and effectively as possible. The new law includes sections that may be of interest to tribes including specific performance metric provisions related to the VA/IHS Memorandum of Understanding, a report to Congress evaluating the feasibility of VA entering into Reimbursement Agreements with Indian Health Service, Tribal Health Programs and Urban Indian Health Programs to provide care to non-American Indian/Alaska Native Veterans and \$10 billion to fund additional purchased care while VA builds the internal capability to meet current demand. The law also provides for \$5 billion to hire medical staff and to make improvements to VA's infrastructure and authorization for VA to secure leases at 27 major facilities to give VA more space for clinicians to treat patients. We look forward to VA leadership engaging in discussions and communications with tribal leaders, service providers and Veterans regarding the implications of the new law and potential effects on Indian Country's Veterans in the days ahead.

Speaking of local impact, as we go to print VA has reimbursed IHS and Tribal Health Programs (THPs) \$10 million for direct care provided to American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans. There are 60 THP agreements signed and to date 77 out of 82 IHS facilities received reimbursements from the VA for Veteran care. Tribal Health Programs and tribal leaders seeking information on how to establish a Reimbursement Agreement with the VA should email tribalagreements@va.gov. Not only do the Reimbursement Agreements provide additional fiscal resources for health care across Indian Country, they also open doors for local partnerships between VA, IHS and THPs that extend beyond reimbursement and move into the Veteran services collaborative program and service opportunities that are specified in the 2010 VA/IHS MOU. Speaking of the VA/IHS MOU, tribal consultation is currently open for comment (see Federal Register Notice Vol. 79, No. 145, July 29, 2014 for specific questions) and closes October 8, 2014. VA is seeking input on the MOU from as many tribal leaders as possible so please take this opportunity to offer your recommendations and ensure your voice is heard and considered. Feedback can be written or electronically submitted to the following email address:

tribalgovernmentconsultation@va.gov. In person VA Tribal Consultation with senior agency officials and tribal leaders will be held September 8, 2014 from 1:00 – 2:30 pm at the Hyatt Regency located at 330 Tijeras Ave. NW in Albuquerque, NM.

In other VA Tribal Consultation news, Dear Tribal Leader Letters (DTLL) were sent to tribes located in South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Minnesota, Nebraska and four tribes in Oklahoma focused on eliciting input on consultation topics relative to the VA Medical Center located in Hot Springs, South Dakota. To submit questions or suggestions for tribal consultation topics, please email tribalgovernmentconsultation@va.gov (same email address as the VA/IHS MOU comments) by September 12, 2014. Copies of the DTLL are available upon request. In person tribal consultation sessions will be held this fall at several locations in South Dakota. More details will be forthcoming in the days ahead.

Over in the Western Region, Terry Bentley attended the dedication of the Yurok Tribe's Veteran Cemetery. To date, 6 tribes have been granted funding from VA for Veterans cemeteries and there are more to come in 2015. For more information about this opportunity, email George.eisenbach@va.gov. Mr. Eisenbach works for the National Cemetery Administration and can provide briefings directly with tribal leaders on how this program works and how it honors Veterans and their families.

On the Veterans Training Summit schedule and in the world of communications this past month, three trainings were held within the following tribal communities: Spirit Lake, North Dakota, Towaoc, Colorado and Durant, Oklahoma. I want to thank the tribal leadership for supporting each of these events, the tribal service providers, Veterans, VA, IHS and colleagues from other federal, state and service organization entities who came together and made each of these events a success. Sincere thanks for all the work you do supporting and serving our Veterans, those who've served us. Don't forget there is one more training session coming up September 18-19, 2014 at Smith River, California. Contact Terry.Bentley@va.gov for details. Finally, last but not least, the national radio show Native America Calling placed Veterans issues in the spotlight by hosting two one hour shows that included a lot of great insights and resource information, it's not too late to tune in, you can listen to the archived shows at www.nativeamericacalling.com.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter edition and we look forward to hearing from you in the days ahead.
Happy Reading – Stephanie



Stephanie E. Birchwell



Warriors Return: Diné Veterans of Canyon de Chelly

Diné (Navajo) warriors serve in the military to defend their land since, in their view, the United States is still Indian land. They have served proudly and bravely, from the Code Talkers in WWII, to the Army Rangers in Viet Nam, to the Army and Reserves who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. But their dedication and courage in battle does not protect them when they return home. Many were afraid of losing limbs; they did not anticipate the psychological damage from Post Traumatic Stress.

Healing from PTSD is compounded for Navajo and many rural veterans by the problems of traveling long distances to receive care, unemployment, lack of housing, and alcohol abuse. Fortunately, many find help through strong women, traditional healing and western talk therapy to create a new normal.



30 minutes - **Credits:** Produced by Marcia Rock and Peter Williams; Director, Camera, Editing, Marcia Rock; Traditional Music by Travis Terry. **Contact Info:** Marcia Rock 646 489 6867; marcia.rock@nyu.edu. You can see a trailer [2:10] of the film here: <http://vimeo.com/73458181> - **Website:** www.warriorsreturnthefilm.com



Uniform of Navajo Code Talker Coming Home

WINDOW ROCK, ARIZONA — The uniform of a Navajo hero is coming home. After more than 15 years of limbo, the uniform of George H. Kirk, Sr. will be returning home and will be unveiled on August 14, during a ceremony at the Navajo Nation Museum in honor of Navajo Code Talkers Day. Kirk was a Navajo Code Talker. Born on May 25, 1917, he passed on Oct. 28, 1999. He served in the 3rd Marine Division and saw combat in Bougainville, Enewetak Atoll, Guadalcanal, Guam, Iwo Jima, Johnston Islands, Mariana Islands, Marshall Islands, New Guinea, and Solomon Islands. Kirk's Navajo Code Talker uniform and associated items were lost since 1999, until they appeared on the open market for auction in late Jan. 2014. The uniform was previously in a storage unit that went up for auction after he passed and no longer made payments.

Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly immediately contacted Craig Gottlieb, a military historian that owned the online auction house that was prepared to sell the uniform. In his letter to Gottlieb, President Shelly stated the importance of its return to the Nation. "We respectfully asked for the return of the uniform to the Navajo Nation and agreed that it be an exhibit at the Navajo Nation Museum for display to our future generations," President Shelly said. "Thankfully, Mr. Gottlieb was very gracious and cooperative in the matter. ***Our Navajo Code Talkers not only put their lives on the line but they also preserved and showcased the strength of Dine' bizaad, the Navajo language,***" he added.

President Shelly will be traveling to Reno, Nev. on Aug. 13 to pickup Gottlieb and the uniform for its return to the Navajo Nation. The unveiling [began] on August 14, at 8 a.m. at the Navajo Nation Museum, followed by the parade from the museum to Veterans Memorial Park at 9 a.m.



Cpl. Henry Bake, Jr., and Pfc. George H. Kirk (right), Navajo code talkers, operate a portable radio set on Bougainville. Official U.S. Marine Corps Photo

Spirituality & Health

After the War: Healing Native American Veterans

This article, by Traci Pedersen, originally ran on August 12 in *Spirituality & Health*, and can be located [HERE](#).



Many hospitals and treatment centers have begun offering holistic therapies for Native American veterans, many of whom are looking for a more spiritual approach to healing post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). PTSD is a disorder in which the “fight or flight” response has been severely damaged from a traumatic experience. The sufferer continues to experience fear and stress even after the threat is gone. Many PTSD patients experience flashbacks to the original incident or suffer from terrifying thoughts and dreams. Current therapies for PTSD often include psychotherapy and medication.

Native Americans have the highest rate of military service out of all U.S. racial groups. In fact, in 2012, the Department of Veterans reported that the percentage of Native veterans (under age 65) was greater than all other groups combined.

In a new study, researchers from Washington State University have been gathering data to gain a better understanding of Native veterans’ attitudes and beliefs toward PTSD and the current treatment options. The researchers have been interviewing Native veterans from all walks of life—those who are living on reservations as well as those in the city.

Native American spirituality is intertwined: spirit, mind, and body are all one, says lead researcher Greg Urquhart. Spirituality is a vital component of healing for Native American veterans, and this is usually not an option in western medicine, he adds. According to the survey results, sixty percent of Native veterans who have tried standard PTSD therapy reported “no improvement” or were “very unsatisfied” with standard therapies. Seventy-two percent of the respondents, however, reported that spiritual or religious treatments were “successful” or “highly successful.” Animal therapy was also very popular.

According to the researchers, some of the alternative therapies offered at veterans hospitals include talking circles, vision quests, songs, drumming, stories, sweat lodge ceremonies, equine therapy, and gourd dances. Sweat lodge ceremonies, in particular, seem especially helpful for both Native and non-Native veterans as well. These huts, often dome-shaped and made of natural materials, are used as gathering places for veterans to enter and ‘cleanse’ themselves from war. Stones are typically heated and then doused with water to create steam. A Native spiritual leader conducts a ceremony that may include prayers, songs, and rituals. As more medical centers move toward holistic programs for PTSD, veterans of all races and beliefs will have the chance to heal spirit, mind, and body at once. The findings of the study will be presented at the next American Psychological Association conference.



Notice of VA Tribal Consultation ~ Black Hills Health Care System



Department of Veterans Affairs
ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON DC 20420

August 18, 2014

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is sending this communication to provide information regarding upcoming consultations on the Proposed Reconfiguration of the VA Black Hills Health Care System (BHHCS).

Proposal and Recent Efforts

The proposal would involve reconfiguring existing services and expanding points of access to health care within the VA Black Hills Health Care System (BHHCS) service area to better serve the health care needs and distribution of Veterans in the VA BHHCS service area over the next 20 to 30 years. That area includes portions of South Dakota, Nebraska, and Wyoming. More information is available on the BHHCS website (<http://www.blackhills.va.gov/vablackhillsfuture/>).

As required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being prepared to analyze the environmental consequences of the proposal. A series of NEPA public scoping meetings were held throughout the service area in June. The purpose of public scoping is to ensure the EIS evaluates the range of potential issues associated with the proposal. The public scoping period ended August 16.

Evaluating the potential effect(s) or impact(s) of this proposal is a comprehensive effort that involves outreach efforts, consultations, and compliance with several applicable laws and regulations. To assist in understanding these processes, VA would like to take this opportunity to clarify the term "consultation", which appears in several of these laws and regulations. With respect to the proposal to reconfigure the Black Hills Health Care System, there are two distinct, yet interrelated, sets of consultations.

National Historic Preservation Act Consultation

The regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) discuss "consultation" as the process "to identify historic properties potentially affected by the undertaking, assess its effects and seek ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate any adverse effects on historic properties." This consultation process focuses exclusively on effects to historic properties. NHPA recognizes the government-to-government relationship between the Federal government and the tribes.



Notice of VA Tribal Consultation ~ Black Hills Health Care System

Since a key component of this BHHCS proposal involves the VA Hot Springs campus, which is designated as a National Historic Landmark, VA is following the "substitution" process described in the handbook issued jointly by the Council on Environmental Quality and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for integrating NEPA and NHPA Section 106 (dated March 2013). This substitution does not lessen any of the NHPA requirements, rather, it provides a more integrated and streamlined mechanism to accomplish the same.

Tribal Consultation

Consultation, as prescribed by Executive Order 13175 and by VA Directive 8603, covers a much broader range of potential tribal concerns and/or issues with respect to the proposed Federal action than just historic preservation. These consultation topics and scope extend well beyond the historical aspects of a particular facility or location. Formal tribal consultation in this sense is a documented process in which input is sought from tribal officials on proposed VA actions which may: (1) require tribal and VA senior leadership involvement; (2) involve the potential for widespread, direct and substantial impact upon more than one tribe or on the relationship between VA and tribes; (3) affect tribal resources, rights, or land; (4) entail policy, legislative, or legal actions involving tribes; or (5) change the distribution of authority and responsibilities between VA and Indian tribes.

Participation in the Section 106 Process for Historic Properties

If you indicate an interest in the NHPA Section 106 consultation process, you will be provided additional details about the relevant schedule and milestones in future correspondence. Please recognize the focus of the Section 106 consultations is limited to evaluation of the potential adverse effects to the Hot Springs campus and other historic properties that may be identified. **Please notify the VA of your interest in the Section 106 process by referencing this letter and identifying your selected point of contact for Section 106 coordination, by either an email to vablackhillsfuture@va.gov, or a letter to Staff Assistant to the Director, VA Black Hills Health Care System, 113 Comanche Road, Fort Meade, SD 57741.** We welcome your interest and would appreciate receiving your response within 15 days of your receipt of this letter.

Participation in Tribal Consultation Pursuant to Executive Order 13175

VA is preparing to initiate formal Tribal Consultation this summer as well, possibly as soon as late August or early September. To prepare for these efforts, VA is requesting input from tribes located in South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Minnesota, Oklahoma, and Nebraska. The input would be focused on primary topics of concern to the affected tribes and would help craft the agenda, identify venues, and ensure that key VA leadership and personnel attend.



Notice of VA Tribal Consultation ~ Black Hills Health Care System

We very much look forward to your input. Based upon the communications to date, VA anticipates Tribal Consultation subjects of interest to include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Tribal government concerns specific to the Hot Springs campus itself;
- Potential for Tribal government interest in the use or actual acquisition of part or all (with some exceptions) of the Hot Springs campus, if the decision to vacate some or all is reached;
- Specific concerns surrounding access, timeliness, and quality of medical care to American Indian Veterans through facilities on or near reservations;
- Other mechanisms for provision of medical care to American Indian Veterans;
- Any effect on other Veterans benefits and services available to American Indian Veterans (for example, through VA's Veterans Benefits Administration or VA's National Cemetery Administration) as a result of the proposal.

In order to properly prepare for the upcoming Tribal Consultation under Executive Order 13175, please provide your comments and requests by September 12, 2014. Comments and requests may be sent electronically to tribalgovernmentconsultation@va.gov, by fax (202) 273-5716 or mail: Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Tribal Government Relations, 810 Vermont Ave. NW Suite 915e, Washington, DC 20420.

VA recognizes the value of dialogue and importance of communication with American Indian tribes and looks forward to receiving your input. If you have any questions regarding this communication you may contact Peter Vicaire, Office of Tribal Government Relations Specialist, Central Region at (651) 405-5676 or Peter.Vicaire@va.gov.

Sincerely,



Josh Taylor
Acting Assistant Secretary
Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs



VA's Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF) Grant Awardee List Released

Under the SSVF program, VA awards grants to private non-profit organizations and consumer cooperatives that can provide supportive services to very low-income Veteran families living in or transitioning to permanent housing. You can find out more about the program and see the full list of grantees by visiting the website: <http://www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp>



Native America Calling: Native Veterans Issues

This radio show was recorded on Monday, August 25, 2014. This veterans segment begins at 6:01 of the program, which is 51:10 and can be found [HERE](#)

“The [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) has seen a lot of change recently. Not only does the department have a new leader but more reforms are ahead at the national level. What do all of these changes mean for Native American and Alaska Native veterans and their families? Will you take advantage of the option to seek outside care if you’re far from a VA facility? Do you think VA reforms will be a good thing for you or a veteran in your life? If you have ideas for improving care for our Native veterans, we also want to hear from you during our conversation about changes in Veterans Affairs. “ Here’s the link: <http://www.nativeamericacalling.com/ram/2014/aug/082114.m3u>

House of Representatives Veterans Legislation Update



HR 3230, Veterans’ Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act of 2014

This bill was signed by President Obama on August 7. You can follow the history of this bill as well as read the text here:

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/113/hr3230>

HR 4234, Ensuring Veterans’ Resiliency Act

This bill would direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to reduce the shortage of psychiatrists in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs by offering competitive employment incentives to certain psychiatrists, and for other purposes.

The full bill can be found here:

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/113/hr4234/text>

HR 5088, Responsive and Efficient Appeals Courts for Heroes Act of 2014

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish procedures for class actions at the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, and for other purposes.

The full bill can be found here:

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/113/hr5088/text>

HR 4682, Veterans TriCare Choice Act

This bill would provide for coordination between the TRICARE program and eligibility for making contributions to a health savings account.

The full bill can be found here:

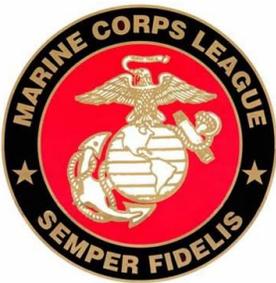
<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/113/hr4682/text>



“Where God Likes to Be” Documentary

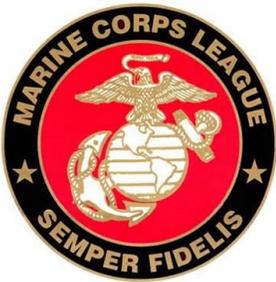
“Where God Likes To Be” portrays what it means to be Native American today – taking a personal, cinematic and lyrical journey into the heart of the Blackfeet Indian reservation. The film follows three young protagonists, Andi Running Wolf, Edward Tailfeathers and Douglas Fitzgerald over the course of one summer. “Where God Likes To Be” breaks down stereotypes and transforms conventional views of the reservation showing it as the spectacular home of a great and openhearted group of people who do their best to survive in and identify with a country that has tried to strip them of their identity. Here’s a [LINK to a preview](#) [1:59].

Veterans Resource List



The following, exhaustive, alphabetical list of resources for veterans was provided by the Marine Corps League.

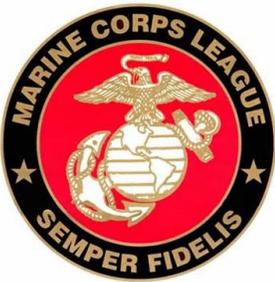
Appeals http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/admin21/m21_1/mr/part1/ch05.doc
Board of Veteran's Appeals <http://www.va.gov/vbs/bva/>
CARES Commission <http://www.va.gov/vbs/bva/>
CARES Draft National Plan <http://www1.va.gov/cares/page.cfm?pg=105>
Center for Minority Veterans <http://www1.va.gov/centerforminorityveterans/>
Center for Veterans Enterprise <http://www.vetbiz.gov/default2.htm>
Center for Women Veterans <http://www1.va.gov/womenvet/>
Clarification on the changes in VA healthcare for Gulf War Veterans
<http://www.gulfwarvets.com/ubb/Forum1/HTML/000016.html>
Classified Records - American Gulf War Veterans Assoc
<http://www.gulfwarvets.com/ubb/Forum18/HTML/000011.html>
Compensation for Disabilities Associated with the Gulf War Service
http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/admin21/m21_1/part6%20ch07.doc
Compensation Rate Tables, 12-1-03
<http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Rates/comp01.htm>
Department of Veterans Affairs Home Page <http://www.va.gov/>
Directory of Veterans Service Organizations
<http://www1.va.gov/vso/index.cfm?template=view>
Disability Examination Worksheets Index, Comp
<http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Benefits/exams/index.htm>
Due Process
http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/admin21/m21_1/mr/part1/ch02.doc
Duty to Assist



http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/admin21/m21_1/mr/part1/ch01.doc
Electronic Code of Federal Regulations <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/ecfr/>
Emergency, Non-emergency, and Fee Basis Care
<http://www1.va.gov/opa/vadocs/fedben.pdf>
Environmental Agents <http://www1.va.gov/environagents/>
Environmental Agents M10
http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1002
Establishing Combat Veteran Eligibility
http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=315
EVALUATION PROTOCOL FOR GULF WAR AND IRAQI FREEDOM VETERANS
WITH POTENTIAL EXPOSURE TO DEPLETED URANIUM (DU)
<http://www1.va.gov/gulfwar/docs/DUHandbook1303122304.DOC> and
http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1158
See also, Depleted Uranium Fact Sheet
<http://www1.va.gov/gulfwar/docs/DepletedUraniumFAQSheet.doc>
EVALUATION PROTOCOL FOR NON-GULF WAR VETERANS WITH POTENTIAL
EXPOSURE TO DEPLETED URANIUM (DU)
<http://www1.va.gov/gulfwar/docs/DUHANDBOOKNONGW130340304.DOC>
Fee Basis, PRIORITY FOR OUTPATIENT MEDICAL SERVICES AND INPATIENT
HOSPITAL CARE
http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=206
Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents 2005
<http://www1.va.gov/opa/vadocs/fedben.pdf> OR,
http://www1.va.gov/opa/vadocs/current_benefits.htm
Forms and Records Request <http://www.va.gov/vaforms/>
General Compensation Provisions
http://www.access.gpo.gov/uscode/title38/partii_chapter11_subchaptervi.html
Geriatrics and Extended Care <http://www1.va.gov/geriatricsshg/>
Guideline for Chronic Pain and Fatigue MUS-CPG
http://www.oqp.med.va.gov/cpg/cpgn/mus/mus_base.htm
Guide to Gulf War Veteran's Health
<http://www1.va.gov/gulfwar/docs/VHlgulfwar.pdf>
Gulf War Subject Index
<http://www1.va.gov/GulfWar/page.cfm?pg=7&template=main&letter=A>
Gulf War Veteran's Illnesses Q&As
<http://www1.va.gov/gulfwar/docs/GWillnessesQandAsIB1041.pdf>
Hearings
http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/admin21/m21_1/mr/part1/ch04.doc
Homeless Veterans <http://www1.va.gov/homeless/>
HSR&D Home <http://www.hsr.d.research.va.gov/>
Index to Disability Examination Worksheets C&P exams



<http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/benefits/exams/index.htm>
Ionizing Radiation <http://www1.va.gov/irad/>
Iraqi Freedom/Enduring Freedom Veterans VBA
<http://www.vba.va.gov/EFIF/>
M 10 for spouses and children <
http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1007
M10 Part III Change 1
http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1008
M21-1 Table of Contents http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/M21_1.html
Mental Disorders, Schedule of Ratings
http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/regs/38CFR/BOOKC/PART4/S4_130.DOC
Mental Health Program Guidelines
http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1094
Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Centers
<http://www.mirecc.med.va.gov/>
MS (Multiple Sclerosis) Centers of Excellence <http://www.va.gov/ms/about.asp>
My Health e Vet <http://www.myhealth.va.gov/>
NASDVA.COM <http://nasdva.com/>
National Association of State Directors <http://www.nasdva.com/>
National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
<http://www.nchpdp.med.va.gov/postdeploymentlinks.asp>
Neurological Conditions and Convulsive Disorders, Schedule of Ratings
http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/regs/38cfr/bookc/part4/s4_124a.doc
OMI (Office of Medical Inspector) <http://www.omi.cio.med.va.gov/>
Online VA Form 10-10EZ <https://www.1010ez.med.va.gov/sec/vha/1010ez/>
Parkinson's Disease and Related Neurodegenerative Disorders
<http://www1.va.gov/resdev/funding/solicitations/docs/parkinsons.pdf>
and, <http://www1.va.gov/padrecc/>
Peacetime Disability Compensation [http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-
bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=browse_usc&docid=Cite:+38USC1131](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=browse_usc&docid=Cite:+38USC1131)
Pension for Non-Service-Connected Disability or Death
<http://www.access.gpo.gov/uscode/title38/partii chapter15 subchapteri .html>
and,
<http://www.access.gpo.gov/uscode/title38/partii chapter15 subchapterii .html>
I
and,
<http://www.access.gpo.gov/uscode/title38/partii chapter15 subchapteriii .html>
ml
Persian Gulf Registry
http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1003
This program is now referred to as Gulf War Registry Program (to include
Operation Iraqi Freedom) as of March 7, 2005:



http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1232
Persian Gulf Registry Referral Centers

http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1006
Persian Gulf Veterans' Illnesses Research 1999, Annual Report To Congress

[http://www1.va.gov/resdev/1999_Gulf War Veterans%27 Illnesses Appendices.doc](http://www1.va.gov/resdev/1999_Gulf_War_Veterans%27_Illnesses_Appendices.doc) Persian Gulf Veterans' Illnesses Research 2002, Annual Report To Congress http://www1.va.gov/resdev/prt/gulf_war_2002/GulfWarRpt02.pdf

Phase I PGR

http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1004
Phase II PGR

http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1005
Policy Manual Index <http://www.va.gov/publ/direc/eds/edsmps.htm>

Power of Attorney

http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/admin21/m21_1/mr/part1/ch03.doc Project 112 (Including Project SHAD) <http://www1.va.gov/shad/> Prosthetics Eligibility

http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=337
Public Health and Environmental Hazards Home Page

<http://www.vethealth.cio.med.va.gov/>
Public Health/SARS <http://www1.va.gov/publichealth/SARS/>
Publications Manuals

<http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/publications.cfm?Pub=4>
Publications and Reports

http://www1.va.gov/resdev/prt/pubs_individual.cfm?webpage=gulf_war.htm
Records Center and Vault Homepage

<http://www.aac.va.gov/vault/default.html>
Records Center and Vault Site Map <http://www.aac.va.gov/vault/sitemap.html>

REQUEST FOR AND CONSENT TO RELEASE OF INFORMATION FROM
CLAIMANT'S RECORDS

<http://www.forms.va.gov/va/Internet/VARF/getformharness.asp?formName=3288-form.xft>

Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans Illnesses April 11, 2002
http://www1.va.gov/rac-gwvi/docs/Minutes_April112002.doc

Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans Illnesses
http://www1.va.gov/rac-gwvi/docs/ReportandRecommendations_2004.pdf

Research and Development
http://www.appc1.va.gov/resdev/programs/all_programs.cfm
Survivor's and Dependents' Educational Assistance

http://www.access.gpo.gov/uscode/title38/partiii_chapter35.html
Title 38 Index Parts 0-17

<http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?sid=1b0c269b510d3157fbf8f8801bc9b3dc&c=ecfr&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title3>



[8/38cfrv1 02..tpl](#)

Part 18

http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?sid=1b0c269b510d3157fbf8f8801bc9b3dc&c=ecfr&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title38/38cfrv2_02..tpl

Title 38 Part 3 Adjudication Subpart A "Pension, Compensation, and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&sid=1b0c269b510d3157fbf8f8801bc9b3dc&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title38/38cfr3_main_02.tpl

Title 38 Pensions, Bonuses & Veterans Relief (also Â§ 3.317 Compensation for certain disabilities due to undiagnosed illnesses found here)

http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&sid=1b0c269b510d3157fbf8f8801bc9b3dc&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title38/38cfr3_main_02.tpl

Title 38 PART 4--SCHEDULE FOR RATING
DISABILITIES Subpart B--DISABILITY RATINGS

<http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&sid=ab7641afd195c84a49a2067dbbcf95c0&rgn=div6&view=text&node=38:1.0.1.1.5.2&idno=38>

Title 38Â§ 4.16 Total disability ratings for compensation based on unemployability of the individual. PART A "SCHEDULE FOR RATING
DISABILITIES Subpart A "General Policy in Rating

<http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&sid=1b0c269b510d3157fbf8f8801bc9b3dc&rgn=div8&view=text&node=38:1.0.1.1.5.1.96.11&idno=38>

U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims <http://www.vetapp.gov/>
VA Best Practice Manual for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
<http://www.avapl.org/pub/PTSD%20Manual%20final%206.pdf>

VA Fact Sheet <http://www1.va.gov/opa/fact/gwfs.html>

VA Health Care Eligibility

<http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility/home/hecmain.asp>

VA INSTITUTING GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF FUNCTION (GAF)

<http://www.avapl.org/gaf/gaf.html>

VA Life Insurance Handbook " Chapter 3

<http://www.insurance.va.gov/inForceGliSite/GLIhandbook/glibookletch3.htm#310>

VA Loan Lending Limits and Jumbo Loans

http://valoans.com/va_facts_limits.cfm

VA MS Research <http://www.va.gov/ms/about.asp>

VA National Hepatitis C Program <http://www.hepatitis.va.gov/>

VA Office of Research and Development <http://www1.va.gov/resdev/>

VA Trainee Pocket Card on Gulf War



<http://www.va.gov/OAA/pocketcard/gulfwar.asp>
VA WMD EMSHG <http://www1.va.gov/emshg/>
VA WRIISC-DC <http://www.va.gov/WRIISC-DC/>
VAOIG Hotline Telephone Number and Address
<http://www.va.gov/oig/hotline/hotline3.htm>
Vet Center Eligibility - Readjustment Counseling Service
<http://www.va.gov/rcs/Eligibility.htm>
Veterans Benefits Administration Main Web Page <http://www.vba.va.gov/>
Veterans Legal and Benefits Information <http://valaw.org/>
VHA Forms, Publications, Manuals <http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/>
VHA Programs - Clinical Programs & Initiatives
http://www1.va.gov/health_benefits/page.cfm?pg=13 <http://webmaila.juno.com/webmail/new/UrlBlockedError.aspx>>
VHA Public Health Strategic Health Care Group Home Page <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/>
VHI Guide to Gulf War Veterans' Health
http://www1.va.gov/vhi_ind_study/gulfwar/istudy/index.asp
Vocational Rehabilitation <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre/>
Vocational Rehabilitation Subsistence
<http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre/InterSubsistencefy04.doc>
VONAPP online <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp>
WARMS - 38 CFR Book C <http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/bookc.html>
Wartime Disability Compensation http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=browse_usc&docid=Cite:+38USC1110
War-Related Illness and Injury Study Center - New Jersey
<http://www.wri.med.va.gov/>
Welcome to the GI Bill Web Site <http://www.gibill.va.gov/>
What VA Social Workers Do <http://www1.va.gov/socialwork/page.cfm?pg=3>
WRIISC Patient Eligibility <http://www.illegion.org/va1.html>



Indian Health Service Launches Methamphetamine and Suicide Prevention Initiative

The Indian Health Service, Division of Behavioral Health is pleased to announce the launch of the Methamphetamine and Suicide Prevention Initiative (MSPI) website. The MSPI is a nationally-coordinated demonstration project, focusing on providing much-needed methamphetamine and suicide prevention and intervention resources for Indian Country. Please view the site at:

<http://www.ihs.gov/mspi/>

OTGR Southern Plains



SAVE THE **NEW** DATE

3rd Annual

SMVF Resource Speed Sharing

(Service Members, Veterans & Families)

Friday, September 26th, 2014

Crossings Community Center (not the church location)

2208 W Hefner Road, Oklahoma City

9:00-12:00pm

A half-day event inviting resources across Oklahoma to participate and share information about their organization specific to assistance for Oklahoma Service Members, Veterans, and Families offered at **NO COST!**

- Interested participants will be given 3 minutes to share what their organization has to offer SMVF.
- All registrants will also be provided a resource table for networking following the sharing.
- A resource list with contact information of all in attendance will be distributed.

Registration form is provided for those who want to secure a slot early!

Hosted by Veterans' Families United, Oklahoma Military Behavioral Health Alliance, & Crossings Community Center.



OTGR Western Region

VA NORTHERN CALIFORNIA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

VETERANS



WELCOME HOME



Join Us for This Year's Welcome Home Event
Salute To Veterans!

- ★ Live Music
- ★ Kids' Activities with Workshops
- ★ Free lunch donated by Wounded Warrior Project & Catered by Hickory Hank
- ★ VA Services
- ★ Community Vendors
- ★ And MUCH MORE!

Special Thank You for making this event memorable:





September 20, 2014 • 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Sacramento VA Medical Center
10535 Hospital Way Mather, CA 95655



For more info call Marcos Najera: (916) 843-9016
or email at: Marcos.Najera@va.gov






Indian Health Service loses California Area leader

The Indian Health Service (IHS) is saddened to announce the passing of Margo D. Kerrigan, M.P.H., the IHS California Area director. Ms. Kerrigan, a member of the White Earth (Mississippi) Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, was a respected and dedicated leader and advocate for American Indian and Alaska Native people.

"We are grateful for the lifelong service Ms. Kerrigan dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of American Indian and Alaska Native people," said Dr. Yvette Roubideaux, acting IHS director. "Although we have lost a cherished member of the IHS family, we remain thankful for Ms. Kerrigan's contributions to bettering the health and lives of American Indian and Alaska Native people."



Margo D. Kerrigan, M.P.H.
California Area Director

Ms. Kerrigan's career with the IHS began in 1979, when she worked for the California Area Office of Program Operations. She also served in the IHS Phoenix and Nashville Areas, and from 1989 to 1996, she served as director of the Division of Management Policy, Office of Administration and Management, at IHS Headquarters in Rockville, Maryland.

In September 1996, Ms. Kerrigan assumed responsibilities as the director of the California Area. During her leadership, Ms. Kerrigan managed a unique health care program provided entirely through contracts in accordance with the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act. In the California Area, her leadership helped to provide health care to 103 tribal communities through 26 rural health care operating units, seven urban health programs, and 14 alcohol treatment programs.

Ms. Kerrigan was a strong advocate for the Government Performance and Results Act and led the agency's support team for national GPRA performance reporting and inclusion in the annual IHS budget request. She partnered with and supported the California Area tribal health programs in co-sponsoring annual conferences and



training for tribal health care providers, and established numerous Web portals to bring subject matter experts to exchange best practice information to the many tribal programs. She worked tirelessly with the Area tribes and IHS staff on funding for the much anticipated Southern and Northern California Youth Regional Treatment Centers, the first federal health care facilities to be constructed in the state. She looked forward to the completion and opening of these long-awaited facilities.

Ms. Kerrigan held a Bachelor of Arts degree in Human Biology from Stanford University and a Master of Public Health degree from the University of California, Berkeley. She was actively involved in the American Public Health Association (APHA) and was the first American Indian to serve on the executive board in its 120-year history. She also founded APHA's American Indian and Alaska Native Caucus.

In 1993, she received the Public Health Service Special Recognition Award for outstanding contributions to the management control systems of the IHS. In 1997, she was recognized by Vice President Al Gore's National Performance Review Committee for her contributions to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Internal Regulations workgroup. She was inducted into the Stanford University's Alumni Hall of Fame for her contributions in public service to Indian people. In FY 2002, Ms. Kerrigan was selected as a recipient of the Presidential Rank Award.

Native Women & Wellness Reunion Gathering ~ Chandler, Arizona ~ September 23, 2014



It has been twenty-five years since the first Women & Wellness Gathering. Since that time, a whole new generation of women has become mothers, heads of households, tribal council leaders, program directors, nurturers of tribal culture and spirituality, and more. This gathering is a time to reunite as strong healthy Native women for three full days to restart your self-care of mind, body, and spirit. Come join the sisterhood of forgiveness, courage, vulnerability, and self-compassion. We would like to offer a special invitation to all young Native women to this amazing reunion gathering. Please join us to interact with those who have blazed the trail for you, learn from their wisdom and compassion, and show them what great leaders you are now and will be in the future.

When: Tuesday September 23, 2014 -to- Thursday September 25, 2014

Where: Wild Horse Pass Resort & Casino, 5040 Wild Horse Pass Blvd.
Chandler, AZ 85226

Register [HERE](#) and download the full brochure [HERE](#)



SEPTEMBER 2014 Northwest Indian Veterans Association NIVA CALENDAR (abridged)

3rd (Wednesday) MONTHLY NIVA MEETING - (ALL NIVA MEMBERS) Columbia Room, 3rd Floor, Bldg 11, Vancouver Division, PVAMC, 1601 East Fourth Plain Blvd, Vancouver, WA 98661 - 7:00 PM, Meeting Begins - (We Meet the First Wednesday of Each Month) - Welcome Back from your Summer Activities (or non-activities whichever the case may be). Time to get ready for Fall, NIVA Elections, Veterans Day Activities, Annual Christmas Party and our Planning for our coming year. Come to the meeting and help with the planning for your organization.

6th (Saturday) NEERCHOKIKOO POW WOW - (NIVA COLOR GUARD) NAYA Family Center, 5135 NE Columbia Blvd, Portland, OR 97218, Noon, NIVA CG Practice, 1:00 PM, Grand Entry, 7:00 PM, 2nd Grand Entry, 11:00 PM, NIVA CG Retire Colors

11th (Thursday) PORTLAND STAND DOWN - (NIVA MEMBERS) Kliever Armory - 10000 NE 33rd Dr., Portland, OR 97211, 8:00 AM, Set up NIVA table, 9:00 AM, Stand Down begins, 3:00 PM, Stand Down ends, Close Down Table

13th (Saturday) MACLAREN YCF's 18th ANNUAL TRADITIONAL POW WOW (NIVA COLOR GUARD) 2630 No Pacific Hwy, Woodburn, OR 97071, POW WOW from 10 AM to 4:30 PM, 11:00 AM, NIVA CG Practice, 12:00 PM, Grand Entry, 4:30 PM, NIVA CG Retire Colors, Bring Driver's License and Tribal ID - Bring both Indoor and Outdoor Stands to play it safe

20th (Saturday) POW/MIA OBSERVANCE and DEDICATION - (NIVA COLOR GUARD) Armed Forces Reserve Center, 15005 NE 65th Street, Vancouver, WA, 9:45 AM, Reception, 10:00 AM, NIVA CG Practice, 11:00 AM, Ceremony Begins - Look Really Good at this one, we'll be sharing the limelight with the Army Reserve, Young Marines and the Buffalo Soldiers.

26th (Friday) 9th ANNUAL DANCING IN THE SQUARE POW WOW - (NIVA COLOR GUARD) (In Celebration of National Indian Day) - Pioneer Square, Downtown Portland, 2:30 PM, NIVA CG Practice, 3:30 PM, Grand Entry, 7:00 PM, NIVA CG Retire Colors,



OTGR Central Region

VA Opens Devils Lake Outpatient Clinic

Click [HERE](#) to read the original story published by WDAZ News (Adam Ladwig) and see a video [1:56] which aired on August 18.

“After a ten year wait, veterans in Devils Lake now have VA healthcare in their home town. Monday [August 18] marked the ribbon cutting ceremony for the brand new Devils Lake VA clinic.



There was a sense of excitement in the air, along with relief to finally see the clinic open after a decade of planning. North Dakota's congressional delegation was on hand, along with the chairman of the Spirit Lake tribe, and officials from the Fargo VA. The new clinic will be open daily from eight until noon at Mercy Hospital in Devils Lake, offering tele-health linkups with doctors at the Fargo VA. There will also be a full time nursing staff in Devils Lake. The clinic project suffered through numerous stops and starts since it was first announced in 2004. Local veterans were skeptical that the clinic would ever be built. They say

Monday's celebration was a long time coming. Veterans Service Officer Stacey Twete said, "It's been 10 years in the making. A lot of struggles. A lot of frustrations, and today's the day. We've got tents. We've got a big crowd coming, and it's finally here." Officials say the clinic is especially important for rural veterans, who otherwise have to travel to Fargo for VA care. The clinic will officially open and start seeing veterans Tuesday morning.”



Military/Veterans Culture Training

Military Culture Schedule of Classes September 2014

The Psychology of Service in the Military and National Guard

Goal – To provide local and regional training to civilian care providers on military culture

Objective – To help civilian care providers build rapport with service members, veterans, and their family members



Training in September 2014:

0900-1100 Module 1 – Guard 101: Organization, Structure, & Function

In this module we will discuss how the National Guard function and how it is part of the US military. Topics include Army and Air Guard, unit locations, and personnel organization of soldiers and airmen.

1110-1630 Module 2 – Enculturation: Learning the Military System

In this module we will discuss many of the variables that mold us as service members, such as military values, military courtesies, schools, leadership training, awards, duty status, and our medical and non-medical systems of training and care provision.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Building</u>
4 SEP 2014	Bismarck	Bohn Armory, Rm 386
5 SEP 2014	Minot	Reserve Center, Rm 368
6 SEP 2014	Camp Grafton, Devils Lake	Armory, Bldg 6400
11 SEP 2014	Fargo	Reserve Center, Rm 221
13 SEP 2014	Dickinson	Armory, Guard Classroom
16 SEP 2014	Jamestown	Armory/Civic Center
17 SEP 2014	Wahpeton	Armory, Rm 206-207
18 SEP 2014	Grand Forks	Armory, Rm 243-244

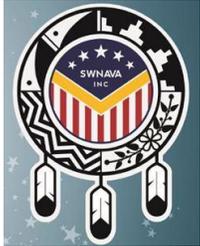
Presenter: LTC (Dr) Alan Fehr, Clinical Psychologist

For more information email or phone LTC Fehr at
<alanfehr_ndng@usa.com> or 701-225-1050

Registration:

1. Send email to LTC Fehr to express your interest:
<alanfehr_ndng@usa.com>
2. Complete program registration and survey at
https://und.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_2sfHnwJ4rpzSNFy





OTGR Southwest Plains

2014 Southwest Regional Veteran's Conference

SAVE THE DATE



**SOUTHWEST NATIVE AMERICAN
VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INC.**

Empowering Native American Veterans to
Speak with One Voice to Shape Policy:
Veterans Rising for Healing

**September 22-24, 2014
Isleta Resort & Casino
Pueblo of Isleta**

For more information, contact:

Ramus Suina:
(505) 920-5047 | rsuina47@gmail.com

Fred Lujan:
(505) 573-3733 | fredluj@aol.com

Carlene Aragon:
(505) 552-5752 | caragon@lagunapueblo-nsn.gov

Provided in partnership between
Southwest Native American Veterans Association &
the Pueblo of Isleta Veteran's Association



San Carlos Apache Tribe to Open Veterans Cemetery

Please note – the “Advance Notice” letter below was not yet signed by Secretary McDonald when this newsletter was sent out.



Mr. Terry Rambler
Tribal Chairman
San Carlos Apache Tribe
P.O. Box 1240
San Carlos, AZ 85550

Dear Mr. Rambler:

I am pleased to inform you that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is awarding a grant in the amount of \$1,683,863 for 100 percent of allowable costs for the establishment of the San Carlos Apache Tribe Veterans Cemetery in Peridot, Arizona (FAI: AZ-13-10). The San Carlos Apache Tribe submitted a formal Application for Federal Assistance for the project on August 6, 2014.

This grant will fund the construction of a main entrance, a maintenance facility, roads, an assembly area, grave marker beam support system, memorial wall, landscaping, a memorial walkway, and supporting infrastructure. The project will develop approximately 3 acres. The construction will include 330 full casket burial sites. This project will serve approximately 626 San Carlos Apache Veterans and their families.

The closest national cemetery is VA's National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona in Phoenix, Arizona, which is approximately 107 miles away. The closest state cemetery is Monte Calvario Veterans Cemetery in Tucson, Arizona, which is approximately 114 miles away.

The Memorandum of Agreement is being sent to you under separate cover.

Sincerely,

Robert A. McDonald