



In accordance with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Memorandum 11-35, *Eliminating Excess Conference Spending and Promoting Efficiency in Government*, issued September 21, 2011, and OMB Memorandum 12-12, *Promoting Efficient Spending to Support Agency Operations*, dated May 11, 2012, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) prepared the attached FY 2013 updated report on covered conference events over \$100,000. During FY 2013, VA incurred expenses of approximately \$27 million for the 54 covered conference events.

Continuous workforce training and development is absolutely critical to delivering the timely, quality VA care and services our Veterans have earned and deserve. Our senior leaders across the Department are focused on transforming procedures for conference and training events that build process accountability at every step. VA has improved our procedures by implementing senior-level review of proposed budgets and expenditures, reviewing internal processes and controls, and maintaining strict oversight of all reportable conference expenses.

The report is posted at: [http://www.va.gov/about\\_va/va\\_notices.asp](http://www.va.gov/about_va/va_notices.asp)

Event Title	Total Cost	Location	Start Date	End Date	# VA Paid Travelers	Conference Description
Overseas Military Services Coordinator Program (1st Tour)	\$ 223,761	United Kingdom, Bahrain, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, Spain, Korea, Japan	9/30/2012	1/26/2013	11	To provide VA benefits briefings and one-on-one counseling appointments for Veterans, Service members, and dependents who are currently stationed or residing overseas
Requirements Gathering & Testing (5 different events in 4th QTR)	\$ 111,422	Washington, DC	10/1/2012	12/21/2012	59	The purpose of the session is to elicit, document, and decompose the business requirements necessary to describe the VBMS system and deliver those requirements to the OI&T.
National Veterans Creative Arts Festival (NVCAF)	\$ 422,857	Boston, MA	10/8/2012	10/8/2012	67	The NVCAF recognizes Veterans for their therapeutic use of the arts in rehabilitation, health and well-being and to strengthen and reinforce their artistic skills. Many Veterans use the NVCAF competition success as benchmarks to explore other outlets for healthy forms of expression.
Compensation/Backlog (Challenge) Training for new claims processors	\$ 2,386,797	Chapel Hill, NC	10/9/2012	12/20/2012	639	Challenge training is a critical element of providing employees the skill sets necessary to achieve the standards of delivering compensation benefits to Veterans.
VA Senior Executive Strategic Leadership Course II - Basic	\$ 150,296	Chapel Hill, NC	10/14/2012	10/19/2012	21	The purpose of SLC II – Basic is to further develop a senior executive's critical thinking, strategic decision-making, and enterprise and business skills, thereby enabling them to better lead VA Transformation. Senior executives attend SLC II before the end of their first year in VA and after SLC I.
Advanced Patrol Officer Course Refresher training 2	\$ 102,511	Little Rock, AR	10/15/2012	10/19/2012	50	Advanced Patrol Officer Course (Redesigned) is a 40-hour program that has been mandated by the Deputy Assistant Secretary (DAS), Office of Security & Law Enforcement and VHA leadership for all VA police officers. The course contains blocks of instruction for legal updates, verbal de-escalation skills, and VA Police & Federal law enforcement policy. VA police officers are required to attend every five years.
VA Basic Police Officer Course (BPOC) 1301	\$ 654,328	Little Rock, AR	10/29/2012	12/21/2012	61	Training of newly appointed VA Police Officers for protection VA wide.
LA Station Enrichment Training	\$ 366,794	Chicago, IL	1/2/2013	2/1/2013	135	Provide technical training to the claims processors and managers of the Veterans Service Center in Los Angeles in order to improve quality, productivity and timeliness.
VA Basic Police Officer Course (BPOC) 1302	\$ 668,484	Little Rock, AR	1/7/2013	3/1/2013	61	Training of newly appointed VA Police Officers for protection VA wide.
Overseas Military Service Coordinators Program (2nd tour)	\$ 226,423	United Kingdom, Bahrain, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, Spain, Korea, Japan	1/20/2013	6/1/2013	11	To provide VA benefits briefings and one-on-one VA benefits counseling sessions to Veterans, Service members and dependents who are currently stationed or residing overseas.
VA Senior Executive Strategic Leadership Course II - Basic	\$ 157,993	Chapel Hill, NC	1/27/2013	2/1/2013	25	The purpose of SLC II – Basic is to further develop a senior executive's critical thinking, strategic decision-making, and enterprise and business skills, thereby enabling them to better lead VA Transformation. Senior executives attend SLC II before the end of their first year in VA and after SLC I.
Challenge Session 2013-1	\$ 2,230,061	Baltimore, MD	1/29/2013	3/29/2013	456	To provide technical training to newly hired Veterans Service Representatives and Rating Veterans Service Representatives of Regional Offices across the country. The training will provide fundamental information vital to the employees ability to process disability claims with accuracy and precision. Rating Veterans Service Representatives are trained to rate at least (1) case per day with a 90% accuracy rating. Veteran Service Representatives are trained to develop 1.5 cases per day with a 94% accuracy rating.
Major Construction Project Manager Training	\$ 146,013	Chapel Hill, NC	2/11/2013	2/15/2013	26	Provide project managers with the knowledge and skills required as they undergo a transformational change. The significant change in the roles and responsibilities of the major construction project managers is necessary to increase on time and on budget delivery, as well as improve overall project delivery of construction projects.
VA Basic Police Officer Course(BPOC) 1303	\$ 709,018	Little Rock, AR	3/4/2013	4/26/2013	61	Training of newly appointed VA Police Officers for protection VA wide.
ISO 9001 Phase II Rollout (1608)	\$ 2,878,647	Multi-City	3/11/2013	9/26/2013	2606	The purpose of implementing ISO 9001:2008 in Reusable Medical Equipment/Sterile Processing Service (RME/SPS) is to provide a framework upon which each facility or VISON implementation teams can design, build, document, and sustain a strong, consistent, and repeatable Quality Management System to reduce or eliminate the variation in the reprocessing of reusable medical equipment. The integrated Quality Management System will allow for facility, Network and VHACO specific queries, assessments and transparency of information relating to action item follow through.

Event Title	Total Cost	Location	Start Date	End Date	# VA Paid Travelers	Conference Description
Peer Support Specialist Certification Training (2935bCL2)	\$ 110,609	Chicago, IL	3/17/2013	3/22/2013	20	Public Laws 110-387 and 111-163 require VHA to provide peer specialist certification training to peer support specialists and technicians who are employed by VA, but not certified. Significant numbers of existing and newly hired peer support technicians and apprentices will need to attend peer specialist certification training in FY 13. The main objective of peer support certification training is for VHA peer specialists and peer support technicians to receive certification through online and face-to-face learning opportunities to develop skills and knowledge in peer support competency areas.
Challenge Training 2013-4	\$ 1,020,560	Baltimore, MD	8/26/2013	9/27/2013	43	To provide technical training to newly hired Veterans Service Representatives and Rating Veterans Service Representatives of Regional Offices across the country. The training will provide fundamental information vital to the employees ability to process disability claims with accuracy and precision. Rating Veterans Service Representatives are trained to rate at least (1) case per day with a 90% accuracy rating. Veterans Service Representatives are trained to develop 1.5 cases per day with a 94% accuracy rating.
Challenge Training 2013-2	\$ 2,172,517	Baltimore, MD	3/26/2013	5/24/2013	183	To provide technical training to newly hired Veterans Service Representatives and Rating Veterans Service Representative s of Regional Offices across the country. The training will provide fundamental information vital to the employees ability to process disability claims with accuracy and precision. Rating Veterans Service Representatives are trained to rate at least (1) case per day with a 90% accuracy rating. Veterans Service Representatives are trained to develop 1.5 cases per day with a 94% accuracy rating.
National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic (NDVWSC)	\$ 344,348	Snowmass, CO	3/30/2013	4/6/2013	110	Presented by VA and the Disabled American Veterans, this is an annual adaptive sports clinic for Veterans with severe disabilities that uses skiing and other sporting activities to enhance the total rehabilitation process. These modalities are an important rehabilitation component in the battle to prevent depression, suicide, and aid in the psych-social readjustment, community reintegration and physical well-being.
Station Enrichment Training (SET)	\$ 195,834	Chicago, IL	4/1/2013	5/3/2013	115	To provide technical training to the employees and managers in the Veterans Service Center of the Baltimore VA Regional Office.
Major Construction Project Management Training	\$ 139,612	Chapel Hill, NC	4/15/2013	4/19/2013	26	Provide project managers with the knowledge and skills required as they undergo a transformational change. The significant change in the roles and responsibilities of the major construction project managers is necessary to increase on time and on budget delivery, as well as improve overall project delivery of construction projects.
Graduate Health Administration Training Program (1789)	\$ 136,574	Washington, DC	4/21/2013	4/26/2013	70	The Graduate Health Administration Training Program (GHATP) prepares VHA healthcare administrators and administrative support professionals through a year-long set of on-the-job developmental experiences. It directly supports the VHA Succession and Workforce Management Strategic Plan and is managed through an executive-level board with oversight through the Succession and Workforce Development Management Subcommittee (SWDMS) of the National Leadership Council's Workforce Committee. This Graduate Health Administration Training Program face-to-face session is a week-long orientation for Graduate Health Administration Training Program participants to the VA organizational structure, functions, current issues and national relationships between the Departments and other community and federal agencies, including Congress.
VISN 9 Leadership Institute (2610)	\$ 108,813	Pigeon Forge, TN	4/29/2013	9/13/2013	47	The VISN 9 Leadership Institute provides a leadership development curriculum for employees in the GS 11-13 (and title 38 equivalent) range who are competitively selected as "high potential" employees. There are three (3) one-week sessions over approximately 6 months. Participants are required to actively participate in each session.
VA Basic Police Officer Course(BPOC) 1304	\$ 677,901	Little Rock, AR	4/29/2013	6/21/2013	63	Training of newly appointed VA Police Officers for protection VA wide.
Overseas Military Service Coordinators Program (3rd tour)	\$ 239,835	United Kingdom, Bahrain, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, Spain, Korea, Japan	5/26/2013	10/5/2013	11	To provide VA benefits briefings and one-on-one VA benefits counseling sessions to Veterans, Service members and dependents who are currently stationed or residing overseas.
VA Basic Police Officer Course (BPOC) 1305	\$ 652,522	Little Rock, AR	5/27/2013	7/19/2013	73	Training of newly appointed VA Police Officers for protection VA wide.

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2013 National Veterans Golden Age Games (NVGAG)	\$ 527,655	Buffalo, NY	5/30/2013	6/4/2013	124	The NVGAG provides a multi-event sports and therapeutic recreation program for Veterans 55 years of age and older. Wellness, health promotion and disease prevention are the primary objectives.
Challenge Training 2013-3	\$ 2,242,101	Baltimore, MD	6/3/2013	8/22/2013	236	To provide technical training to newly hired Veterans Service Representatives and Rating Veterans Service Representatives of Regional Offices across the country. The training will provide fundamental information vital to the employees ability to process disability claims with accuracy and precision. Rating Veterans Service Representatives are trained to rate at least (1) case per day with a 90% accuracy rating. Veterans Service Representatives are trained to develop 1.5 cases per day with a 94% accuracy rating.
Health Care Leadership Development Program -- Week 4a (1908)	\$ 124,930	Ashburn, VA	6/10/2013	6/13/2013	67	The Health Care Leadership Development Program (HCLDP) is the VHA's premier developmental program for aspiring leaders. It was established by an USH Executive Decision Memorandum (EDM) as a partial replacement for the Executive Career Field Candidate Development Program (ECFCDP). Topics include strategic negotiation, managing group conflict, dealing with the public and the media, and how the generational differences among employees impact an organization.
VA Senior Executive Strategic Leadership Course II - Basic	\$ 164,980	Chapel Hill, NC	6/16/2013	6/21/2013	25	The purpose of SLC II – Basic is to further develop a senior executive's critical thinking, strategic decision-making, and enterprise and business skills, thereby enabling them to better lead VA Transformation. Senior executives attend SLC II before the end of their first year in VA and after SLC I.
2013 National Veterans Wheelchair Games (NVWG)	\$ 850,612	Tampa, FL	7/13/2013	7/18/2013	164	The National Veterans Wheelchair Games, presented by VA and Paralyzed Veterans of America, provides a multi-event sports and therapeutic recreation program for Veterans requiring wheelchairs for mobility. Emphasis is on rehabilitation goals as well as health promotion and disease prevention.
Leadership Veterans Affairs (LVA) 2012 Session III	\$ 157,131	Atlanta, GA	7/14/2013	7/20/2013	73	LVA aims to integrate and align enterprise-wide objectives, and develop networks across VA to drive change for a high-performing organization. The complete curriculum was designed for delivery across four distinct modules to ensure a comprehensive training and development experience for these highly qualified aspiring VA senior leaders.
Association of Government Accountants Professional Development Conference (AGA.PDC)	\$ 106,784	Grapevine, TX	7/14/2013	7/17/2013	49	<del>50 VA employees attended (49 travelled) to the AGA.PDC event to improve their financial skills and competencies. The AGA.PDC is the authoritative source for the knowledge and contacts employees need to succeed in today's constantly changing financial environment. The conference covered the latest research and information about the constantly changing rules and standards, new management techniques, technological advances, and practical tips for bringing greater efficiency to government financial operations.</del>
Women's Health Primary Care Provider (PCP) Large-Scale Mini-Residency (2168)	\$ 287,290	Orlando, FL	7/16/2013	7/18/2013	154	The population of women veterans utilizing Veterans Health Administration (VHA) services is expected to continue to increase. VHA recognizes that providers are in need of a program to update their competencies in women's health care. In order to ensure that comprehensive primary care will be provided to women accessing VA services at all sites of care, it is estimated that a minimum of 2,000 providers be trained to ensure a minimum of 2 proficient providers per site.
VA Basic Police Officer Course (BPOC) 1306	\$ 707,828	Little Rock, AR	7/29/2013	9/20/2013	76	Training of newly appointed VA Police Officers for protection VA wide.
Leadership For A Democratic Society (LDS) Program 392	\$ 123,566	Charlottesville, VA	8/4/2013	8/30/2013	6	<del>This is an OPM course. It allowed VA executives to collaborate and build skills in personal leadership, organizational theory, and policy framework which equip them with the skills to shape strategic planning and engage in critical thinking.</del>
Veterans Service Center Manager and Quality Review Training	\$ 233,284	Nashville, TN	8/5/2013	8/9/2013	153	To identify, discuss, and improve quality service for our customers. Provides communication opportunities and information sharing of new and revised claims processing techniques and procedures with stakeholders who attend the training
Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Leadership/Workload Management Training	\$ 175,746	Denver, CO	8/5/2013	8/9/2013	84	A week-long leadership training for Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Officers and Assistant Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Officers designed to enhance the skill sets and day-to-day management of a Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Division

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VA Time and Attendance System (VATAS) Payroll "Train-the-Trainer" Training 1	\$ 113,873	Austin, TX	8/5/2013	8/9/2013	80	Trained payroll staff (payroll supervisors, payroll technicians, payroll leads) from Tomah VA Medical Center, NCA (MSNs 1, 2 & 3), OI&T, and VBA (areas 1 & 3) on the new VATAS. The trained payroll staff subsequently provided training at their facilities in advance of deployment to the field.
VSCM (No Quality Review Training in FY13)	\$ 215,197	Marietta, GA	8/5/2013	8/9/2013	153	<del>To identify, discuss, and improve quality service for our customers. Provides communication opportunities and information sharing of new and revised claims processing techniques and procedures with stakeholders who attend the training.</del>
2013 National Veterans Small Business Conference	\$ 1,525,669	St. Louis, MO	8/6/2013	8/8/2013	3767	To advance VA's mission of supporting America's Veterans by providing access to resources which offer Veteran-Owned Small Businesses opportunities to expand capacity, build partnerships, and increase networking opportunities with Program Decision Makers which may assist in achievement of VA Small Business Goals.
VA Time and Attendance System (VATAS) Payroll "Train-the-Trainer" Training 2	\$ 133,576	Austin, TX	8/19/2013	8/23/2013	80	Trained payroll staff (payroll supervisors, payroll technicians, payroll leads) from VBA (areas 2 & 4), NCA (MSNs 4 & 5), and VISN 12 on the new VATAS. The trained payroll staff subsequently provided training at their facilities in advance of deployment to the field.
Clinical Executive Training – West (2322)	\$ 137,836	Long Beach, CA	8/19/2013	8/20/2013	100	Provide a dynamic environment to address and optimize critical patient transitions including Patient Aligned Care Teams and Specialty Care, input to output, and VA to non-VA.
Developing Dental Leaders in Changing and Challenging Times (1465)	\$ 174,937	Lombard, IL	8/21/2013	8/23/2013	164	The purpose of this conference is to close the gap in leadership capabilities among existing facility and VISN level dental managers by engaging participants in interactive sessions that solve real-life issues affecting dental services. Topics such as infection control crisis, poor quality scores, demand-capacity challenges and ineffective business plans will all be explored.
Peer Support—Expansion, Implementation and Practice (1770)	\$ 239,692	Minneapolis, MN	8/21/2013	8/23/2013	168	Assist Mental Health selecting officials and supervisors in complying with two relatively new Public Laws (PL 110-387 and PL 111-163) mandating the creation and implementation of a new job classification—Peer Support Specialist. Boundary issues between peer specialists and other Veteran participants will also be addressed.
Leadership Veterans Affairs (LVA) 2012 Session IV	\$ 136,330	St. Louis, MO	8/22/2013	8/24/2013	69	LVA aims to integrate and align enterprise-wide objectives, and develop networks across VA to drive change for a high-performing organization. The complete curriculum was designed for delivery across four distinct modules to ensure a comprehensive training and development experience for these highly qualified aspiring VA senior leaders.
Challenge Training 2013-5	\$ 230,318	Baltimore, MD	8/26/2013	9/27/2013	43	To provide technical training to newly hired Veterans Service Representatives and Rating Veterans Service Representative s of Regional Offices across the country. The training will provide fundamental information vital to the employees ability to process disability claims with accuracy and precision. Rating Veterans Service Representatives are trained to rate at least (1) case per day with a 90% accuracy rating. Veterans Service Representatives are trained to develop 1.5 cases per day with a 94% accuracy rating.
VA Time and Attendance System (VATAS) Payroll "Train-the-Trainer" Training 3	\$ 122,247	St. Louis, MO	8/26/2013	8/30/2013	68	Trained payroll staff (payroll supervisors, payroll technicians, payroll leads) from VHA VISN's 1, 2, 3, 5, 19 and VHA CBO on the new VATAS. The trained payroll staff subsequently provided training at their facilities in advance of deployment to the field.
Mental Health Intensive Case Management (1224)	\$ 104,204	Washington, DC	8/27/2013	8/29/2013	64	This training is designed to address the increased variability among Mental Health Intensive Case Management (MHICM) teams/facilities VHA system wide.
Women's Health Primary Care Providers Large-Scale Mini-Residency (1422)	\$ 329,923	Orlando, FL	8/27/2013	8/29/2013	214	Women's Health Mini-Residency: VA Primary Care Providers have traditionally seen male patients and, given the ever-increasing numbers of women Veterans, must be retrained to provide comprehensive primary care for women.
Clinical Executive Training – East (2746)	\$ 100,509	St. Petersburg, FL	8/29/2013	8/30/2013	85	<del>Provide a dynamic environment to address and optimize critical patient transitions including Patient Aligned Care Teams and Specialty Care, input to output, and VA to non-VA.</del>
Leadership For A Democratic Society (LDS) Program 393	\$ 181,702	Charlottesville, VA	9/8/2013	10/4/2013	48	<del>This is an OPM course. It allowed VA executives to collaborate and build skills in personal leadership, organizational theory, and policy framework which equipped them with the skills to shape strategic planning and engage in critical thinking.</del>

Event Title	Total Cost	Location	Start Date	End Date	# VA Paid Travelers	Conference Description
2013 National Disabled Veterans TEE (Training, Exposure, Experience) Tournament (NDVTEE)	\$ 132,529	Iowa City, Iowa	9/9/2013	9/12/2013	35	The NDVTEE provides therapeutic adaptive golf, bowling, kayaking, horseback riding opportunities to enhance the rehabilitation process for Veterans with severe physical and cognitive disabilities.
Patient Safety Improvement 101/ Root Cause Analysis (RCA) and Healthcare Failure and Effect Analysis (HFMEA) (1132)	\$ 105,906	Ann Arbor, MI	9/10/2013	9/12/2013	74	Improve clinical practice by helping participants perform systematic root cause analysis to find the real, fixable root causes of problems.
Peer Support Supervision - Expansion, Implementation and Practice (2845)	\$ 235,379	Dallas, TX	9/10/2013	9/12/2013	174	This training addressed major areas of concern for supervisors including managing dual role relationships, role confusion, human resources support for hiring individuals with mental health conditions under an entirely new VA HR classification and boundary issues between Peer Specialists and other Veteran participants.
National VHA Environmental Programs Service (EPS) Training Conference (1796)	\$ 314,629	Indianapolis, IN	9/14/2013	9/18/2013	161	The National VHA EPS/AHE Conference provides a forum for the direct and comprehensive delivery of healthcare facilities operation-related information, along with the opportunity to solicit immediate feedback and active exchanges among front line professionals. Additionally, it provides VHA and VACO professionals with current approaches and methods to address established and emerging issues and requirements vital to the continued success and growth of the VA.
VA Time and Attendance System (VATAS) Payroll "Train-the-Trainer" Training 4	\$ 124,700	Baltimore, MD	9/16/2013	9/20/2013	69	Trained payroll staff (payroll supervisors, payroll technicians, payroll leads) from VHA VISN's 20, 21, 22, 23 & 4 on the new VATAS. The trained payroll staff subsequently provided training at their facilities in advance of deployment to the field.
National Training Academy	\$ 379,816	Washington, DC	9/22/2013	9/23/2013	300	The National Public Affairs & Outreach Training Academy provides PAOs and outreach specialists with skills to work with Veterans, survivors, Veterans service organizations, the news media and other stakeholders effectively.
VA Time and Attendance System (VATAS) Payroll "Train-the-Trainer" Training 5	\$ 118,437	Austin, TX	9/30/2013	10/4/2013	68	Trained payroll staff (payroll supervisors, payroll technicians, payroll leads) from VHA VISN's 6, 7 & 8 and VHA CMOP on the new VATAS. The trained payroll staff subsequently provided training at their facilities in advance of deployment to the field.
2013 National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic (NVSSC)	\$ 319,420	San Diego, California	9/14/2014	9/20/2014	68	The NVSSC is a rehabilitative program for Veterans with severe disabilities that uses summer sports and other activities to enhance the total rehabilitation process to prevent depression, suicide, and aid in the psychosocial readjustment and physical well-being.

Added Conferences -- not posted on the initial submission.

-Deleted Conferences -- conferences cancelled / final costs fell below covered conference threshold / determined to not be VA-sponsored