

MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR



Scott R. Isaacks, FACHE, MBA
Medical Center Director

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Labor Day

September 5th

Tasty Truck Thursday

September 1st, 8th, 15th,
22nd & 29th

SUICIDE PREVENTION TAKES EVERYONE!

#BeThere

Veterans Crisis Line:
Dial 988 and Press 1

Online chat at:
www.veteranscrisisline.net

Text: 838255



3,540
Families Served

The PACT Act Marks the Most Significant Expansion of VA Health Care in 30 Years

I echo the sentiments of President Biden as we both believe that our nation has a sacred obligation to properly prepare and equip the troops we send into harm's way – and to care for them and their families when they return home. Sometimes military service can result in increased health risks for our veterans, and some injuries and illnesses like asthma, cancer, and others can take years to manifest. These realities can make it difficult for Veterans to establish a direct connection between their service and disabilities resulting from military environmental exposures such as burn pits – a necessary step to ensure they receive the health care they earned.

The PACT Act named in honor of Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson, a decorated combat medic who died from a rare form of lung cancer will provide Veterans with the following:

1. Ensure Veterans can receive high-quality health care screenings and services related to potential toxic exposures, the PACT Act expands access to VA health care services for veterans exposed during their military service.
2. Codifies VA's new process for evaluating and determining presumption of exposure and service connection for various chronic conditions when the evidence of a military environmental exposure and the associated health risks are strong in the aggregate but hard to prove on an individual basis.
3. Removes the need for certain Veterans and their survivors to prove service connection if they are diagnosed with one of 23 specific conditions.

4. Ensures Veterans get the care they need includes ensuring that they are screened for toxic exposure and that VA personnel have the appropriate education and training.
5. Delivers critical resources to VA to ensure it can deliver timely access to services and benefits for all Veterans eligible – including those already enrolled. The PACT Act provides VA with mechanisms to enhance claims processing and to increase the workforce. The bill also invests in VA health care facilities by authorizing 31 major medical health clinics and research facilities in 19 states.

I want to extend my sincere appreciation for everyone's support and dedication to our Veterans and their families. We couldn't do what we do without you. Our VA is proud to be a part of this community and we are grateful to be able to work with our partners to care for our Veterans.

Lastly, I think it is important to stay in contact with all our Veterans and share news, relevant stories, and events. We do all of this on social media and encourage all of you to follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Respectfully,

Scott R. Isaacks, FACHE
Director/ CEO

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Ralph H. Johnson VA Health Care System