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EOP/WHO	,	
Subject: [EXTERNAL] White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting		
Attachments:	(b)(5)	

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All –	
There will be a White House Coronav 2:30pm in the White House (b)(6) new time.	virus Task Force Meeting on Thursday, April 2 nd at Please let us know if you are unable to attend at the
Preliminary agenda, seating chart, and	d materials attached.
Many thanks,	
(b)(6)	
Operations Coordinator, White House	Coronavirus Task Force
Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff	ff
The Office of the Vice President	
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Importance:	High					

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All,

There will be a White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting on Friday, April ${\bf 10}^{th}$ at 12:15pm. Final materials attached. Please note agenda has been updated.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Operations Coordinator, White House Coronavirus Task Force Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff

The Office of the Vice President

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From:

RLW

Sent:

Thu, 2 Apr 2020 14:50:50 +0000

To:

RLW

Subject:

10:40am Phone Interview w/ The Dale Jackson Radio Show, Huntsville, AL -

CALL-IN PHONE: (b)(6)

Attachments:

Quad - The Dale Jackson Show.pptx

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From: RLW

Sent: Thu, 2 Apr 2020 15:32:37 +0000

To: RLW

Subject: 9:00am Phone Interview w/The Sam Malone Show, Houston Radio - CALL-IN

PHONE:(b)(6)

Attachments: Quad - Sam Malone.pptx

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From: RLW

Sent: Tue, 21 Apr 2020 13:38:58 +0000

To: RLW

Subject: Phone Call w/Comptroller General

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From: RLW

Sent: Fri, 10 Apr 2020 15:51:43 +0000

To: RLW

Subject: 9:45am Phone Interview w/ Morning Talk with Martha Zoller, Atlanta, GA
Attachments: Quad - Martha Zoller.pptx, COVID-19 Talkers_updated__04-10_429pm.docx

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VA COVID-19 Response

- VA is ready for this emergency. We began emergency preparedness exercises weeks before the first coronavirus case was confirmed in the U.S.
- These actions were critical to our ability to meet specialized health care needs of Veterans to this day.
 - As a result of these early actions, VA facilities are equipped with supplies to handle an influx of patients.
- But we have more than supplies we have a strategy for protecting and caring for Veterans.
- We are screening all Veterans who enter our health care facilities for flu-like symptoms to ensure the safety of patients and staff, and we are administering coronavirus tests as needed.
- The decision to test a patient depends on several factors, such as whether the patient has been in close contact with the virus, and whether the patient lives in an area where it is spreading.
- VA's testing capacity meets current demand. For the latest testing and case figures, visit
 VA.gov/coronavirus
 - VA has administered more than 32,160 tests and has more than 3,000 additional tests on hand.
 - 3,700 VA patients have tested positive for COVID-19, and we are continuing to care for these Veterans. 2,818 are at home.
- We are also taking special care of our two most vulnerable patient populations: nursing home residents and spinal-cord injury patients.
 - To prevent the spread of the virus among these groups, VA last week adopted a "no visitor" policy, except for when patients are in the last stages of life in a hospice unit.

What should Veterans do if they believe they may have contracted the coronavirus?

- Any Veteran with symptoms such as fever, cough or shortness of breath should immediately contact their local VA facility. We urge Veterans to call before visiting.
- You can find contact information for your closest VA facility at VA.gov, as well as other options for reaching us, such as through a telehealth connection.
- For family members we are urging all visitors who do not feel well to postpone their visits to VA facilities.

Fourth Mission

- VA is ready to carry out its "Fourth Mission," which is to support the broader national response in a time of crisis, if needed.
- VA stands ready to assist civilian health care systems if they hit their capacity to care for patients, a point we have not reached yet.
- If VA facilities are needed, we will coordinate with the Department of Health and Human Services, which is leading the federal effort.

- We have already deployed some staff to assist HHS, and we are working directly with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other federal partners to monitor the outbreak.
- VA has served as a frontline responder to natural disasters such as the hurricanes that hit Puerto Rico and our southern states, and VA will continue in this role during this crisis.

MISSION Act and COVID-19

VA is not stopping the MISSION Act. VA is not pausing the MISSION Act.

The guidance that was sent out didn't accurately characterize what we're doing.

We are facing a public health crisis. Our job is to make sure Veterans are cared for properly and ensure they are not contracting COVID-19.

That's why VA is taking into account whether referrals for community care are clinically appropriate during the COVID-19 outbreak.

VA is taking the following steps in order to ensure the safety of Veterans as they access care:

- VA community care referrals for emergent or urgent clinical needs will continue as necessary.
- Veterans with care currently scheduled in the community should continue with this care as clinically appropriate and if available.
- Referral requests for non-emergent care with community providers will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis for immediate clinical need and with regard to the safety of the Veteran when being seen in-person, regardless of wait time or drive time eligibility.
 - There will be more community care options in areas where it is deemed safe to refer Veterans to such care and where community providers are able to accept referrals
- VA is expanding the use of telehealth and telephone sessions to address many of Veterans' routine medical needs.

From:

RLW

Sent:

Thu, 2 Apr 2020 21:33:28 +0000

To:

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Subject:

Speak to VEO Virtual All-Hands Meeting

Attachments:

20200402 VEO COVID Response_v1.pptx, VEO COVID_19 UPDATES

04032020.docx, 20200403 VEO Support of VA COVID TPs.docx

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)	@va.gov>		
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 2:11 PM			
To: (b)(6) (b)(6)	@va.gov>	<u> </u>	
Cc: Morton, Barbara C. (b)(6)	@va.gov>; ^{(b)(6)}	(VACO) (b)(6)	@va.gov>

Subject: SECVA Availability Mon, April 6

Good afternoon (b)(6)

I hope you and your family are safe and well!

I'm reaching out to see if SECVA would be available Monday, April 6, to talk to the VEO team during our virtual all-hands meeting. It is currently scheduled from 11:30-12, however, that time (and date) can be flexible to the SECVA's availability. With the present circumstances, we would love to have SECVA talk to the team, providing his thoughts and leadership to the VEO team. We could provide more details, talking points, or anything else needed, just let me know.

Thank you,

VEO COVID-19 Response

VEO's efforts in updating VA.gov, the promotion of digital capabilities and resources through digital engagement (e.g., VetResources, VEText), and call centers are reducing the number of calls and walk-ins to VA facilities, therefore reducing the potential spread of the virus and overwhelming VA medical centers.

Data

Listening to Veterans: In coordination with VHA, VEO built and deployed a COVID-19 feature in VSignals. Similar to what VEO built for MISSION Act, this feature automatically consolidates and organizes COVID-19 related data and comments from existing VSignals surveys and VA social media properties in one place in the system. These powerful filters, which are available for all VSignals survey data, include searches by VISN, VAMC, clinical code, and others, allow VA to understand the needs of Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors during the time of COVID-19.

Tools

Easy-to-Understand Information: Developed and deployed COVID-19 Quick Start Guide (QSG) on VA.gov with simple steps to resources.Partnering with Facebook and the American Red Cross: Supporting Veterans and their families/caregivers in their homes through use of 7,400+ free Facebook Portal devices (estimated 4/2020). Partnering with Amazon:

Purchasing 500 tablets to enable access to VHA's Telehealth Service for Veterans, families, and caregivers (estimated 4/2020).



What you need to know about **Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

This guide will help you learn how to use your VA health care benefits during this emerging health crisis and will provide links and resourses you can reference to protect yourself and others.



Choose VA

What Veterans need to know about coronavirus (COVID-19)

If you develop symptoms of COVID-19, you should seek immediate medical advice on appropriate next steps (Note: symptoms are listed on the back page). Whis ready to assist you. We have plans in place to protect everyone who receives healt care, visits or works at one of our facilities. We recommend the following:

Increase your awareness of COVID-19 symptoms by reading the VA and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Information.

- VA and CDC have posted and routinely update the latest information about CDVID-19.
- Online addresses/links for both VA and CDC COVID-19 information are provided to the right.
- Contact your VA Medical Center before going to a clinic, urgent care or emergency room, especially if you have symptoms of fever, cough or shortness of breath. Contacting us first helps us protect you, medical staff and other patients.
- For routine appointments, we recommend reaching out to your provider to as
 about using telehealth (phone or video) for your scheduled appointment. You
 can also cancel and reschedule your appointment for a later date.
 To change your appointment to a telehealth appointment, send a secure
- to change your appointment to a tolehealth appointment, send a securi message to your provider in My HealtheVet.
- Leave time for screening
- If you visit a VA hospital, clinic, community living center, or other VA health care facility, you will be met at the entrance by a staff member.
- The staffer will greet you and ask you some screening questions.
 A VA health care professional will then assist you with the next steps of your
- A VA health care professional will then assist you with the next steps of your visit.

Stay connected and healthy

Concerns about COVID-19 can be stressful for many people, and it's understandable to feel anxious. It's important to take steps to manage stress an take care of yourself. Stay in touch with friends and family by phone and social media, and get enough sleep and exercise.

HOW CAN I FIND THE MOST CURRENT INFORMATION ABOUT COVID-19

- Visit the CDC COVID-19 information page online at https:// www.coronavirus.gov
- Learn about VA's public health response to COVID-19: https://www.va.gov/ corondvirus
- Read FAQs for Veterans about accessing your health care bene its during this outbreak https:// www.va.gov/coronavirusveteran-frequently-askedquestions
- manage and enhance you mental health during the emerging health crisis: https://www. mentalhealth.va.gov/ coronavirus
- Send your primary care provider a secure messag through MyriealtheVet at: https://www. myhealth.va.gov/mhvportal_wsh.lhama

This information is up to date as of March 27th, 2020. This document will be updated as new information becomes available

Technology

Up-Front Online Information: Added COVID-19 information banner to VA.gov landing page so users can effortlessly access the latest information immediately.



Engagement

Call Center Support (White House / VA Hotline & VA311):Modified VA311 interactive voice response to include COVID-19 information and answers to the most frequently asked questions (FAQs). FAQs were developed by VHA, with the questions and answers recorded by VEO staff.Updated COVID-19 knowledge management resources to support 200+ agents. 25% of White House / VA Hotline calls now address COVID-19 testing inquiries.Collaborated with VHA Emergency Medicine to update additional call center COVID-19 messages. VEO's VA311 Call Center successfully began handling general COVID-19 information calls for VISNs 20 & 22, resolving 73% of those calls so VA medical centers can address urgent clinical care COVID-19 inquiries.VetResources Newsletter: Bi-weekly newsletter sent to 10.7M subscribers each week, providing the latest

COVID-19 information.VEText Messages: Two texts sent to 16M+ Veterans highlighting VA-related COVID-19 information.

Traffic to VA.gov increased by 113% (1.7M) after the first text was sent.



Directorate	Project Name / Title	New actions	9 Related Projects/Initiatives Underway Comments	Start Date	Stop Date/
		underway (note if complete)	(Please ensure it includes (internal or external offered) potential projects that leaders believe gave merit and are worth discussing)		Completed
VE HQ	COVID Comms	New	Received a request from CoS today to assist with comms, specifically helping create some sort of consolidated FAQ toolkit that brings together and integrates answers to basic questions about COVID across VHA, VBA, NCA, BVA. Beth and Andi are working on gathering the content.	3/25/2020	
HQ	Medical Center Interviews	New	ON HOLD due to COVID-19	3/30/2020	TBD
HQ	EX Project	New	ON HOLD due to COVID-19	3/30/2020	TBD
PMD	Managing the tracking of all COVID-19 projects and taskers	New	Added for awareness.	3/17/2020	
PMD	Milestones PM+	New	ON HOLD due to COVID-19	3/30/2020	TBD
BX	QSG COVID-19	New	QSG has been approved and will be posted on va.gov website in addition to extensive comms plan being executed.	3/30/2020	TBD
VFCE	VEAC Risk Management Plan	New	Determining factors for VEAC execution. A precautionary tool to remain in the ready for VEAC execution.	3/10/2020	
VFCE	VEAC Full-Low-No Staffing Concept Plan	New	Concept plan to determine factors for VEAC Outreach Determinations. A complement to the Risk Management Plan.	3/10/2020	
VFCE	CVEB/Community Partners Spotlight Stories	New	Highlighting a CVEB/Community Partner's good news stories. These spotlight stories will be shared daily working closely with VEO Comms.	3/16/2020	
VFCE	Lunch N Learn	New	Virtual information resources sharing designed to expand how VEO communicates in public facing posture with community partners. Allows VEO to integrate with VA and community partners messages in a virtual setting.	3/26/2020	
EMD	C-19 Navigation Tools in VSignals	New	EMD is configuring a new C-19 navigation filter in VSignals that will greatly facilitate our ability	4/3/2020	

			to query Veteran survey responses to identify sentiment related to C-19.	
EMD	Telehealth Kit	New	Sent a note to (b)(6) (b)(6) and Dr. (b)(6) about promoting the Welcome to Telehealth Kit as a way of helping Veterans get comfortable using telehealth. Waiting to hear back regarding any support needed to implement the kit.	3/17/2020
EMD	COVID-19 survey work	New	Exploring opportunities to develop a potential new VSignals-based survey to directly query Veterans and/or VA employees about C-19 either via Vet-Text or as an e-mail-based survey to be sent on a random-sample basis.	3/17/2020
EMD	C-19 related biweekly data reports that include the frequency and location of Vsignals- based free text responses as well as free text responses themselves and Social Media-based comments about C-19	New	Data continues to be pulled twice weekly per VEO leadership. The C-19 data presented has been well received. Will also be tracking increases in Telehealth visits as a result of Covid-19.	3/17/2020
EMD	C-19 Navigation Tools in Vsignals	New	EMD configured a new C-19 navigation filter in Vsignals that greatly facilitates our ability to query Veteran survey responses to identify sentiment related to C-19. Will be shared with VHA leadership for awareness and concurrence on 3/30 or 3/31.	3/27/2020
EMD	Welcome Kit-non- Veterans	New	Met with (b)(6) (b)(6) and members from the Office of Connected Care to coordinate SMEs to help develop answers to FAQs for an internal- and external-use document. Internal document will be for PAOs/Call Centers/Administrators to help answer questions related to non-Veteran access to care. External document for non-Veterans will be a general	3/30/2020

			information/FAQs about COVID-19 and "What to Expect" from VA Healthcare if they are referred for care. Fourth Mission FAQs sent out to SMEs this morning (4/3) with a quick-turn request. We hope to have the first draft of the document to (b)(6) (b)(6) this afternoon.		
MCT	"blast" text	Complete; Second action in complete	 Sent "blast" text to Veterans on 3/17 and 3/18, leveraging the VEText capability, with link to VA's COVID-19 online resource page. On 3/30, sent second blast text with link to info on how to receive VHA virtual care: e.g appointments, prescriptions. Next blast text will provide info on how Veterans can access virtual mental health care. 	3/17/2020	3/18/2020
MCT	COVID-19 Communications Task Force	New	Task force stood up to ensure there is "one" place to manage communications, methods, and messages to Veterans and Staff.	3/17/2020	
MCT	WH/VA Hotline COOP	New; continuing	 At the WV location, one employee tested positive for coronavirus on 3/22. Currently, 4 staff at both WV and SLC locations under investigation for COVID-19. As a precaution, all work was halted at the WV facility, and it was closed through 3/27 for deep cleaning. On 3/22, began transitioning to a virtual call center with employees teleworking on GFE. Additional precautions include using the CDC screening questions for anyone entering the facility. WV facility will reopen to essential staff on 4/6; all others will continue to telework. At the SLC location, no presumptive or confirmed COVID-19 cases known. 	3/17/2020	

Working on implementing CDC screening questions for those entering the facility. 77 SLC agents are teleworking; remaining onsite staff are now socially distanced; transitioning these staff to telework being considered. Of note: Alerted by a caller, the White House Comment Line now informs callers to only call between 9:00am and 4:00pm Mon - Fri to leave a comment, to visit whitehouse.gov/contact, and to call the WH/VA Hotline for 24/7 assistance. Virtual Incident Command Center (VICC) continues daily monitoring of operations and staffing, to include space requirements and laptop acquisition to support social distancing and telework, and alternatives in case of internet or other communication interruptions. VICC is evaluating whether to activate virtual chat on Skype to stay in immediate contact with the group. Augmentation Team: New hire virtual training began on 4/2 for ERPI/VEO volunteers to help with COVID-19 calls. These short-term volunteer rotations (15-30 days) will increase burden with additional training, workforce management, quality, and software access, and may also add software licensing and equipment costs. Plan from OI&T requested for replacing nonfunctioning computers. Training curriculum for all call types compressed from 3 weeks to 4 days, and COVID-19 specific training created.

At WV location, laptops and remote access accounts have been requested to enable agents telework. All WV staff are now teleworking until further notice. Establishing TMS accounts for contractors for required telework training is an issue and VEO TMS Administrator assistance is needed. Working collaboratively with EES to transition all training content, including COVID-19 specific training, to TMS. COVID-19 TMS training should be live on afternoon of 3/26. Due to lack of computers/laptops, 3 trained agents reassigned back to the WV VAMC manpower labor pool. At WV, new hire training class scheduled for 3/30 postponed until 4/6, dependent on computer availability. At SLC, new hire training class scheduled for 3/31 for 8 agents will be held on-site utilizing social distancing. Space shortage at the SLC location delayed social distancing; OI&T is working on GFE and space. Utah Dept of Health concerned about VEO's social distancing plan; VEO informed them of planned social distancing nd space shortage, telework arrangements, and lack of basic sanitation supplies. All but 58 agents will be teleworking. Daily calls with VA's Public Affairs Office for inforrmation to communicate
telework arrangements, and lack of basic sanitation supplies. All but 58 agents will be teleworking. Daily calls with VA's Public Affairs

			on: developing and maintaining relevant KM articles on COVID-19, VA's COVID-19 response, and VA.gov support; maintaining incident tracking log, Salesforce reports for COVID-19 trend analysis, and SharePoint site for collaboration and document storage.		
MCT	NCCHV call type tracking	New; continuing	On 3/17/20, the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans began capturing COVID-19 related calls. As of 3/27, NCCHV has screened 3,832 calls; of those, 3,206 reported they felt no effects from COVID-19, while 62 did and were warm transferred to the VAMC nearest to them.	3/17/2020	
MCT	VBA Contact Center call type tracking	New; continuing	On 3/12/20, VBA National Call Centers began capturing COVID-19 related calls. By COB on 3/26/2020, VBA received 1430 calls related to COVID-19 inquiries.	3/12/2020	
MCT	Office of Client Relations, OSVA	New; continuing	Triaging COVID-19 related calls from both employees and Veterans and assigning to relevant VISNs for action.		
MCT	VEO Tier 1 Contact Center role	New; continuing	 On 3/27, the VA311 MISSION Act IVR option was modified to include COVID-19 related information, with answers to the most frequently asked questions related to COVID-19. This FAQ was developed by VHA, and the questions and answers recorded by VEO staff. VA311 is expected to start taking COVID-19 inquiry calls from Veterans Crisis Line (VCL); pending decision week of 3/30. VISN 20 and 22 VAMCs IVRs changed their IVR messages to replace the MISSION Act prompt (#6) to COVID-19; those calls are being transferred to the VEO Tier 1 Contact Center for live assistance, including screening questions. VISN 22 took effect on 3/23, and VISN 20 on 3/24. 		

			 Knowledge Management (KM) resources continue to be developed to support contact center agents. VHA is determining whether the clinical contact center supporting VISN 20 and 22 will take escalated calls from VEO and providing content for agent training and additional Knowledge Management (KM) resources. Implementation of Tier 1 Help Desk support for VA.gov may be delayed if the COVID-19 calls increase and agents' availability decreases. 		
MCT	eBenefits website	New; complete	 Put a banner message and carousel item on the eBenefits online home page with an alert that due to COVID- 19, VBA Regional Offices are closed to walk-in traffic and in-person services. 	03/19/2020	03/19/2020
MCT	CommCare CRM	New; in Progress	Adding "COVID-19 Call Purpose" to the CommCare CRM application so call center agents can capture COVID-19 related calls.	3/19/2020	TBD (3/24/2020)
МСТ	COVID-19 Emergency Response Indicator (computer systems: Enrollment System and VistA Registration, Eligibility, and Enrollment)	New	As VA prepares to potentially care for civilians, we <u>may</u> need to make sure our systems can clearly identify this population. A COVID-19 indicator in our systems will allow us to identify the records and develop specific processes for scheduling, billing, revenue ops, pharmacy, and others. • VEO, VHA, and OI&T established working group, and worked over the past weekend to successfully deploy an Emergency Response Indicator (ERI) for COVID-19, labelled "pandemic", to all VA medical facilities to identify the population impacted by COVID-19. • As of 3/27, NY VAMCs started taking non-Veteran patients in addition to Veterans impacted by COVID-19.	03/20/2020	

PX PMD	MCT/VA311 PX Animated Videos Managing daily tracking	to support MCT. • Developing content to share via social media. Managing the daily tracking of all COVIS-19 projects and taskers.	3/23/2020	
PX	Volunteer Support for	 As of 3/31, NY, Chicago, and New Orleans have been activated, enabling them to provide care to non-Veterans impacted by COVID-19. Training on the COVID-19 ERI in progress (trained 715 users on 3/30, 863 users on 3/31, and 218 users on 4/1); one more training scheduled for 4/2. This training provided to VISN Eligibility and Enrollment and Administration Officer on Duty (AOD). The COVID-19 ERI training documents uploaded to Knowledge Management. Identified 17 members of PX available 	3/23/2020	

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COVID-19 Related Projects/Initiatives to Consider					
Directorate	Project Name / Title	Request to consider New Action	Comments Please ensure it includes (internal or external offered) potential projects that leaders believe gave merit and are worth discussing	Date Presented	Approved/ Disapproved

			Lessons Learned			
EMD	C-19 Biweekly data pulls	Survey	Number of COVID-19 Comments Since Last Report (3/24/20 at 11:00AM ET)	Total Number of COVID-19 Comments Since Outbreak (December 2019)		
		Outpatient	142	539		
		VA Social Media	270	2,329		

Title	(Internal/External)	Veterans Impacted		well
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VEO Support of VA COVID-19 Response and Services

VEO, as the Secretary's shared service for meeting his customer service priority for Veterans and their families, caregivers, and survivors and employees has put all its data, tools, technology and engagement capabilities at the ready to support all VA Administration and Office in response to the COVID-19 requirements.

The attached list of COVID-19 related projects provides a high level summary. The attached slide offer a visual summary especially related to the use of technology for effective communications and outreach (e.g. VA.gov, VetResources, VEText, call centers) all of which are reaching most enrolled Veterans with information they are using to access needed services most effectively while reducing the number of calls and walk-ins to VA facilities, therefore reducing the potential spread of the virus and overwhelming VA medical centers.

Some highlights of VEO contributions include:

- Adding Up-Front Online Information: Added COVID-19 information banner to VA.gov landing page so users can effortlessly access the latest information immediately.
- Delivering Informed 24/7 Call Center Support (White House / VA Hotline & VA311):
 - Modified VA311 interactive voice response to include COVID-19 information and answers to the most frequently asked questions (FAQs). FAQs were developed by VHA, with the questions and answers recorded by VEO staff.
 - Updated COVID-19 knowledge management resources to support 200+ agents.
 - o 25% of White House / VA Hotline calls now address COVID-19 testing inquiries.
 - Collaborated with VHA Emergency Medicine to update additional call center COVID-19 messages.
 - VEO's VA311 Call Center successfully began handling general COVID-19 information calls for VISNs 20 & 22, resolving 73% of those calls so VA medical centers can address urgent clinical care COVID-19 inquiries.
 - Coordinating with the CTO and working with the Contact Center Working Group to provide standardized COVID-19 content for the Knowledge Management database, with provides data for 102k+ call agents and Veteran facing FTE across VA.
- Emailing the VetResources Newsletter: Bi-weekly newsletter sent to 10.7M subscribers each week, providing the latest COVID-19 information.
- **Texting the VEText Messages:** Two texts sent to **16M+ Veterans** highlighting VA-related COVID-19 information. Traffic to VA.gov **increased by 113%** (1.7M) after the first text was sent.
- Listening to Veterans Voices: In coordination with VHA, VEO built and deployed a COVID-19 feature in VSignals. Similar to what VEO built for MISSION Act, this feature automatically consolidates and organizes COVID-19 related data and comments from existing VSignals surveys and VA social media properties in one place in the system. These powerful filters, which are available for all VSignals survey data, include searches by VISN, VAMC, clinical code, and others, allow VA to understand the needs of Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors during the time of COVID-19.
- Creating Easy-to-Understand Information: Developed and deployed COVID-19 Quick Start Guide (QSG) on VA.gov with simple steps to resources.
- Virtual Learning Sessions: Hosted virtual learning sessions (3/26/2020 and 4/2/2020) for Veterans, family members, caregivers, and survivors. These 2 sessions had medical professionals from VHA's

- Office of Patient-Centered Care and Cultural transformation and the Cohen Veterans Network provide information on whole health amid COVID-19 and the types of care and resources the Cohen Veterans Network provides post-9/11 Veterans, their families, and active duty military families.
- Partnering with Facebook and the American Red Cross: Supporting Veterans and their families/caregivers in their homes through use of **7,400+ free Facebook Portal devices** (estimated 4/2020).
- Partnering with Amazon: Purchasing 500 tablets to enable access to VHA's Telehealth Service for Veterans, families, and caregivers (estimated 4/2020).

From: RLW

Sent: Tue, 21 Apr 2020 13:39:31 +0000

To: RLW

Subject: 9:40am Interview w/ Stephanie Ruhle, MSNBC Live

Attachments: Quad - MSNBC Live.pptx

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There will be a White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting on Friday, April 3 rd at 2:00pm in
the White House (b)(6)
Preliminary materials attached.
Best,
(b)(6)
Operations Coordinator, White House Coronavirus Task Force
Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff
The Office of the Vice President
(b)(6)

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Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Wr (b)(5)	lite House Coron	navirus Task Force	secure Call	
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There will be a **White House Coronavirus Task Force Secure Call** on **Saturday, April 11th** at **5:00pm**. Preliminary materials attached.

We will keep you updated regarding Sunday's schedule as soon as we are able to confirm.

b)(6)	
Operations Coordi	nator, White House Coronavirus Task Force
Executive Assistan	t to the Chief of Staff
The Office of the Vi	ice President
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From: RLW

Sent: Tue, 21 Apr 2020 15:40:31 +0000

To: RLW

Subject:9:00am Interview w/ Blaine Stewart, WTKR Coastal VA/ Northeast NCAttachments:Quad - WTKR News 3 Blaine Stewart.pptx, SMT Norfolk 042220.docx

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KEY MESSAGES AND FACTS SECRETARY WILKIE'S SATELLITE MEDIA INTERVIEW – NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

TOP NORFOLK VA ISSUES

The Hampton VAMC has handled several local media queries regarding their operational response to COVID-19. Subjects have included:

- Drive-thru testing centers
- Employee morale
- Internal emails from the director about employee behavior
- Use, conservation and stock of PPE/masks/inventory
- · Operational changes such as screening, visitor restrictions, postponing elective surgeries
- The local AFGE chapter's public criticism.

Hampton VAMC tested 128 staff of which 17 were found positive. The staff were assigned to our domiciliary unit which was impacted by an outbreak. Total number of HVAMC employees is 2,247. (.007 percent of staff has tested positive for COVID-19.)

Hampton has tested 202 veterans, of which 43 tested positive.

To date we have had 2 deaths of COVID positive veterans.

- 1 veteran who was confirmed through screening triage
- 1 veteran in a local Community Nursing Home, who was confirmed positive, was asymptomatic but died from other underlying issues.

Recently Hampton VAMC moved 6 veterans from a local Community Nursing Home, after testing was conducted. Five of these veterans were confirmed COVID-positive and one was negative. There were 9 veterans at the nursing home; three opted to remain there, as they were asymptomatic. Hampton will continue to monitor those veterans remaining at the nursing home and those who are now receiving care at our facility.

Hampton VAMC tested 49 of its CLC patients and none (0) tested positive for COVID. The facility also tested 36 Spinal Cord Injury Residents and again, zero (0) of these residents tested positive.

LOCAL NORFOLK MESSAGES

Drive-thru coronavirus screening has been very successful, meeting the needs of our veterans (particularly those with medication/pharmacy) as it helped to reduce veterans' exposure.

Management of PPE has been very well managed as we work to adjust to CDC guidelines.

Telehealth and telework have proven very beneficial. This technology is being used to reduce face-to-face visits and has limited veterans and employee exposure to coronavirus.

From: RLW

Sent: Thu, 30 Apr 2020 17:50:46 +0000

To: RLW

Subject: 3:28pm Phone Interview w/ Lars Larsen Show

Attachments: Lars Larsen.docx

Confirmed radio interview:

May 1, 3:28 p.m., Lars Larsen Show

Call-in: (b)(6) backup is (b)(6)

Subject: Protecting America's Seniors

Lars Larsen



Lars got his start in radio at age 16 spinning records and reading news, sports and weather at the edge of a cow pasture in Tillamook, Oregon on The Mighty 1590 KTIL.

43 years later, he's only moved 75 miles east to Portland, and light years to "the Right". The Emmy and Peabody award winner delivers six hours of radio backed by four decades of experience as a radio and television journalist. Six hours of daily prep keep **The Lars Larson Show** on top of the news cycle and top-of-mind for listeners across the country.

"Havana —on-the-Willamette' (Portland) as a radio home base provides all the real red meat any talker could ever hope for. I'm thrilled to be part of the Alpha Family."

-Lars Larson

Along the way, Lars has worked for more than a dozen radio stations and five television stations. Today, Lars holds down FM News 101 KXL from 12pm – 4pm PST through Alpha Media's Radio Northwest Network. His local talk show airs on over 20 stations in the Pacific Northwest; the biggest local talk radio audience in the region. The national Lars Larson Show, syndicated by Compass Media Networks, launched in September 2003 and can be heard on over 150 affiliates nation-wide. 15 years later, the show continues to grow. Lars currently has multi-year contracts with both Compass Media Networks and Alpha Media.

Much to his wife Tina's delight, Lars has picked up more than 70 awards from the Associated Press, Society of Professional Journalists, the National Press Club, including two Emmy's and a Peabody for his reporting and documentaries.

He has broadcast live from the East Room of the White House where he interviewed President Donald Trump one-on-one. He was one of the first guests for the Inaugural "Skype Press Seats" at the White House. He has broadcast from Israel five times and broadcast several times a year from Washington DC, (from CPAC and Feet to the Fire). He has interviewed many high-profile politicians, celebrities, athletes and authors including: Jeff Sessions, Rand Paul, KT McFarland, Sebastian Gorka, Sheriff David Clarke, John Bolton, Ted Nugent, Ann Coulter, John Stossel, Mark Bowman, Ken Shamrock, Karl Malone, Rob Reiner, Jon Lovitz, Stephen Baldwin and many more. Lars is also a regular guest on Fox News and has appeared on "Outnumbered", "Fox and Friends", "Scarborough Country", BBC radio and countless local radio and television news shows around the United States.

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Sent:	Mon, 13 Apr 2020 00:23:56 +0000
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Cc:	(b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) EOP/OVP
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting
Attachments:	(b)(5)
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	Importance: High
	All –
	There will be a White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting on Monday, April 13^{th} at $3:00pm$ in the White House $(b)(6)$ Materials attached.
	Thank you,
(0)(6)
L	Operations Coordinator, White House Coronavirus Task Force
	Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff
	The Office of the Vice President (b)(6)

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From: RLW

Sent: Tue, 21 Apr 2020 15:45:20 +0000

To: RLW

Subject: 9:10am Interview w/ Raoul Martinez, Fox 5 San Diego, KSWB-TV

Attachments: Quad - Fox 5 San Diego w Raoul Martinez.pptx, SMT San Diego 042220.docx

Page 2 of 4

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KEY MESSAGES AND FACTS SECRETARY WILKIE'S SATELLITE MEDIA INTERVIEW – SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

TOP SAN DIEGO VA ISSUES

The San Diego HCS has handled several local media queries regarding their operational response to COVID-19. Subjects have included:

- The increase in telehealth appointments and Video Connect to continue to serve veterans
- Hydroxychloroquine as a treatment for COVID-19 (NOTE: San Diego has NOT used this to treat any COVID-19 patients)
- VISN 22's expedited COVID-19 testing (turnaround time went from 5-7 days to 1-2 days; Long Beach VAMC is doing tests for San Diego)
- Telework options for employees (some employees reported to media not being allowed to telework multiple queries on this subject)
- PPE/masks/inventory
- Operational changes such as screening, visitor restrictions, postponing elective surgeries

San Diego (SD) has one of the highest rates of veteran suicide in California according to a California Department of Public Health report, which showed 109 San Diego County veterans committe suicide in 2017. Over the last five years, the San Diego HCS has been focused on increasing outreach efforts, such as working with groups like the San Diego Veterans Coalition.

 Over the past few years, the facility has been steadily increasing its number of Suicide Prevention staff.

LOCAL VA MESSAGES

VA San Diego's ASPIRE Center is a 40-bed, three-story, 30,000-square-foot residential rehabilitation treatment facility in Old Town, San Diego.

- The center was designed to promote recovery in combat Veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.
- The ASPIRE center provides temporary housing for Veterans who do not need inpatient care but would benefit from rehabilitation services.

VA San Diego has one of largest R&D Programs in the VA. With more than 600 active research projects on veteran health, VA San Diego has been able to attract top quality physicians.

As with the rest of Southern California, veteran homelessness is a considerable problem in the San Diego area due to high housing prices and competitive rental markets, and the lack of affordable housing.

 VA works closely with the city of San Diego on veteran homelessness and provides HUD/VASH vouchers as well as wrap-around support and services for homeless veterans once they find housing.

San Diego is affiliated with the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine and provides training to more than 1,500 medical interns, residents and fellows.

O VA San Diego recently finished construction on a new clinic in South Bay/Chula Vista. It is expected to open in August and will have expanded capacity for appointments and a staff of about 100 will help veterans with primary care, integrated mental health, laboratory and pathology, audiology, tele-medicine, optometry and podiatry services.

o The new Kearny Mesa clinic is expected to open in 2022.

VA San Diego continues to expand the ways in which it can provide superior care for our Veterans. One of these is the increased use of Telehealth.

VA San Diego Healthcare System currently offers three programs using telehealth:
 Home Telehealth, Clinical Video Telehealth and Store & Forward.

VA San Diego has a multisite, coordinated Women's Health Program providing comprehensive care to women Veterans. More than 13,000 female Veterans are enrolled for care. Patients are assigned a primary care provider who is responsible for their care and referrals to specialty clinics. This assures patients receive the personalized care they need.

From: RLW

Sent: Thu, 30 Apr 2020 19:06:32 +0000

To: RLW

Subject: ERT Fox Studios, 400 N Capitol, 3rd Floor

From: RLW

Sent: Tue, 21 Apr 2020 15:51:54 +0000

To: RLW

Subject: 9:20am Interview w/ NBC 10, WCAU-TV Philadelphia, PA **Attachments:** Quad - NBC 10 Philly.pptx, SMT Philadelphia 042220.docx

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KEY MESSAGES AND FACTS SECRETARY WILKIE'S SATELLITE MEDIA TOUR – PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

TOP PHILADELPHIA VA ISSUES:

- There are 48 employees at the Philadelphia VAMC who tested positive for COVID-19. In accordance with CDC guidelines and the employees' clinical status, the individuals are currently in home isolation, mitigating further risk of transmission to other patients and staff.
- The Corporal Michael J. Crescenz Veterans Affairs Medical Center (CMCVAMC) is a
 Joint Commission accredited, tertiary-care teaching hospital serving over 58,000 veterans
 in the nation's fifth-largest metropolitan area. In 2015, the facility was renamed from the
 Philadelphia VA to the Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VA Medical Center in honor of
 Philadelphia's only Vietnam veteran to receive the Medal of Honor.
- The facility has outpatient clinics in Burlington County (NJ), Gloucester County (NJ) Camden County (NJ), the Victor J. Saracini Outpatient Clinic in Horsham (PA) and its newest outpatient clinic in West Philadelphia. In addition, they have an outpatient dialysis facility, a Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program in southwest Philadelphia, and a Community Living Center (CLC) nursing home facility attached to the hospital.
- Since June 2019, the CMCVAMC Suicide Prevention team, consisting of four staff members, has responded to nearly 800 routine consults from the Veterans Crisis Line and 66 Emergent/Dispatched calls. Of these calls, 67 veterans requested homeless support, so the team works intimately with the facility's homeless program to address this need.
- In May 2019, Haven Women, an all-female, 12-bed grant per diem (GPD) transitional housing site opened at the CMCVAMC. Haven Women is managed by Impact Services and maintains a full census of female Veterans.
- In March 2019, CMCVAMC opened a new, fully handicapped accessible, outpatient clinic for veterans in West Philadelphia. Veterans can receive behavioral health services in individual, group and family counseling, as well as receive phlebotomy, podiatry and social work assistance. Additionally, programs such as QuitSmart, a smoking cessation program, are available for their use.
- The CMCVAMC now has a completely redesigned and updated research facility. The \$19.5 million renovation includes more than 70 labs that assist over 100 principal research investigators with over 200 active research projects.

LOCAL MESSAGES

 Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VA Medical Center's PPE practices are keeping our employees safe during challenging times and the numbers prove it. For instance, 1.6 percent of our employees here have tested positive for COVID-19. By contrast, at the Henry Ford Health System, over 700 employees have tested positive, which represents 2.1 percent of that system's workforce.

- CMCVAMC's Suicide Prevention program is tackling the VA's highest clinical priority head on. Their work reflects the knowledge that suicide prevention is much more than intervention at the point of crisis – it is about creating and fostering cultures where Veterans and their families thrive.
- The CMCVAMC Veterans Homeless program is performing exceptionally well; Crescenz leads the VA in its reduction of homelessness and is considered to have nearly eliminated it in Philadelphia. This program provides community outreach, case management and a range of other services to help homeless Veterans get back on their feet.
- To increase veteran access to care, the CMCVAMC is constantly working to enhance the
 veterans' experience at the facility. The facility opened a new clinic this spring that
 provides outstanding care to more than 700 veterans in West Philadelphia and the
 surrounding area.

Sent: Fri, 3 Apr 2020 14:41:46 +0000

To: RLW

Subject: 8:40am Phone Interview w/AM Tampa Bay Radio

Attachments: Quad - AM Tampa Bay.pptx

Back up: 1^{(b)(6)}

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Sent: Thu, 30 Apr 2020 19:16:21 +0000

To: RLW

Subject: 6:40pm Arrive / Interview w/ Martha MacCallum, Fox News

Sent: Tue, 21 Apr 2020 15:56:21 +0000

To: RLW

Subject: Phone Call w/GOV Raimondo - Rhode Island - they will us

Sent: Mon, 13 Apr 2020 12:42:13 +0000

Subject:

Sent: Fri, 3 Apr 2020 14:58:05 +0000

To: RLW

Subject: 9:05am Phone Interview w/ John Fredericks Show

Attachments: Quad - John Fredericks_update.pptx

Back up number: (b)(6)

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Sent: Thu, 30 Apr 2020 19:18:42 +0000

To: RLW

Subject: ERT Residence

Sent: Tue, 21 Apr 2020 15:56:29 +0000

To: RLW Subject: LUNCH

Sent: Mon, 13 Apr 2020 13:25:58 +0000

To: RLW

Subject: Bi-Weekly w/Under Secretaries

Attachments: Untitled, Untitled

Sent: Fri, 21 Aug 2020 12:51:19 +0000

Sent: Fri, 21 Aug 2020 12:51:19 +0000

Sent: Fri, 3 Apr 2020 20:04:33 +0000

To: RLW

Subject: 9:30am Phone Interview w/ The Matt & Aunie Show, Birmingham, AL

Attachments: Quad - Matt and Aunie Show.pptx

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Subject:	[EXTERNAL] White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting
Attachments:	(b)(5)

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Importance:	High	

All -

There will be a White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting on Friday, May $\mathbf{1}^{st}$ at $\mathbf{3:00pm}$ in the White House Situation Room. Preliminary materials attached.

Thank you,



Operations Coordinator, White House Coronavirus Task Force Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff

The Office of the Vice President

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Sent: Tue, 21 Apr 2020 15:59:33 +0000

To: RLW

Subject: 9:55am Interview w/ Michael McCardel, WFAA-TV ABC Dallas-Forth Worth

Attachments: Quad - ABC Dallas.pptx, SMT Dallas 042220.doc

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KEY MESSAGES AND FACTS SECRETARY WILKIE'S SATELLITE MEDIA INTERVIEW – DALLAS, TEXAS

TOP DALLAS VA ISSUE (GARLAND HOSPITAL):

- Baylor Scott and White's donation of their 470,000 square foot facility was finalized on April 3. Dallas VA decided to use the facility as a COVID-19 relief center to decongest the Dallas VAMC of non-acute veterans, so patients requiring acute care can be cared for in a controlled setting. To accommodate an anticipated surge, the date to admit the first patient to the Garland facility was set for April 20, with a goal to accommodate 200 veterans.
- A COVID-19 multidisciplinary task force (MTF) has been assembled with representation from all VA North Texas Health Care System service lines. The combined theme was echoed through each meeting, "Whatever needs to be done, we will make it happen."
- Dallas VA is utilizing the Labor and Delivery (NW) wing of the hospital. The large rooms will accommodate two to three patients, providing availability for 123 veterans. A second activation of a previous inpatient unit, on May 4, will accommodate an additional 84 veterans, providing a total of 207 beds.
- Dallas VA has appropriate PPE to ensure safe delivery of care for veterans and staff. We
 will be using Virtual Video Connect (VVC) for consultations with specialty services as
 needed. We have established daily courier services from the main facility for food
 delivery, lab processing and other needs.

LOCAL VA MESSAGES

- In August 2019, the Dallas VAMC opened a new 4,800 square foot Mental Health Annex in Denton to provide key mental health care and options for about 31,000 veterans with a team of 11 psychiatrists, psychologists, physicians, licensed clinical social workers and administrative professionals.
- The Dallas VAMC was among the first to initiate a recurring veteran tele-town hall with more than 1,200 veterans participating in the first one. The system allows for strategic targeting of veterans, real-time polling questions, caller interaction, and the option for veterans to leave a voice mail.
- Dallas Fort Worth area is home to four Vet Centers located in Dallas, Arlington, Fort Worth and Mesquite.

Sent: Mon, 13 Apr 2020 13:32:27 +0000

To: RLW

Subject: 8:40am Phone Interview w/Joe Piscopo in the Morning, NYC Radio

Attachments: Quad - Joe Piscopo in the Morning.pptx

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Sent: Fri, 3 Apr 2020 20:16:13 +0000

To: RLW

Subject: WH Task Force Meeting

Sent: Tue, 21 Apr 2020 16:13:43 +0000

To: RLW

Subject: Phone Call w/ ID Gov Little

Sent: Mon, 13 Apr 2020 14:25:53 +0000

To: RLW Subject: RAH

Attachments: Apr 14 2020.docx, COVID-19 Talkers_updated__04-13_408pm.docx, Talking

Points 4.14.20.docx

DAILY BRIEFING BOOK

Tuesday, April 14, 2020

SECRETARY ROBERT L. WILKIE

7:45 – 8:15 am	Daily Sync Meeting 1-877-446-3914 Code: (b)(6)	SECVA Suite	
9:00 – 9:30 am	Dr. Lynda Davis	SECVA Suite	
10:20 – 10:35 am	Phone Interview w/ The Brian Kilmeade Show, Fox News Radio	SECVA Suite	Tab 1
10:40 – 10:55 am	Phone Interview w/ The David Webb Show, SiriusXM (b)(6)	SECVA Suite	Tab 2
11:00 – 11:30 am	Prep for WH Task Force Mtg	SECVA Suite	
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Lunch	SECVA Suite	
1:30 – 2:30 pm	IGA Call w/ VA State & Local National Stake Holders 877-369-5243 Code: (b)(6)	SECVA Suite	Tab 3
2:30- 3:30 pm	White House Task Force Call	IOC SCIF	
3:30 – 5:00 pm	VHA's Daily COVID19 Update Call	Rm 1070	

VA COVID-19 Response

- VA is ready for this emergency. We began emergency preparedness exercises weeks before the first coronavirus case was confirmed in the U.S.
- These actions were critical to our ability to meet specialized health care needs of Veterans to this day.
 - As a result of these early actions, VA facilities are equipped with supplies to handle an influx of patients.
- But we have more than supplies we have a strategy for protecting and caring for Veterans.
- We are screening all Veterans who enter our health care facilities for flu-like symptoms to ensure the safety of patients and staff, and we are administering coronavirus tests as needed.
- The decision to test a patient depends on several factors, such as whether the patient
 has been in close contact with the virus, and whether the patient lives in an area where
 it is spreading.
- VA's testing capacity meets current demand. For the latest testing and case figures, visit
 VA.gov/coronavirus
 - VA has administered more than 33,800 tests and has more than 3,000 additional tests on hand.
 - 3,700 VA patients have tested positive for COVID-19, and we are continuing to care for these Veterans. 3,058 are at home.
- We are also taking special care of our two most vulnerable patient populations: nursing home residents and spinal-cord injury patients.
 - To prevent the spread of the virus among these groups, VA last week adopted a "no visitor" policy, except for when patients are in the last stages of life in a hospice unit.

What should Veterans do if they believe they may have contracted the coronavirus?

- Any Veteran with symptoms such as fever, cough or shortness of breath should immediately contact their local VA facility. We urge Veterans to call before visiting.
- You can find contact information for your closest VA facility at VA.gov, as well as other
 options for reaching us, such as through a telehealth connection.
- For family members we are urging all visitors who do not feel well to postpone their visits to VA facilities.

Fourth Mission

- VA is ready to carry out its "Fourth Mission," which is to support the broader national response in a time of crisis, if needed.
- VA stands ready to assist civilian health care systems if they hit their capacity to care for patients, a point we have not reached yet.
- If VA facilities are needed, we will coordinate with the Department of Health and Human Services, which is leading the federal effort.

- We have already deployed some staff to assist HHS, and we are working directly with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other federal partners to monitor the outbreak.
- VA has served as a frontline responder to natural disasters such as the hurricanes that hit Puerto Rico and our southern states, and VA will continue in this role during this crisis.

MISSION Act and COVID-19

VA is not stopping the MISSION Act. VA is not pausing the MISSION Act.

The guidance that was sent out didn't accurately characterize what we're doing.

We are facing a public health crisis. Our job is to make sure Veterans are cared for properly and ensure they are not contracting COVID-19.

That's why VA is taking into account whether referrals for community care are clinically appropriate during the COVID-19 outbreak.

VA is taking the following steps in order to ensure the safety of Veterans as they access care:

- VA community care referrals for emergent or urgent clinical needs will continue as necessary.
- Veterans with care currently scheduled in the community should continue with this care as clinically appropriate and if available.
- Referral requests for non-emergent care with community providers will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis for immediate clinical need and with regard to the safety of the Veteran when being seen in-person, regardless of wait time or drive time eligibility.
 - There will be more community care options in areas where it is deemed safe to refer Veterans to such care and where community providers are able to accept referrals
- VA is expanding the use of telehealth and telephone sessions to address many of Veterans' routine medical needs.

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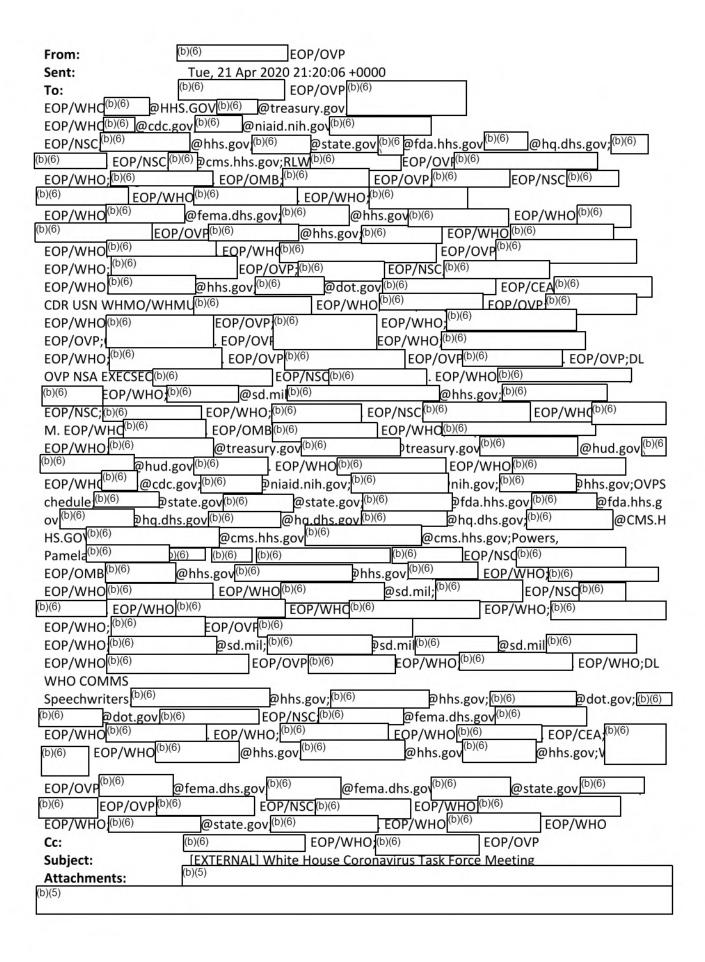
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Sent: Fri, 3 Apr 2020 20:17:00 +0000

To: RLW Subject: ERT VACO



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Importance:	High	
Good afternoon,		
There will be a Whi	ite House Coronavi	rus Task Force Meeting on Wednesday, April 22 nd at
3:00pm in the Whit	te House ^{(b)(6)}	Preliminary materials attached.
Thank you,		
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Operations Coordin	iator, White House C	oronavirus Task Force
Executive Assistant	to the Chief of Staff	
The Office of the Vic	ce President	
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From: RLW

Sent: Mon, 13 Apr 2020 14:53:18 +0000

To: RLW

Subject: 10:20am Phone Interview w/ The Brian Kilmeade Show, Fox News Radio

Attachments: Quad -Brian Kilmeade - Fox News Radio_updated.pptx

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From: RLW

Sent: Fri, 3 Apr 2020 20:17:12 +0000

To: RLW

Subject: ERT Residence

From: RLW

Sent: Mon, 13 Apr 2020 15:26:31 +0000

To: RLW

Subject: 10:40am Phone Interview w/ The David Webb Show, SiriusXM

Attachments: Quad - David Webb - David Webb Show_updated.pptx

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From:	(b)(6) EOP/OVP
Sent:	Fri, 3 Apr 2020 21:44:01 +0000
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There will be a White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting on Saturday, April 4^{th} at 1:30pm in the White House Situation Room. All materials will be forthcoming.

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Operations Coc	ordinator, White House Coronavirus Task Force
Executive Assis	stant to the Chief of Staff
The Office of th	e Vice President
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From: RLW

Sent: Mon, 13 Apr 2020 16:42:22 +0000

To: RLW

Subject: Phone Call w/ Governor Murphy, NJ

From: RLW

Sent: Wed, 22 Apr 2020 12:41:08 +0000

To: RLW Subject: RAH

Attachments: Apr 23 2020.docx, COVID-19 Talkers_updated__04-22.docx

DAILY BRIEFING BOOK

Thursday, April 23, 2020

SECRETARY ROBERT L. WILKIE

7:45 – 8:15 am	Daily Sync Meeting 1-877-446-3914 Code: (b)(6)	SECVA Suite	
9:00 – 9:30 am	VHA's Blood Drive	Room 230	Tab 1
10;00 – 10:30 am	Phone Interview w/ James McKay, Midday News, Boston Radio	SECVA Suite	Tab 2
11:00 – 11:30 am	Prep for WH Task Force	SECVA Suite	
12:00 – 12:15 pm	Phone Call w/ RI Gov Raimondo Conference Call	SECVA Suite	
12:15 – 1:00 pm	Lunch	SECVA Suite	
1:00 – 1:30 pm	Weekly Call w/ Moran & Tester 1-877-446-3914 Code ^{(b)(6)}	SECVA Suite	Tab 3
2:00 – 2:30 pm	Jon Rychalski re: 4 th Supplemental Request 1-877-446-3914 Code: (b)(6)	SECVA Suite	Tab 4
2:45 – 3:00 pm	Phone Call w/ ID Gov Little ** SECVA calls cell @ (b)(6)	SECVA Suite	
3:00 – 4:00 pm	WH Task Force Meeting/Call	IOC SCIF	
3:30 – 5:00 pm	VHA's Daily COVID19 Update Call	Rm 1070	
5:00 – 5:30 pm	Weekly Call w/ Takano & Roe 1-877-446-3914 Code: (b)(6)	SECVA Suite	Tab 5

VA COVID-19 Response

- VA is ready for this emergency. We began emergency preparedness exercises weeks before the first coronavirus case was confirmed in the U.S.
- These actions were critical to our ability to meet specialized health care needs of Veterans to this day.
 - As a result of these early actions, VA facilities are equipped with supplies to handle an influx of patients.
- But we have more than supplies we have a strategy for protecting and caring for Veterans.
- We are screening all Veterans who enter our health care facilities for flu-like symptoms to ensure the safety of patients and staff, and we are administering coronavirus tests as needed.
- The decision to test a patient depends on several factors, such as whether the patient has been in close contact with the virus, and whether the patient lives in an area where it is spreading.
- VA's testing capacity meets current demand. For the latest testing and case figures, visit
 VA.gov/coronavirus
 - VA has administered more than 71,240 tests and has more than 3,000 additional tests on hand.
 - 5,393 VA patients have tested positive for COVID-19, and we are continuing to care for these Veterans. 4,090 are at home.
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 - To prevent the spread of the virus among these groups, VA last week adopted a "no visitor" policy, except for when patients are in the last stages of life in a hospice unit.

What should Veterans do if they believe they may have contracted the coronavirus?

- Any Veteran with symptoms such as fever, cough or shortness of breath should immediately contact their local VA facility. We urge Veterans to call before visiting.
- You can find contact information for your closest VA facility at VA.gov, as well as other
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Fourth Mission

- VA is ready to carry out its "Fourth Mission," which is to support the broader national response in a time of crisis, if needed.
- VA stands ready to assist civilian health care systems if they hit their capacity to care for patients, a point we have not reached yet.
- If VA facilities are needed, we will coordinate with the Department of Health and Human Services, which is leading the federal effort.

- We have already deployed some staff to assist HHS, and we are working directly with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other federal partners to monitor the outbreak.
- VA has served as a frontline responder to natural disasters such as the hurricanes that hit Puerto Rico and our southern states, and VA will continue in this role during this crisis.

As of 4/14/20

- <u>Telehealth</u> group therapy conducted more than 2,700 visits in March, a jump of more than 200% from the prior month.
- Mental health care and consultation delivered by phone rose to more than 154,000 appointments in March, up 280% from the 40,000 appointments in February.
- Vet Centers across the nation held more than 47,000 virtual appointments in March, a 200% increase from February. These counseling sessions dealt with mental health issues.

MISSION Act and COVID-19

VA is not stopping the MISSION Act. VA is not pausing the MISSION Act.

The guidance that was sent out didn't accurately characterize what we're doing.

We are facing a public health crisis. Our job is to make sure Veterans are cared for properly and ensure they are not contracting COVID-19.

That's why VA is taking into account whether referrals for community care are clinically appropriate during the COVID-19 outbreak.

VA is taking the following steps in order to ensure the safety of Veterans as they access care:

- VA community care referrals for emergent or urgent clinical needs will continue as necessary.
- Veterans with care currently scheduled in the community should continue with this care as clinically appropriate and if available.
- Referral requests for non-emergent care with community providers will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis for immediate clinical need and with regard to the safety of the Veteran when being seen in-person, regardless of wait time or drive time eligibility.
 - There will be more community care options in areas where it is deemed safe to refer Veterans to such care and where community providers are able to accept referrals

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VA is expanding the Veterans' routine r	nedical needs.	na telephone ses	sions to address if	iany oi

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Sent:	Sat, 4 Apr 2020 22:57:49 +0000
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Importance:	High

at 5:00pm

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From: RLW

Sent: Mon, 13 Apr 2020 17:43:56 +0000

To: RLW

Subject: Private Appt.

From: RLW

Sent: Wed, 22 Apr 2020 12:48:52 +0000

To: RLW

Subject: Weekly Call w/ Takano & Roe
Attachments: EBS Moran COVID 4.23.2020.docx

Members Listening in:

Bost

Bergman

Dunn

Bilirakis

Radewagen



EXECUTIVE BRIEFING SUMMARY

Chairman Moran and Ranking Member Tester Thursday, April 23, 2020 1:00 P.M. Call

Chairman Takano/Ranking Member Roe Thursday, April 23, 2020 5:00 P.M. Call

April 23, 2020 1:00 P.M/5:00P.M.; Calls

OCLA POC: Cathy Haverstock Driver: 4 Corners Request Subject: COVID 19 Response

Participants: Chairman Moran/Sen. Tester **VA:** SECVA, Dr. Stone **Participants:** Chairman Takano/Rep Roe **VA:** SECVA, Dr. Stone

PURPOSE OF EVENT/MEETING:

Decisional		Informational	Pre-Event
Remarks	Χ	Other	Courtesy Call

OVERVIEW OF EVENT:

Two teleconferences with Members to discuss the Department's response to COVID-

CONTINGENCY PLANNING TALKING POINTS:

- VA has contingency plans in place to address the needs of the Veteran enrollee population and to activate our 4th mission should the civilian health care system need assistance. VA has begun modeling the COVID-19 spread in several different cities and states in order to prepare for outbreaks and to reinforce areas such the New York City and New Orleans Metropolitan Area where the civilian health care system is stressed.
- Mitigation strategies include the following actions: postponing non-urgent and routine health care appointments, screening all visitors to VA facilities for symptoms, restricting admissions and visitation, converting acute care beds to intensive care unit beds (ICU) and cross-leveling supplies and workforce across regions. The activated VHA Emergency Management Coordination Cell (EMCC) is the liaison between the national and network levels of the response.
 - VA has begun modeling the COVID-19 spread in several different cities and states in order to prepare for outbreaks and to reinforce markets where the civilian health care system appears stressed.
 - VA continues to monitor the status of supplies and equipment daily.

- The Health Eligibility Center (HEC) remains fully operational and prepared for an increase of workload related to increases in enrollment. Most applications are adjudicated within a few days. When a Veteran presents for care, VA will immediately begin the process of enrollment. If a patient is found not to be eligible for VA healthcare, VA will treat that patient under the humanitarian mission. VHA is already treating civilians in NY, NJ, MI, and IL.
- VA developed an enterprise-wide plan that leverages capacity and optimizes the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) workforce for COVID-19 related surges in care with staff and supplies in Intensive Care Units (ICU), Emergency Departments (ED) and inpatient wards.
- In anticipation of the projected COVID-19 surge patterns, facilities are required
 to take immediate action to repurpose certain staff with acute care capabilities
 to leverage capacity and optimize the workforce to care for our Veterans. Staff
 will be expected to initially assist within their own respective VISNs with the
 potential for enterprise-wide expansion as needed as the COVID-19 pandemic
 requires. Facilities must plan to augment ICU, ED and inpatient hospital staff
 through deployment of direct care personnel as well as those who may assist
 by telehealth modalities.

FOURTH MISSION TALKING POINTS:

- FEMA is the lead federal agency directing the federal response to COVID-19.
 When a State, Tribe, or Territory has determined that the maximum capacity of
 intrastate or interstate resources are exhausted, they may request assistance
 from the federal government through their local HHS Regional Emergency
 Coordinator (REC). VA cannot receive direct requests for assistance from
 state and local governments.
- FEMA can request that VA provide resources to civilian health care systems or that VA hospital care and medical services be provided to non-Veteran patients in VA facilities, dependent upon the availability of resources and funding, and consistent with the VA mission to provide priority services to Veterans.
- · VA currently has 11 Mission assignments
- VA is caring for approximately 90 civilians in our facilities in New Jersey, New York, Michigan, New Mexico, Florida and California.

PROTECTIVE MEASURES TALKING POINTS:

 We have plans in place to protect everyone who gets care, visits or works at one of our facilities. Veterans are being told to call their VA medical center before going to a clinic, urgent care center, or emergency room if they have symptoms of fever, cough, and shortness of breath. VA offers comprehensive COVID-19 screening and treatment services.

- One issue we have noticed is that Veterans, employees and the public are not aware of or are misinterpreting the guidelines for appropriate PPE use. VHA staff have been instructed to adhere to the PPE requirements outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and follow Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions.
- Please note: Not all VA personnel who work in a VA facility will come into contact with a COVID-19 infected patient. There is specific CDC guidance for when to use a facemask, given the demand on the limited and stressed global supply chain. VA will continue to follow CDC guidance and prioritize PPE based on high risk activity.

TESTING TALKING POINTS:

- VA offers comprehensive COVID-19 screening and treatment services. VA
 health care facilities have been testing Veterans who meet the testing criteria
 provided by the CDC. We are taking samples on-site and having external labs
 process our tests. In some locations, VA can perform tests in our own labs.
- VHA has a plan for testing employees. VHA employees who experience an
 unprotected exposure (e.g., no mask, eye protection) to a COVID-19 positive
 Veteran are offered testing for COVID-19. Employees may choose to have
 testing performed at VA or at their personal healthcare provider. Employees
 who develop COVID-19 associated symptoms while at work are offered testing
 as well.
- VA is sourcing machines, reagents and software from a variety of sources.
- VA currently has 8 facilities providing hub-and-spoke testing to multiple facilities and has rapid testing available at approximately 141 medical centers. Turnaround times for the hub-and-spoke systems is currently 48hours.
- Anecdotally, VHA is reporting average test results being received between 2-7 days.
- Test result timeframe is expected to decrease as specimen testing capabilities expand within VA and the community.
- Testing is based on many factors, including the severity of symptoms, other existing illnesses or conditions, possible exposure, and other criteria.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are no longer requiring each COVID-19 test to be confirmed by their lab.

INCREASING CAPACITY TALKING POINTS:

 VA has taken the following steps to conserve resources and reduce non-COVID health care demand in the event surge capabilities are needed:

- With best medical interest of Veterans and risk reduction from COVID-19 paramount, VHA facilities ceased non-urgent elective procedures by Wednesday, March 18, 2020. This action will reduce unnecessary hospitalizations and Intensive Care Unit (ICU) utilization and will free up resources to address COVID-19, if needed. VA is reviewing elective procedures with active clinical review and management to ensure Veterans continue to receive the appropriate, high-quality care.
- VA is taking steps to shift appropriate, routine care to telephone and other virtual modalities (telehealth) and/or postponing appointments based upon results of health screenings and Veteran requests to minimize exposure to COVID-19 at health care sites. Non-essential use of the VA network is being minimized to support increased telehealth capabilities.
- VA will continually assess how these mitigation measures are affecting access to care at local facilities and communities and may update or adjust this guidance in the next 30 days
- VA has expanded bed capacity by approximately 2,000 ICU and Medical/Surgical beds across the system. The number of Med Surge and ICU beds available for the treatment of COVID related patients has increased by 19% (9,735 active to 11,575 active) since February 1st.

SUPPLY CHAIN TALKING POINTS:

• VA is equipped with essential Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and supplies and continues to monitor the status of those items daily. The status of these items changes hourly. VHA is a national healthcare system that is constantly rebalancing our capacity based on need. One issue we have noticed is that Veterans, employees and the public are not aware of or are misinterpreting the guidelines for appropriate PPE use. VHA staff have been instructed to adhere to the PPE requirements outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and follow Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions. VA will continue to follow CDC guidance and prioritize PPE based on high risk activity.

From: RLW

Sent: Sat, 4 Apr 2020 23:33:16 +0000

To: RLW Subject: ERT VACO

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Sent:	Mon, 13 Apr 2020 21:14:54 +0000					
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EOP/OVP(b)(6)	EOP/NSC; (b)(6) EOP/WHO					
Cc:	(b)(6) EOP/WHO;OVP NSA Plans and Ops Calendar; (b)(6)					
S. EOP/OVP; (b)(6)	EOP/OVP					
Subject: [EXTERNAL] White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting						
Attachments: (b)(5)						
(b)(5)						

Importance:	High
All –	
	nite House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting on Tuesday, April 14 th at ary materials attached.
Thank you,	
(b)(6) Operations Coordi	nator, White House Coronavirus Task Force
	at to the Chief of Staff
The Office of the V	
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From: RLW

Sent: Wed, 22 Apr 2020 18:30:12 +0000

To: RLW

Subject:Radio Interview w/Midday News w/ James McKay (Boston radioAttachments:Quad - James MacKay.pptx, COVID-19 Talkers_updated__04-22.docx

Yes. Just got a confirmation for a 10:00 a.m. radio hit with Midday News w/ James McKay (Boston radio). Quad to follow.

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VA COVID-19 Response

- VA is ready for this emergency. We began emergency preparedness exercises weeks before the first coronavirus case was confirmed in the U.S.
- These actions were critical to our ability to meet specialized health care needs of Veterans to this day.
 - As a result of these early actions, VA facilities are equipped with supplies to handle an influx of patients.
- But we have more than supplies we have a strategy for protecting and caring for Veterans.
- We are screening all Veterans who enter our health care facilities for flu-like symptoms to ensure the safety of patients and staff, and we are administering coronavirus tests as needed.
- The decision to test a patient depends on several factors, such as whether the patient has been in close contact with the virus, and whether the patient lives in an area where it is spreading.
- VA's testing capacity meets current demand. For the latest testing and case figures, visit
 VA.gov/coronavirus
 - VA has administered more than 71,240 tests and has more than 3,000 additional tests on hand.
 - 5,393 VA patients have tested positive for COVID-19, and we are continuing to care for these Veterans. 4,090 are at home.
- We are also taking special care of our two most vulnerable patient populations: nursing home residents and spinal-cord injury patients.
 - To prevent the spread of the virus among these groups, VA last week adopted a "no visitor" policy, except for when patients are in the last stages of life in a hospice unit.

What should Veterans do if they believe they may have contracted the coronavirus?

- Any Veteran with symptoms such as fever, cough or shortness of breath should immediately contact their local VA facility. We urge Veterans to call before visiting.
- You can find contact information for your closest VA facility at VA.gov, as well as other options for reaching us, such as through a telehealth connection.
- For family members we are urging all visitors who do not feel well to postpone their visits to VA facilities.

Fourth Mission

- VA is ready to carry out its "Fourth Mission," which is to support the broader national response in a time of crisis, if needed.
- VA stands ready to assist civilian health care systems if they hit their capacity to care for patients, a point we have not reached yet.
- If VA facilities are needed, we will coordinate with the Department of Health and Human Services, which is leading the federal effort.

- We have already deployed some staff to assist HHS, and we are working directly with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other federal partners to monitor the outbreak.
- VA has served as a frontline responder to natural disasters such as the hurricanes that hit Puerto Rico and our southern states, and VA will continue in this role during this crisis.

As of 4/14/20

- <u>Telehealth</u> group therapy conducted more than 2,700 visits in March, a jump of more than 200% from the prior month.
- Mental health care and consultation delivered by phone rose to more than 154,000 appointments in March, up 280% from the 40,000 appointments in February.
- Vet Centers across the nation held more than 47,000 virtual appointments in March, a 200% increase from February. These counseling sessions dealt with mental health issues.

MISSION Act and COVID-19

VA is not stopping the MISSION Act. VA is not pausing the MISSION Act.

The guidance that was sent out didn't accurately characterize what we're doing.

We are facing a public health crisis. Our job is to make sure Veterans are cared for properly and ensure they are not contracting COVID-19.

That's why VA is taking into account whether referrals for community care are clinically appropriate during the COVID-19 outbreak.

VA is taking the following steps in order to ensure the safety of Veterans as they access care:

- VA community care referrals for emergent or urgent clinical needs will continue as necessary.
- Veterans with care currently scheduled in the community should continue with this care as clinically appropriate and if available.
- Referral requests for non-emergent care with community providers will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis for immediate clinical need and with regard to the safety of the Veteran when being seen in-person, regardless of wait time or drive time eligibility.
 - There will be more community care options in areas where it is deemed safe to refer Veterans to such care and where community providers are able to accept referrals

VA is expanding the	e use of telehealth a	nd talanhana sas	sions to address m	any of
VA is expanding the Veterans' routine r	nedical needs.	na telephone ses	sions to address if	iany oi

From: RLW

Sent: Sat, 4 Apr 2020 23:34:58 +0000

To: RLW

Subject: ERT Residence

From: RLW

Sent: Sat, 4 Apr 2020 23:38:25 +0000

To: RLW Subject: RAH

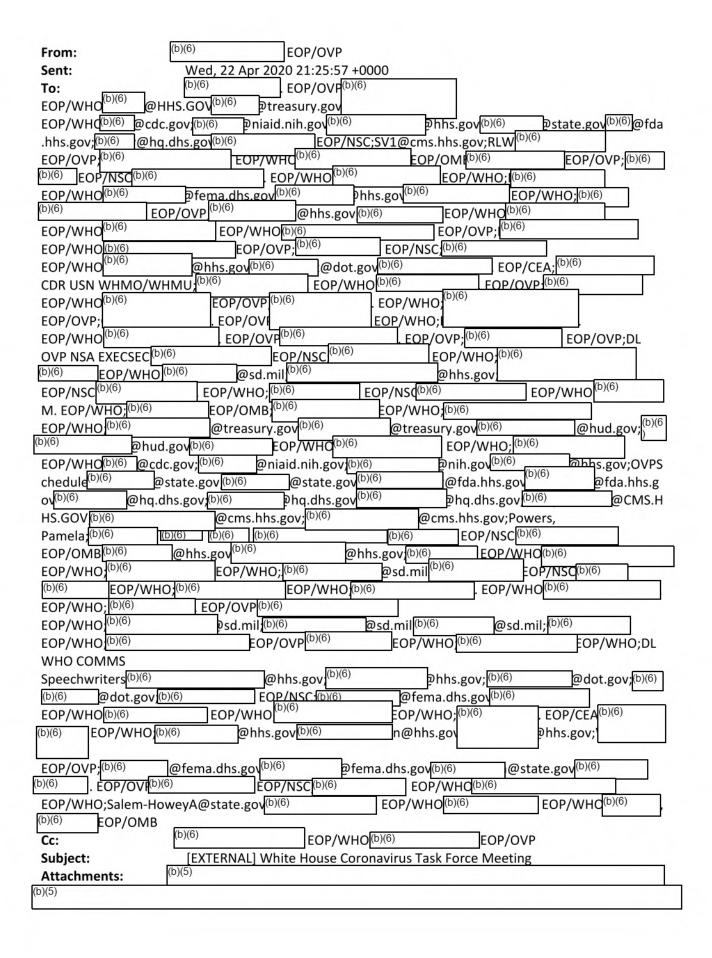
Attachments: Apr 5 2020.docx

DAILY BRIEFING BOOK

Sunday, April 5, 2020

SECRETARY ROBERT L. WILKIE

3:00 – 3:30 pm	ERT VACO (from residence)	
3:30 – 5:00 pm	VHA COVID-19 Update	Rm 1070
5:00 – 6:00 pm	WH Task Force Mtg	IOC SCIF
6:00 - 6:30 pm	ERT	



v1.docx		
Importance:	High	
All –		
There will be a Wh i 3:00pm in the Whi		irus Task Force Meeting on Thursday, April 23rd at Preliminary materials attached.
Enjoy your evening		
(b)(6)		
Operations Coordin	ator, White House (Coronavirus Task Force
	to the Chief of Staff	
The Office of the Vic	ce President	
(b)(6)		

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From: RLW

Sent: Tue, 14 Apr 2020 11:10:14 +0000

To: RLW

Subject: 10:00am Todd Starnes Radio Interview

Attachments: Quad - Todd Starnes - Fox News Radio_updated__.pptx

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From:	(b)(6) EOP/OVP
Sent:	Sun, 5 Apr 2020 21:49:48 +0000
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EOP/OVP (b)(6)	EOP/NSC
Cc:	(b)(6) EOP/OVP;Bauer, Zachary C. EOP/OVP
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting
Attachments:	(b)(5)
(b)(5)	

Importance: High
All –
The next White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting will take place on Monday, April 6 th at
3:00pm in the White House (b)(6) Agenda and seating chart attached. Supplemental materials will be shared shortly.
Thank you,
(b)(6)
Operations Coordinator, White House Coronavirus Task Force
Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff
The Office of the Vice President

(b)(6)

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From: RLW

Sent: Tue, 14 Apr 2020 12:45:58 +0000

To: RLW Subject: RAH

Attachments: Apr 15 2020.docx, VA COVID Supplemental Funding Update _ Talking Points _

_4.14.2020.docx

DAILY BRIEFING BOOK

Wednesday, April 15, 2020

SECRETARY ROBERT L. WILKIE

7:45 – 8:15 am	Daily Sync Meeting 1-877-446-3914 Code: (b)(6)	SECVA Suite	
8:40 – 8:55 am	Phone Interview w/ Joe Piscopo in the Morning, NYC Radio	SECVA Suite	Tab 1
9:07 – 9:15 am	Phone Interview w/ the Bill Spadea Show, NJ Radio (b)(6)	SECVA Suite	Tab 2
9:21 – 9:26 am	Phone Interview w/ South Florida's First News, Miami Radio	SECVA Suite	Tab 3
11:00 – 11:30 am	Prep for WH Task Force Mtg	SECVA Suite	
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Lunch	SECVA Suite	
1:00 – 2:00 pm	Weekly Call w/ VSOs 1-877-446-3914 Code:(b)(6)	SECVA Suite	Tab 4
HOLD:	White House Task Force Call	IOC SCIF	
3:30 – 5:00 pm	VHA's Daily COVID19 Update Call	Rm 1070	
5:00 – 5:30 pm	Phone Call w/ Chairwoman Wasserman Schultz ** She will call us on x ^{(b)(6)}	SECVA Suite	Tab 4

Supplemental Funding Update April 16, 2020

VA has received Supplemental Funding in two parts:

- March 18 Received \$60 million to cover lost revenue from prohibition on charging a copay for COVID-19 testing or visits associated with testing. P.L. 116-127: Families First Coronavirus Response Act.
- March 27 Received \$19.6 billion for VA in CARES legislation. P.L. 116-136: Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

CARES Breakout - Medical Care and Information Technology are the major recipients

- Medical Care \$17.2B
- OIT \$2.1B
- Balance is misc (Gen Admin, VBA, State Home Grants, OIG)

Medical Care Distribution

- Initial distribution to the Veteran Integrated Service Networks (VISNs) of \$5.3 billion
- This allocation was based on a couple of factors:
 - Historical workload using the same methodology we used to allocate funds for Fiscal Year 2020 (Veterans Equitable Resource Allocation (VERA) Model; and,
 - Based on the number of Medical/Surgical (Med/Surg) and Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds at each location and the estimated cost to cover 90 days of inpatient Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19) care at each location.
- Initial allocation ensured all facilities had adequate resources to operate; we have the flexibility to adjust as necessary and target facilities experiencing higher workload/costs and are monitoring that daily

How Much VA has Spent

As of Apr 9 we obligated \$768M and will surpass \$1B this week (week of Apr 13)

What VA is Buying

Medical Costs

- Contracts to support national purchases of PPE and equipment (e.g., ventilators) as well as costs associated with level-setting Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and equipment throughout the country
- Travel, housing, and other support for employees deploying to other medical centers
- Salary costs incurred to hire and retain staff to support the pandemic
- Medical facility costs mostly related to reconfiguring space to open additional beds and creating negative pressure rooms
- Costs associated with Community Care to cover increased demand in the community by Veterans for both COVID-19 related and non-COVID related medical care
- Grants for Construction for State Extended Care Facilities is pending as there may need to be a technical update to allow for grant requests outside the normal grant process.

Homeless Veterans

Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program: \$202 million has been allocated to
provide emergency housing and homelessness prevention assistance to mitigate the
expected wave of evictions and potential homelessness that will result from extensive

unemployment. Funds for this program will also assist the Housing and Urban Development -VA Supportive Housing program in placing Veterans in safe housing to isolate them from the virus.

- Grant and Per Diem Program: Grants from the GPD program usually consist of a capped
 per diem payment from VA to community organizations to provide transitional housing and
 supportive services to Veterans. The CARES Act allocates \$88 million to this program and
 allows VA to waive per diem limits during the crisis to empower GPD grantees to provide all
 needed emergency housing and supportive services, including emergency placement in
 hotels for Veterans who need to be isolated for their safety or the safety of others.
- Health Care for Homeless Veterans Programs: \$10 million has been allocated to provide emergency shelter and supportive services during the crisis, including placement in hotel rooms for Veterans needing emergency placement or isolation to avoid spreading the virus. Housing will be paired with care, treatment, and rehabilitative services.

OIT

- Doubled network bandwidth across all gateways to support both telework and telehealth
- Purchased 250,000 laptops to support telehealth and telework operations.
- The first 600 laptops shipped last week with 2,000 more this week
- Immediately enabling 15 additional high-priority sites for tele-ICU by mid-April

VISN Breakout

Network	VERA	Med/Surg Beds	ICU Beds	Distribution Total
01 Boston	\$44,640,507	\$101,474,100	\$45,524,700	\$192,000,000
02 Albany	\$55,197,944	\$183,964,950	\$80,543,700	\$320,000,000
04 Pittsburgh	\$42,511,567	\$105,615,900	\$80,543,700	\$229,000,000
05 Baltimore	\$34,094,052	\$112,864,050	\$81,711,000	\$229,000,000
06 Durham	\$59,142,502	\$151,866,000	\$61,866,900	\$273,000,000
07 Atlanta	\$63,382,064	\$155,317,500	\$81,711,000	\$300,000,000
08 Bay Pines	\$89,171,317	\$330,653,700	\$119,064,600	\$539,000,000
09 Nashville	\$41,787,496	\$154,282,050	\$81,711,000	\$278,000,000
10 Cincinnati	\$76,745,657	\$249,888,600	\$118,480,950	\$445,000,000
12 Chicago	\$47,255,884	\$182,929,500	\$76,458,150	\$307,000,000
15 Kansas City	\$36,520,310	\$117,696,150	\$56,030,400	\$210,000,000
16 Jackson	\$65,033,105	\$172,229,850	\$96,885,900	\$334,000,000
17 Dallas	\$61,055,407	\$152,556,300	\$53,112,150	\$267,000,000
19 Denver	\$43,922,422	\$118,041,300	\$63,034,200	\$225,000,000
20 Portland	\$45,088,321	\$89,739,000	\$30,933,450	\$166,000,000
21 San Francisco	\$63,122,798	\$135,643,950	\$65,952,450	\$265,000,000
22 Long Beach	\$85,306,738	\$268,871,850	\$127,819,350	\$482,000,000
23 Minneapolis	\$46,021,910	\$167,052,600	\$57,197,700	\$270,000,000
VHA Totals	\$1,000,000,000	\$2,950,687,350	\$1,378,581,300	\$5,331,000,000

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From: RLW

Sent: Thu, 23 Apr 2020 11:02:48 +0000

To: RLW Subject: ADT

From: RLW

Sent: Tue, 14 Apr 2020 14:47:33 +0000

To: RLW

Subject: 9:21am Phone Interview w/ Jimmy Cefalo, South Florida's First News, Miami

Radio

Attachments: Quad - South Florida's First News.pptx

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From: RLW

Sent: Mon, 6 Apr 2020 13:42:25 +0000

To: RLW Subject: RAH

Attachments: Apr 7 2020.docx, COVID-19 Talkers_updated__04-06_206pm.docx, Talking

Points 4.7.20.docx

DAILY BRIEFING BOOK

Tuesday, April 7, 2020

SECRETARY ROBERT L. WILKIE

7:45 – 8:15 am	Daily Sync Meeting	SECVA Suite	
9:00 – 10:00 am	Meet w/Under Secretaries ** 1-877-446-3914 ** Moderator code: (b)(6)	SECVA Suite	
11:00 – 11:30 am	Prep for WH Task Force Mtg ** 1-800-767-1750 / code (b)(6) #	SECVA Suite	
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Lunch	SECVA Suite	
1:07 – 1:22 pm	Phone Interview w/The Schilling Show, Charlottesville, VA **(b)(6)	SECVA Suite	Tab 1
1:25 – 1:40 pm	Phone Interview w/ The Annie Frey Show **(b)(6)	SECVA Suite	Tab 2
1:40 – 1:55 pm	Phone Interview w/Andrew Wilkow, Sirius XM's The Wilkow Majority ** (b)(6)	SECVA Suite	Tab 3
3:00 – 4:00 pm	WH Task Force Mtg	IOC SCIF	
3:30 – 5:00 pm	VHA Daily COVID19 Update	Rm 1070	
5:00 – 5:30 pm	Interview w/Lou Dobbs	Broadcast Center	Tab 4

VA COVID-19 Response

- VA is ready for this emergency. We began emergency preparedness exercises weeks before the first coronavirus case was confirmed in the U.S.
- These actions were critical to our ability to meet specialized health care needs of Veterans to this day.
 - As a result of these early actions, VA facilities are equipped with supplies to handle an influx of patients.
- But we have more than supplies we have a strategy for protecting and caring for Veterans.
- We are screening all Veterans who enter our health care facilities for flu-like symptoms to ensure the safety of patients and staff, and we are administering coronavirus tests as needed.
- The decision to test a patient depends on several factors, such as whether the patient has been in close contact with the virus, and whether the patient lives in an area where it is spreading.
- VA's testing capacity meets current demand. For the latest testing and case figures, visit
 VA.gov/coronavirus
 - VA has administered more than 24,700 tests and has more than 3,000 additional tests on hand.
 - 2,699 VA patients have tested positive for COVID-19, and we are continuing to care for these Veterans. 1,952 are at home.
- We are also taking special care of our two most vulnerable patient populations: nursing home residents and spinal-cord injury patients.
 - To prevent the spread of the virus among these groups, VA last week adopted a "no visitor" policy, except for when patients are in the last stages of life in a hospice unit.

What should Veterans do if they believe they may have contracted the coronavirus?

- Any Veteran with symptoms such as fever, cough or shortness of breath should immediately contact their local VA facility. We urge Veterans to call before visiting.
- You can find contact information for your closest VA facility at VA.gov, as well as other
 options for reaching us, such as through a telehealth connection.
- For family members we are urging all visitors who do not feel well to postpone their visits to VA facilities.

Fourth Mission

- VA is ready to carry out its "Fourth Mission," which is to support the broader national response in a time of crisis, if needed.
- VA stands ready to assist civilian health care systems if they hit their capacity to care for patients, a point we have not reached yet.
- If VA facilities are needed, we will coordinate with the Department of Health and Human Services, which is leading the federal effort.

- We have already deployed some staff to assist HHS, and we are working directly with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other federal partners to monitor the outbreak.
- VA has served as a frontline responder to natural disasters such as the hurricanes that hit Puerto Rico and our southern states, and VA will continue in this role during this crisis.

MISSION Act and COVID-19

VA is not stopping the MISSION Act. VA is not pausing the MISSION Act.

The guidance that was sent out didn't accurately characterize what we're doing.

We are facing a public health crisis. Our job is to make sure Veterans are cared for properly and ensure they are not contracting COVID-19.

That's why VA is taking into account whether referrals for community care are clinically appropriate during the COVID-19 outbreak.

VA is taking the following steps in order to ensure the safety of Veterans as they access care:

- VA community care referrals for emergent or urgent clinical needs will continue as necessary.
- Veterans with care currently scheduled in the community should continue with this care as clinically appropriate and if available.
- Referral requests for non-emergent care with community providers will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis for immediate clinical need and with regard to the safety of the Veteran when being seen in-person, regardless of wait time or drive time eligibility.
 - There will be more community care options in areas where it is deemed safe to refer Veterans to such care and where community providers are able to accept referrals
- VA is expanding the use of telehealth and telephone sessions to address many of Veterans' routine medical needs.

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Withheld pursuant to exemption

Refer to Another Agency/Component

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From: RLW

Sent: Thu, 23 Apr 2020 11:09:15 +0000

To: RLW Subject: RAH

Attachments: Apr 24 2020.docx, 20200424_COVID update_Priority markets_vS.pdf

DAILY BRIEFING BOOK

Friday, April 24, 2020

SECRETARY ROBERT L. WILKIE

9:00 am	ADT arrives	
TBD	WH Task Force Meeting	
3:30 – 5:00 pm	VHA COVID19 Update 1-844-376-0278 Code: ^{(b)(6)} #	

COVID-19 update – Key markets

April 24, 2020

CONFIDENTIAL AND PROPRIETARY. Any use of this material without specific permission of the owner is strictly prohibited. The information included in this report will not contain, nor are they for the purpose of constituting, policy advice. We emphasize that statements of expectation, forecasts and projections relate to future events and are based on assumptions that may not remain valid for the whole of the relevant period. Consequently, they cannot be relied upon, and we express no opinion as to how closely the actual results achieved will correspond to any statements of expectation, forecasts or projections. We make no representation or warranty of any kind, express or implied, regarding the accuracy, adequacy, validity, reliability, availability or completeness of any information in these materials. Under no circumstance shall we have any liability to you for any loss or damage of any kind incurred as a result of the use of these materials or reliance on any information provided in these materials.



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From: RLW

Sent: Tue, 14 Apr 2020 16:38:44 +0000

To: RLW

Subject: 9:07am Phone Interview w/ The Bill Spadea Show (NJ Radio)

Attachments: Quad - The Bill Spadea Show.pptx

Tomorrow at 9:07 – 9:12 a.m., or 9:10 – 9:15 a.m. Quad to follow. Will alert when timing is final.

Page 2 of 2

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From: RLW

Sent: Mon, 6 Apr 2020 14:33:04 +0000

To: RLW

Subject: 1:25pm Phone Interview w/ The Annie Frey Show, St. Louis

Attachments: Quad - Annie Frey.pptx

	- 1

Page 2 of 2

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From: RLW

Sent: Tue, 14 Apr 2020 18:27:02 +0000

To: RLW

Subject: VA/SVAC Team Call Follow Up

Phone: 202-228-0808

Conference ID: (b)(6)

From: RLW

Sent: Thu, 23 Apr 2020 22:40:30 +0000

To: RLW

Subject: Phone Call w/ Michael Roman, 3M

Attachments: SECVA Call to CEO of 3M (04272020).docx

TALKING POINTS FOR SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

TELEPHONE CALL WITH THE CEO OF 3M COMPANY April 27, 2020, 2:00 – 2:30 p.m.

- 3M CEO is Mike Roman
- As the COVID-19 cases continue to rise, the medical supplies needed to assure quality healthcare are becoming scarce.
- The market has become so competitive that the vendors are demanding advanced payment for the available items and selling to the first buyer that provides advanced payment.
- The Department's requirements for 3M masks has increased over 6,479% in our efforts to combat COVID-19.

	PRE-COVID	COVID
DAY	1,700	111,000
WEEK	11,900	777,000
MONTH	51,000	3,300,000
% INCREASE		6,470%

- 3M is an active partner/supplier of medical supplies for the Department.
- We have strong relationships at executive and mid-levels with both organizations and appreciate 3M's support to our Nations Veterans.
- We understand that FEMA/White House has levied three Defense Production Act rated contract agreements for 3M, shifting all their production to support the National Emergency, which has greatly impacted the Department's existing supply chain agreements.
- 3M is working with the Department to create a current contract to supply 30M N95
 masks over the next six-months. We would also request consideration towards a
 contract for Level 2 isolation gowns.
- The Department and 3M need to continue building a plan for both current wave of COVID-19, but also an agreement and business processes for the second wave of COVID-19 for the fall/winter flu season.
- Thank you again for your efforts to combat COVID-19 and for supporting our Nation's Veterans.

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From: RLW

Sent: Mon, 6 Apr 2020 14:37:30 +0000

To: RLW

Subject: 1:40pm Phone Interview w/ Andrew Wilkow, The Wilkow Majority, Serius XM

Attachments: Quad - Andrew Wilkow.pptx

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project_FINAL_20200414 (002).c	docx
Importance: High	
Good afternoon,	
	oronavirus Task Force Meeting on Wednesday, April 15 th at
3:00pm in the White House (b)(6)	. Materials attached.
Thank you,	
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Operations Coordinator, White	House Coronavirus Task Force
Executive Assistant to the Chie	f of Staff
The Office of the Vice President	
(b)(6)	

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From: RLW

Sent: Fri, 24 Apr 2020 14:36:58 +0000

To: RLW Subject: RAH

Attachments: Apr 27 2020.docx

DAILY BRIEFING BOOK

Monday, April 27, 2020

SECRETARY ROBERT L. WILKIE

7:45 – 8:15 am	Daily Sync Meeting 1-877-446-3914 Code: (b)(6)	SECVA Suite	
10:00 – 10:30 am	re: secure phone	SECVA Suite	
11:00 – 11:30 am	Prep for WH Task Force Mtg 1-877-446-3914 Code: (b)(6)	SECVA Suite	
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Lunch	SECVA Suite	
2:30 – 3:00 pm	Phone Call w/ Michael Roman, 3M ** SECVA calls (b)(6) ** A/DEPSEC & Karen Brazell to sit in	SECVA Suite	Tab 1
TBD	WH Task Force Meeting	SECVA Suite	
3:30 – 5:00 pm	VHA COVID19 Update	Rm 1070	

From: RLW

Sent: Mon, 6 Apr 2020 14:39:59 +0000

To: RLW

Subject: 1:07pm Phone Interview w/The Schilling Show, Charlottsville, VA - call in # (434)

977-1070

Attachments: Quad - The Schilling Show.pptx

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From: RLW

Sent: Fri, 24 Apr 2020 15:13:01 +0000

To: RLW Subject: RAH

Attachments: Apr 28 2020.docx

DAILY BRIEFING BOOK

Tuesday, April 28, 2020

SECRETARY ROBERT L. WILKIE

7:45 – 8:15 am	Daily Sync Meeting 1-877-446-3914 Code: (b)(6)	SECVA Suite	
9:00 – 10:30 am	Bi-Weekly w/ US & AS 1-877-446-3914 Code: (b)(6)	SECVA Suite	Tab 1
11:00 – 11:30 am	Prep for WH Task Force Mtg 1-877-446-3914 Code: (b)(6)	SECVA Suite	
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Lunch	SECVA Suite	
1:00 – 2:00 pm	Weekly Call w/ Takano & Roe 1-877-446-3914 Code: (b)(6)	SECVA Suite	Tab 2
2:15 – 2:30 pm	Phone Interview w/ JJ Green, WTOP ** He will call us @ x ^{(b)(6)}	SECVA Suite	Tab 3
3:30 – 5:00 pm	VHA COVID19 Update	Rm 1070	
5:30 – 5:45 pm	ERT Fox Studio, 400 North Capitol St, 3 rd Floor ** arrive by 5:45pm		
6:00 – 6:30 pm	Fox Business Interview w/ Liz MacDonald		Tab 4
6:30 pm	ERT Residence		

From: RLW

Sent: Mon, 6 Apr 2020 16:32:24 +0000

To: RLW

Subject: Weekly Phone Call w/ Moran & Tester

Attachments: Untitled, Untitled, Untitled

The participants will hear music until the Moderator joins. Please share the features listed below with customer.

*o Operator assistance

Mute/Un-

Mute

*6 Mute or Un-Mute your line

*96 Mute all participant lines

 Sent:
 Fri, 21 Aug 2020 12:57:48 +0000

 Attachments:
 EBS COVID 051320 SVAC.docx

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 Sent:
 Fri, 21 Aug 2020 12:57:48 +0000

 Attachments:
 EBS COVID 052020 SVAC.docx

The participants will hear music until the Moderator joins. Please share the features listed below with customer.

*o Operator assistance

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*6 Mute or Un-Mute your line

*96 Mute all participant lines

The participants will hear music until the Moderator joins. Please share the features listed below with customer.

*o Operator assistance

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The participants will hear music until the Moderator joins. Please share the features listed below with customer.

*o Operator assistance

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*96 Mute all participant lines

The participants will hear music until the Moderator joins. Please share the features listed below with customer.

*o Operator assistance

Mute/Un-Mute

*6 Mute or Un-Mute your line

*96 Mute all participant lines

From: RLW

Sent: Wed, 15 Apr 2020 16:19:27 +0000

To: RLW

Subject: 8:30am Phone Interview - The Kuhner Report (Boston Radio)

Attachments: Quad - The Kuhner Report.pptx

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From: RLW

Sent: Fri, 24 Apr 2020 16:39:22 +0000

To: RLW

Subject: (b)(6) re: Secure Line

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EOP/WHO(b)(6)	@treasury.gov(b)(6)	@treasury.gov ^{(b)(6)}	@hud.gov ^{(b)(6)}
(b)(6) @hud.gov(t	EOP/WHO(b)(0)(0)
EOP/WHO (b)(6) @cdc.gov	(b)(6) @niaid.nih.gov(t	0)(6) @nih.gov(b)(6)	@hhs.gov;OVPS
	.gov;(b)(6) @state.go		
ov ^{(b)(6)} @hq.dhs.go	:@hq.dhs.go		
HS.GOV ^{(b)(6)} Pamela ^{(b)(6)} D)(6)	@cms.hhs.gov (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)	@cms.hhs.gov;P	
Pamela(b)(6) b)(6) EOP/OMB(b)(6) @hl	(1-)(0)		VHC(b)(6)
EOP/WHO, (b)(6)	EOP/WHO(b)(6)	sd.mil ^{(b)(6)}	EOP/NSC(b)(6)
(b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6)	EOP/WHO	(b)(6) FOP/	NHQ(p)(e)
EOP/WHO; (b)(6)	EOP/WHO(b)(6)	EOP/OVI ^{(b)(6)}	Wilder
FOP/WHO(b)(6)	@sd mil:(b)(6)		d.mil(b)(6)
EOP/WHO	. EOP/OVP (b)(6)	EOP/WHO ^{(b)(6)}	EOP/WHO;DL
WHO COMMS	,		
Speechwriters (b)(6)	@hhs.gov;(b)(6)	@hhs.gov ^{(b)(6)}	pdot.gov(b)(6)
(b)(6) @dot.gov(b)(6)	EOP/NSC (b)(6)	@fema.dhs.gov(b)(6	
EOP/WHO (b)(6)	EOP/WHO;(b)(6)	EOP/WHO(b)(6)	EOP/CEA;(b)(6)
(b)(6) EOP/WHO;(b)(6)	@hhs.gov ^{(b)(6)}	@hhs.gov; ^{(b)(6)}	@hhs.gov;V
(b)(6) EOP/OVP;(b)(6)	@fema.dhs.gov(b)(6)	@fema.dhs.gov;(b)(6)	
EOP/OVP(b)(6)	EOP/NSC		
Cc: (b)(6	OP/OVP	(b)(6) S. EOP/OVP	
		oronavirus Task Force Meet	ing
Attachments: (b)(5)		
(b)(5)			

Importance:	High	
All –		
There will be a Wh in the White House		ronavirus Task Force Meeting on Tuesday, April 7 th at 3:00pm Preliminary materials attached.
Sincerely,		
(b)(6)		
Operations Coordi	nator, White H	ouse Coronavirus Task Force
Executive Assistan	t to the Chief o	of Staff
The Office of the Vi	ice President	
(b)(6)		

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