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(b)(6) @usda.gov (b)(6) @usda.gov>, (b)(6) EOP/OVP
(b)(6) @ovp.eop.gov> (b)(6) EOP/OVP (b)(6) @ovp.eop.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting

All -

There will be a **White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting at 5:30pm** today in the White House (b)(6) All materials for this meeting will be forthcoming.

Thank you,

(b)(6) (b)(6)

Operations Coordinator, White House Coronavirus Task Force
Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff
The Office of the Vice President

(b)(6)

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 16 Jun 2020 14:01:29 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Phone call w/Philips CEO Vitor Rocha
Attachments: Bio VITOR ROCHA 9.16.2019.docx, SECVA Tele Critical Care Update on National Award ROCHA FINAL 9.19.20.pdf, BIO Naylor 6.20.docx, C Storm_Bio_PCA.pdf

Others on the line:
Vitor Rocha, Chief Market Leader, North America

(b)(6) Business Category Leader Patient Care Analytics, Connected Care

Nathan Naylor, Director VA Solutions Development, Govt., Gov't Bus Development & Sales

Hi (b)(6) – Glad to schedule this. So sorry for the delay.

Would Monday, June 22 at 1:00pm work for you all?

Thank you,
(b)(6)

From: Naylor, Nathan (b)(6) @philips.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 7:07 AM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @va.gov>
Cc: Scher, Deborah L. (b)(6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (b)(6) @va.gov> (b)(6) (b)(6) @va.gov>; Galpin, Kevin MD (b)(6) @va.gov>; (b)(6) (b)(6) @philips.com> (b)(6) @philips.com>; (b)(6) (b)(6) L. (b)(6) @va.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: REQUEST: :10 Min Leader-to-Leader Call on the Award of the Tele-ICU National Expansion Contract to Philips North America

Hi (b)(6)

Hope you and the 10th Floor family are well. I'm checking back in to see if Mr. Rocha and the Secretary could connect this week for a brief call on his personal commitment as CEO of Philips North America to the successful continuation of the Tele-ICU National Expansion awarded June 1st.

Vitor hopes to assure the Secretary this will have the full attention and priority of all of us on the team.

Best regards,

Nathan

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Nathan Naylor
Vice President for Veterans Healthcare
Philips North America
Mobile: (b)(6)



From: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @va.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 1, 2020 10:17 AM
To: Naylor, Nathan (b)(6) @philips.com>
Cc: Scher, Deborah L. (b)(6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (b)(6) @va.gov> (b)(6) (b)(6) @va.gov>; Galpin, Kevin MD (b)(6) @va.gov>; (b)(6) (b)(6) @philips.com>; (b)(6) @philips.com>; (b)(6) (b)(6) L. (b)(6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: REQUEST: :10 Min Leader-to-Leader Call on the Award of the Tele-ICU National Expansion Contract to Philips North America

Thank you, Nathan. We'll get this scheduled ASAP. We have a lot going on today – so call likely will not happen today. Back to all ASAP. Thank you.

(b)(6)

From: Naylor, Nathan (b)(6) @philips.com>
Sent: Monday, June 1, 2020 10:09 AM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @va.gov>
Cc: Scher, Deborah L. (b)(6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (b)(6) @va.gov> (b)(6) (b)(6) @va.gov>; Galpin, Kevin MD (b)(6) @va.gov> (b)(6) (b)(6) @philips.com> (b)(6) @philips.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] REQUEST: :10 Min Leader-to-Leader Call on the Award of the Tele-ICU National Expansion Contract to Philips North America

Good Morning (b)(6)

Vitor Rocha, CEO of Philips North America, asks if Secretary Wilkie would be available for a brief :10 minute call today or early this week. Mr. Rocha would like to thank the Secretary for the honor of Philips North America being selected as the awardee of the Tele-ICU National Expansion Contract and personally convey his determination to ensure our partnership meets and exceeds the needs of your intensivists and Connected Care leaders. Vitor and the entire Philips eICU team know that your ICUs are

on the front lines during the COVID19 Pandemic and recognize our selection as your partner carries with it historic responsibility to preform and transform.

(b)(6) is Vitor's Executive Assistant and her contact information is below, along with mine. Either one of us would be glad to work with you to facilitate this call.

Thanks again (b)(6)

Very Respectfully,

Nathan

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(b)(6)

Executive Assistant to Vitor Rocha, Philips North America
Philips, 22100 Bothell Everett Highway, Bothell, WA 98021
Tel: +1 (b)(6) Cell: (b)(6) Email: (b)(6)@philips.com

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Nathan Naylor

Vice President for Veterans Healthcare

Philips North America

Mobile: (b)(6)



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PHILIPS

Executive biography



Vitor Rocha

Chief Market Leader, Philips North America
Member of the Executive Committee, Royal Philips

Vitor Rocha is Chief Market Leader of Philips North America and a member of the Executive Committee of Royal Philips. He is responsible for driving growth, expanding market share, and advancing Philips as a leader in health technology across the company's largest market.

With healthcare rapidly evolving and with the growing need for innovative business models and solutions, Vitor leads an organization of about 21,000 employees, generating more than \$6 billion in revenue.

Vitor was appointed to his current position in January 2018, having formerly led the Philips Ultrasound Business Group since 2014. In that role, he expanded the impact of Ultrasound to new users in the Point of Care segment and new applications while accelerating growth in Services. He also strengthened core Ultrasound businesses in Cardiology and General Imaging, including acquisitions such as TOMTEC and several partnerships.

Prior to leading the Ultrasound BG, Vitor led the Health Systems market for Philips in Latin America, where he drove double-digit growth and market share gains and integrated several local acquisitions. He formerly held leadership positions at GE.

Vitor is a board member of the Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed) which leads global efforts to achieve healthier lives and economies through advanced medical technology. He also is active in the Health Management Academy comprised of senior executives from large U.S. health systems focused on increasing the quality and efficiency of healthcare across the nation.

He holds an MBA from Penn State University and a degree in mechanical engineering at the Pontifícia Universidade Católica, Brazil.

In addition to his work, Vitor enjoys family time with his wife and three daughters and outdoor activities including biking, swimming and skiing.

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/vitor-rocha-98582124>



Leader to Leader Commitment Call

Tele Critical Care Remote Monitoring (Tele-ICU) National Contract Award

Vitor Rocha, Chief Executive

Philips North America

June 22, 2020



To the Honorable Robert Wilkie, Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Mr. Secretary,

I look forward to conveying to you Philips' commitment on the continued success of our Tele-ICU partnership personally this coming Monday. My team and I are grateful and humbled at this opportunity to improve clinical outcomes and save lives of our most critically wounded, ill, and injured patients. We know this mission is essential to protect the lives of Veterans and providers. As the leader of Philips North America I pledge to you the full resources at my disposal in meeting your vision to provide the right care to Veterans where and when it is needed.

- Vitor Rocha

VA awarded Philips the National Expansion Contract for Tele Critical Care in June. Philips is leaning forward to meet this mission.

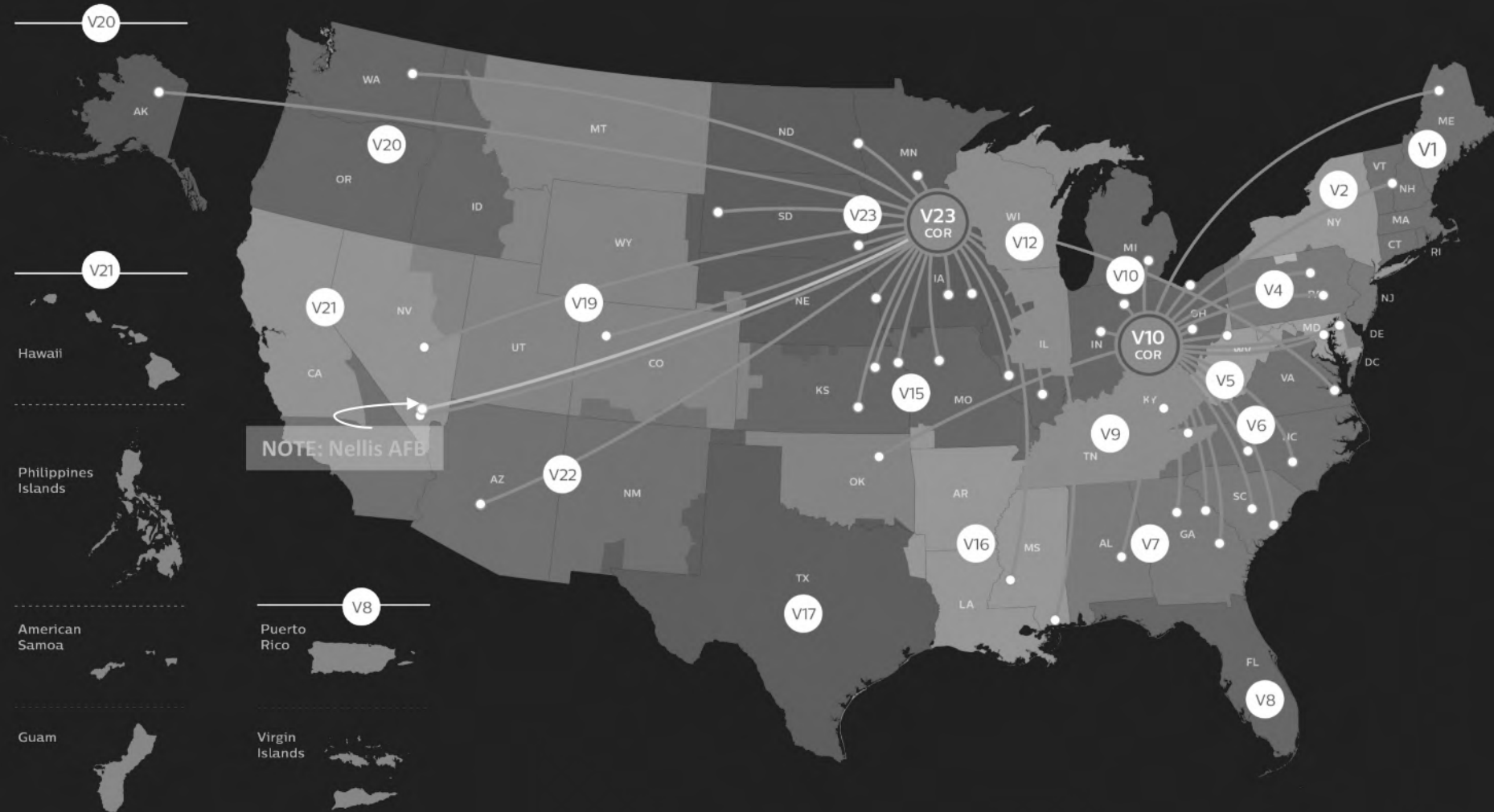


The VA Tele Critical Care Program is a transformational critical care telehealth program combining A/V technology, predictive analytics, data visualization and advanced reporting capabilities.

- We have seen across our public and private sector partner base that our TICU solution is a critical asset for institutional response to COVID19
- TICU empowers VA clinicians to deliver care to patients in the most need at the moments that matter most (23% Reduction in Mortality from peer reviewed research at South Florida Baptist Hospital Network)
- Designed as a supplement and safeguard – not a replacement – for the bedside critical care team
- Leveraging increasingly scarce clinical resources while reducing mortality, length of stay and cost of care – for all critically ill patients
- Common Public/Private Infrastructure – The Philips T-ICU solution is the dominant platform for all remote ICU telehealth monitoring in US Hospitals



VA's existing Tele Critical Care Program prior to COVID19



VISN 23

- Stood up August 2011
- Licensed for 256 beds across 5 VISNs
- Added 26 additional beds in 2017
- Client VISNs include: 23*, 20, 19, 16 and 15
- Nellis AFB 1st DOD facility monitored by VA

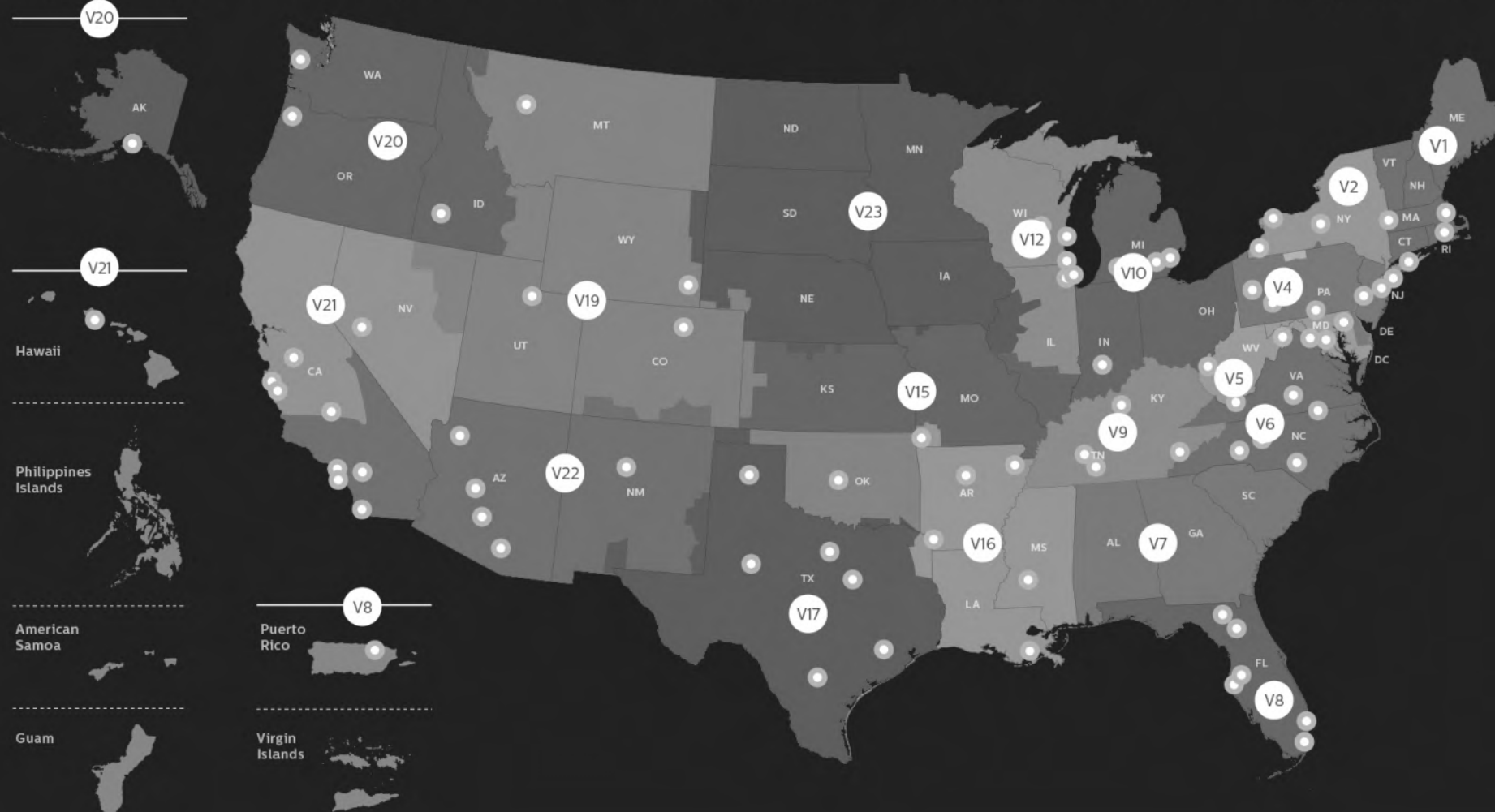
VISN 10

- Stood up January 2012
- Licensed for 330 beds across 7 VISNs
- Added 110 additional beds in 2017
- Client VISNs include: 19, 10*, 9, 7, 5, 4, 1



VAMCs now able to join VA's Tele Critical Care Program

Early this year at the onset of the COVID19 Pandemic, VA and Philips worked together to quickly to expand the availability of Tele Critical Care services to VAMCs not enrolled in the program



VHA Tele-ICU Fleet

VISNs fully covered

3

VISNs partially covered

9

VISNs not covered

6

VISNs with T-ICU carts

18

VAMCs covered

52

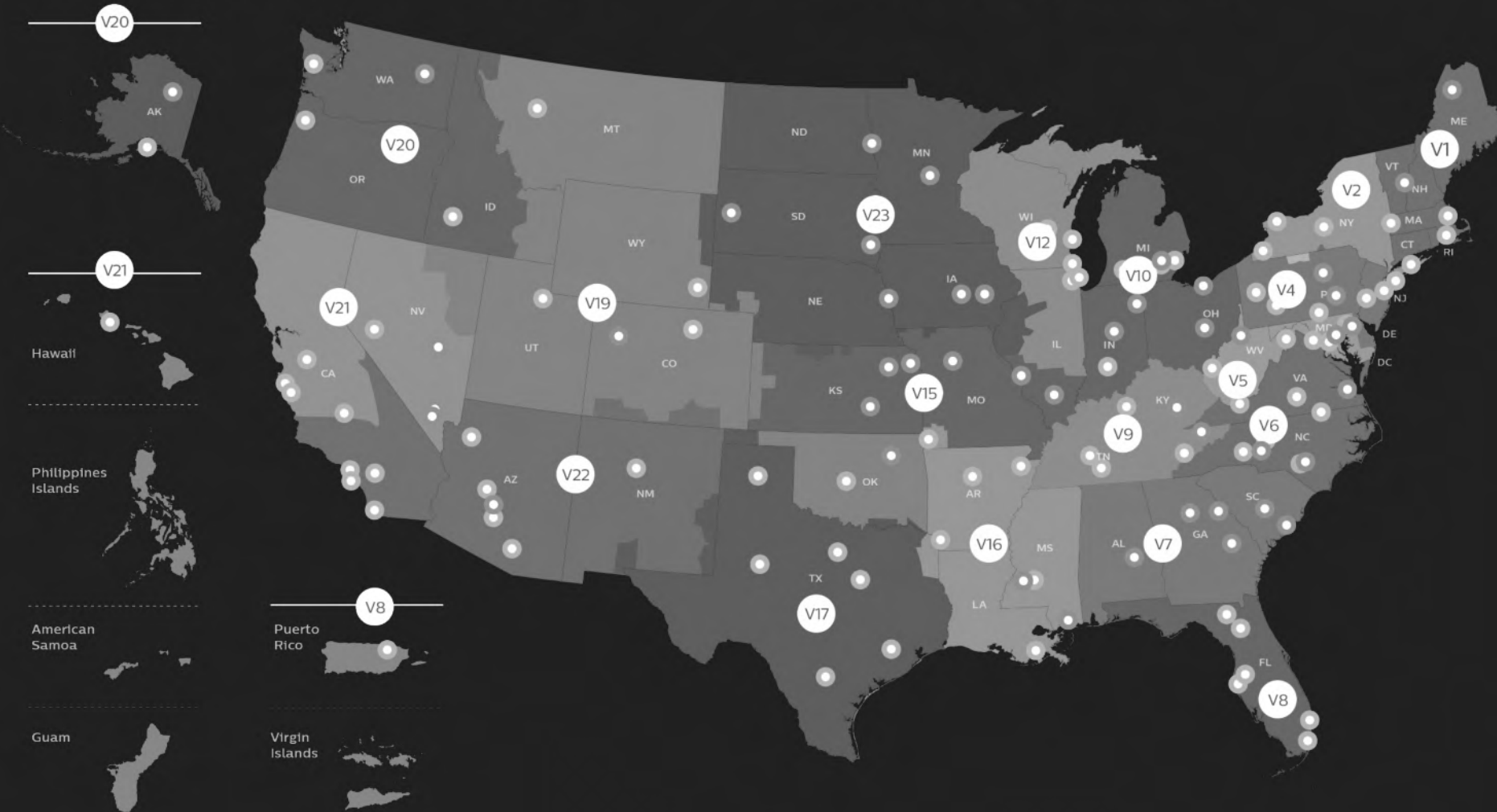
(appx 1/3)

VAMCs not covered

118

(appx 2/3)

Once fully fielded, VA's Tele Critical Care Program will be a nationwide critical care infrastructure, supporting both VA's operations and enhancing VA's preparation for future 4th Mission assignments



National Infrastructure

Insuring access to specialist care across majority of the VHA Enterprise

Leveraging Predictive Analytics and AI to prevent deteriorating conditions

Projecting surplus clinical capacity to geographies with shortages

Strengthening VA's 4th Mission capabilities through an All-Hazards design and approach

Create a common platform interoperable with the vast majoring of US Private Health Networks and DOD

Building this national infrastructure will depend on effective communications and adoption of VISN & VAMC Administrative Leadership and VHA Critical Care teams



Create an informed & realistic plan – build a team with clear roles, responsibilities and accountability

Craft a compelling story that articulates the need that builds support and commitment

Demonstrate leadership is engaged, committed and accountable –share progress and communicate often

Build advocates who can influence positive change – created shared ownership & create demand

Drive organizational standards and install mechanisms to support & manage exceptions

Deliver quick wins, build momentum and manage to scale

Assess & plan

- Infrastructure – current and needed for success
- Willingness to participate (culture)
- Full picture of site readiness
- Baseline plan for roll-out (sites, hubs and consolidated data center for all hubs)

Create story

- A model to better support our patients
- A solution that leverages scarce resources across our network
- Part of our efforts to innovate for the future
- Realistic and achievable plan

Lead from the front

- Leaders are empowered
- Decision makers are accountable
- Shared commitment and unified message
- Partners are included in single effort to drive change (one team)
- Visible & transparent

Build on early success

- Recognize achievements VISN 10 & 23 serve as champions
- Build advocacy across organization
- Drive culture of empowerment and shared ownership

Develop standards

- Leverage best practices and lessons learned in VISN 10/23
- Develop standards and align with expansion plan
- Develop COE to answer questions and address requests
- Minimize customization

Secure quick-wins

- Start where there is support & readiness
- Promote progress
- Success creates additional advocates and momentum



Now that VA has committed to TICU as a national critical care telehealth platform the Department can explore the **art of the possible...**

Building a learning health system within VA Telehealth



VA National Telehealth Platform



Philips Clinical Analytics Interoperability Platform



Lateral expansion of VA telehealth CORs

Potential Expansion of VA's Tele Critical Care in to convergent operations with DoD to support the broader federal health care system



OCONUS Potential Clinical Monitoring Stations

V20



V21



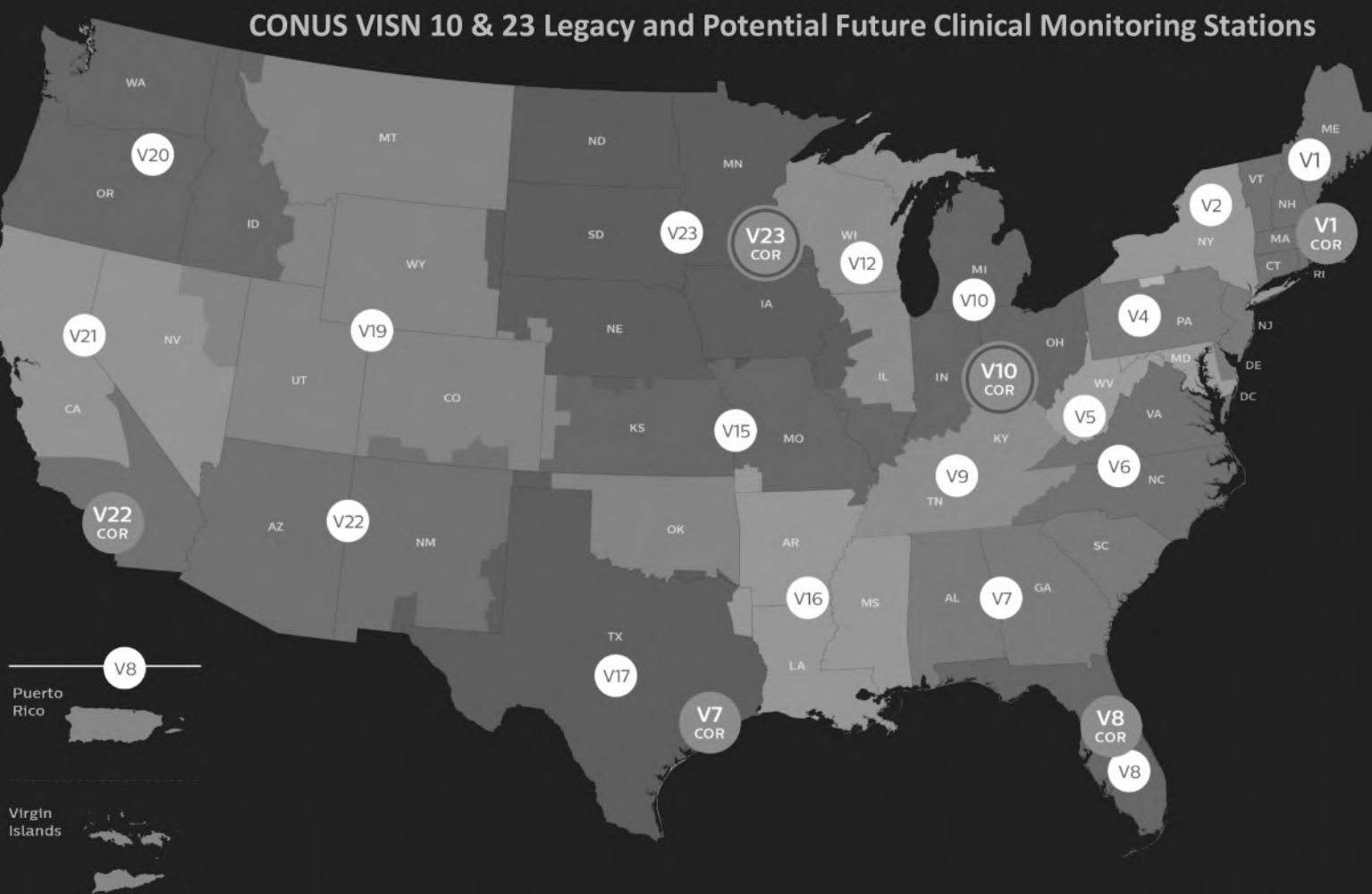
Philippines Islands



American Samoa



Guam



CONUS VISN 10 & 23 Legacy and Potential Future Clinical Monitoring Stations

Recommendations

Convergent DOD Operations

- Interoperable Tele Critical Care Network with DHA

4th Mission

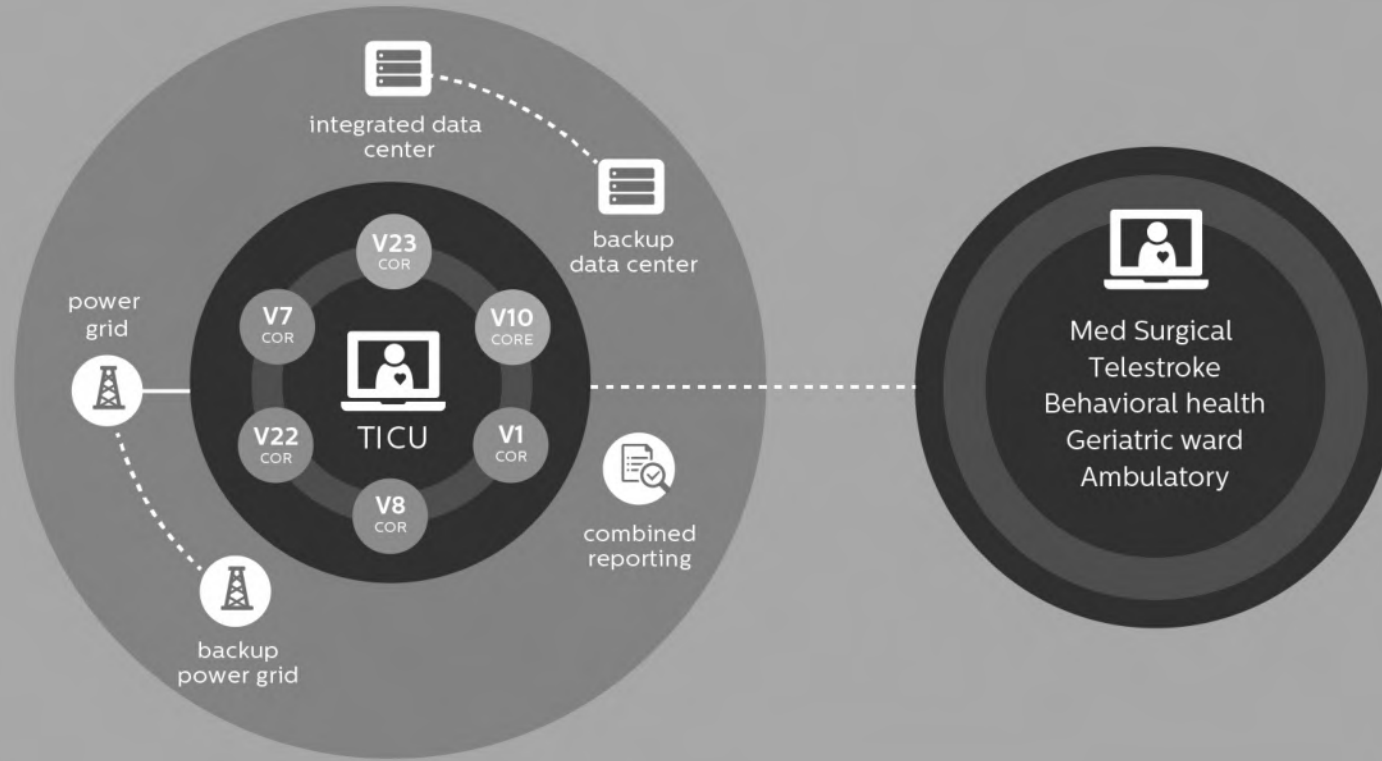
- Access to expanded population of Intensivists & other clinical specialists
- Greater resiliency of VA staff
- Continuity of Operations

All Hazards Approach

- Infrastructure redundancy
- Global Time Zone coverage from VA and USG OCONUS facilities
- Different threat / climate conditions
- Flexibility for geographic locations



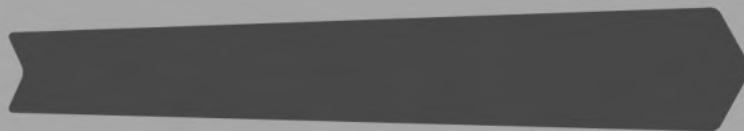
Telehealth expansion beyond the VAMC ICU bed




 Med Surgical
 Telestroke
 Behavioral health
 Geriatric ward
 Ambulatory



National deployment



Expanded telehealth program


UMassMemorial
Health Care

EMORY
 HEALTHCARE


Banner Health®


 Carolinas HealthCare System



With the VA National Expansion of Tele-ICU:

- VA will have created the **world's largest in-patient Acute Tele-Health initiative**
- VA will share a common Tele-ICU platform with the largest private Tele-ICU Network in the U.S.
- VA will elevate the standard of care across all of its ICU facilities through access to real-time specialist care, and
- **VA will save additional lives of Veterans**



Philips wishes to recognize our VA partners for this opportunity to continue serving our Veterans:

- **VISN 10**
- **VISN 23**
- **The VA Telehealth Advisory Council Chairs and Members**
- **The Office of Connected Care**
- **The Office of Healthcare Technology Management, and**
- **The Secretary's Center for Strategic Partnerships**



PHILIPS

Nathan Naylor

Vice President for Veterans Healthcare

Philips North America



Nathan joined the Philips' Government practice in 2017 and had developed solutions for the US Department of Veterans around Tele Critical Care, Remote Patient Monitoring, Advanced Diagnostic Imaging and new care delivery models like the Philips Virtual Care Station co-created for VA's ATLAS Program. Prior to Philips Nathan was a senior executive with the global communications-consulting firm FleishmanHillard, where he helped lead the firm's veterans and military families practice. From 2009--2013, he served as the US Department of Veterans Affairs Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, where he led the Department's internal and external communications and outreach programs to Veterans, family members, caregivers, stakeholders, VA employees and partners.

Nathan has worked as a consultant and entrepreneur in the private sector and previously served as a staff member in the US Senate, the White House and the Office of the Vice President.

Naylor received an undergraduate degree in political science from American University. He lives in Virginia with his wife Noel Abrams Naylor and their two children Natalie and Nathaniel.

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From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 18:32:44 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Screening

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 16 Jun 2020 16:02:09 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Daily Sync Meeting

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 18:33:06 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Leadership briefing

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 8 Jun 2020 20:55:13 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Executive Time/Lunch

From: (b)(6) (b)(6) R. EOP/OVP
Sent: Tue, 23 Jun 2020 17:26:19 +0000
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) R. EOP/OVP (b)(6) @HHS.GOV (b)(6) @treasury.gov (b)(6)

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Pamela (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @hhs.gov (b)(6) @hhs.gov (b)(6)
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ov (b)(6) @usda.gov; lauren.sullivan@usda.gov (b)(6) EOP/OVP; (b)(6)
(DOT); (b)(6) EOP/NSC
Cc: (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6)

(b)(6) EOP/OVP (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) EOP/NSC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting
Attachments: (b)(5)
(b)(5)

Importance: High

All -

There will be a **White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting on Wednesday, June 24th** at **5:00pm** in the White House (b)(6) Preliminary materials attached.

Thank you,

(b)(6) (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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Page 7 of 8

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Page 8 of 8

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(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 18:33:32 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Facility tour

From: (b)(6) EOP/OVP
Sent: Mon, 8 Jun 2020 19:13:13 +0000
To: (b)(6) EOP/OVP (b)(6) @HHS.GOV (b)(6) @treasury.gov (b)(6)
A. EOP/WHO; (b)(6) @cdc.gov; (b)(6) @niaid.nih.gov; (b)(6) @hhs.gov (b)(6) @fda.hhs.gov (b)(6)
(b)(6) EOP/NSC; (b)(6) @cms.hhs.gov; RLW (b)(6) EOP/OVP (b)(6) EOP/NSC (b)(6)
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Pamela (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @hhs.gov (b)(6) @hhs.gov; (b)(6)
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Cc: (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6)
EOP/OVP (b)(6) EOP/OVP (b)(6) EOP/OVP (b)(6) EOP/WHO
Subject: [EXTERNAL] White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting
Attachments: (b)(5)
(b)(5)

Good afternoon,

There will be a **White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting on Tuesday, June 9th at 3:30pm** in the White House (b)(6) Preliminary materials attached.

Thank you,

(b)(6) (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, 23 Jun 2020 18:19:20 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Radio Interview w/ Sam Malone, Houston, TX
Attachments: Quad - Sam Malone_updated.pptx

Page 2 of 2

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(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 16 Jun 2020 20:25:22 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: RAH
Attachments: June 17 2020.docx

DAILY BRIEFING BOOK

Wednesday, June 17, 2020

SECRETARY ROBERT L. WILKIE

7:45 – 8:15 am	Daily Sync Mtg	SECVA Suite	
9:00 – 10:00 am	Bi-Weekly w/Under Secretaries 3 US will attend in person	SECVA Suite	
11:00 – 11:30 am	Prep for WH Task Force Meeting 1-877-446-3914 Code: (b)(6)		
11:30 am – Noon	Lunch	SECVA Suite	
12:00 – 12:15 pm	Coin Larry Connell	Rm 930	
1:10 – 1:20 pm	ERT (b)(6)		
1:50 – 2:00 pm	(b)(5)	Oval Office	
2:00 pm	ERT White House Rose Garden		
2:00 – 3:00 pm	White House PREVENTS Event	Rose Garden	Tab 2
3:00 – 3:30 pm	ERT 400 N Capitol NW , 3rd Floor		
3:00 – 3:40 pm	Interview w/ Bill Hemmer, FOX News		
3:40 – 4:00 pm	ERT VACO		
4:00 – 5:00 pm	White House Coronavirus Task Force Mtg (b)(6)	SECVA Suite	Tab 3
5:00 – 5:30 pm	WH IGA Stakeholders Phone Call	SECVA Suite	

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 18:34:00 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Media Prep/Avail

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 9 Jun 2020 16:56:13 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Visit to Quantico
Attachments: SECVA Itinerary - Quantico, VA - June 15, 2020 - Final 2.docx

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FINAL 2

THE HONORABLE ROBERT L. WILKIE
SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
TRAVEL ITINERARY
QUANTICO, VA
JUNE 15, 2020

TRAVELING PARTY:

The Honorable Robert Wilkie
Michael Meador, Special Assistant to the Secretary
Traci Scott, Senior Advisor for Strategic Communications

(b)(6)

EXECUTIVE PROTECTION:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C), Special Agent (Adv-Tr)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

EVENT / SITE POCs:

(b)(6) Executive Assistant

(b)(6)

SCHEDULING POCs:

(b)(6), Special Assistant, OSVA

(b)(6)

Monday, June 15, 2020

Attire: Business

Weather: Washington, DC H-75°; L-60° - Partly Cloudy
Quantico, VA H-74°; L-61° - Partly Cloudy

0815-0915 **ERT / ARRIVE QUANTICO NATIONAL CEMETERY** (1 hour)

18424 Joplin Rd, Triangle, VA 22172 *Administration Building

Drive time: 1 hour / 35 miles

Greeted by: Mr. (b)(6) Cemetery Director

Mr. (b)(6) Assistant Director

Ms. Gina Farris, Special Advisor to Under Secretary Randy Reeves

**No Screening

**Masks Required

** Mr. (b)(6) Photographer will be present at arrival

0920-0940 **GOLF CART / VEHICLE TOUR** (20 min)

Tour Led By: Mr. (b)(6) Cemetery Director

Highlighted areas:

- Memorial Wall

Updated by: (b)(6)

Mission Operations
6/10/2020 4:30 PM

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FINAL 2**

0945-0955 MEET & GREET W/ PAULA DAVIS, NEXT OF KIN (10 min)
Location: 20 feet away from Committal Shelter, Informal Meet & Greet

*Ms. (b)(6) is the Next of Kin descendant of Raymond Davis, USMC, Vietnam Era Veteran (1957-1977); Bronze Star Recipient

0955-1015 OBSERVE COMMITTAL SERVICE (20 min)
Location: Committal Shelter, 20 ft walk from meeting Ms (b)(6)

1020-1050 RESUMING COMMITTAL SERVICES KICKOFF EVENT (30 min)
Location: Administration Building, outside area for appropriate social distancing requirements

Run of Show:

1020-1030 Welcoming of the staff and NCA Leadership (10 min)

- SECVA will address 25 staff members as a group
- Masks required

1030-1050 SECVA Remarks and Q&A (20 min)

1055-1155 ERT / ARRIVE VA CENTRAL OFFICE (1 hour)
810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420
Drive time: 1 hour / 35 miles

MC

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FINAL 2**

TOTAL TIME BY LOCATION:

Quantico National Cemetery 2 hr 0 min

Washington, DC – Quantico, VA



<u>LOCATION(S)</u>	<u>DRIVE TIME</u>	<u>MILES</u>
VA Central Office – Quantico National Cemetery	1 hr 0 min	32.7 miles
Quantico National Cemetery – VA Central Office	1 hr 0 min	32.7 miles

Updated by: (b)(6)
Mission Operations
6/10/2020 4:30 PM

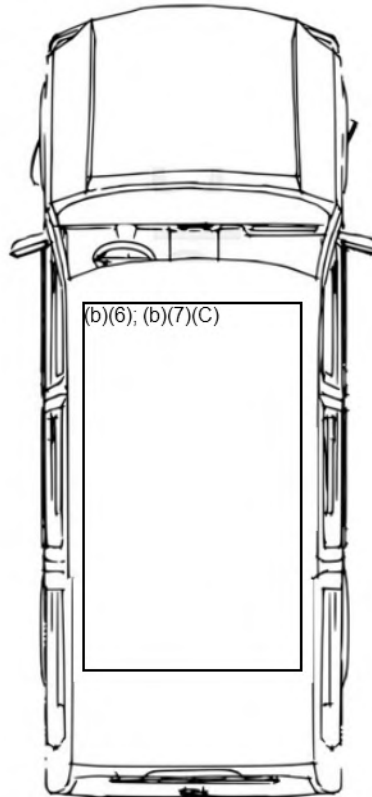
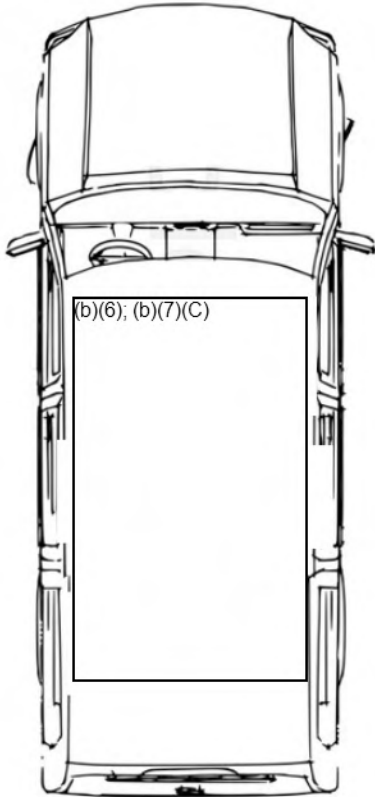
FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY – DO NOT DISTRIBUTE
FINAL 2

MOTORCADE LOAD PLAN
MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2020

MOVEMENT #1-2: ALL MOVEMENTS

LIMO:

CHASE:



Updated by: (b)(6)
Mission Operations
6/10/2020 4:30 PM

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 23 Jun 2020 18:52:45 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: KC VAMC EEO Allegations
Attachments: KC.docx, Actions.docx, KansasCityTPs June 2020.docx

Harvey Johnson, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Resolution Management

(b)(6) Director, Western Region, Office of Resolution Management

(b)(6) VHA, WMC EEO Manager

David Perry, VHA, WMC Acting Chief Officer

Dr. William Patterson, VISN 15 Network Director

Mr. David Isaacks, Kansas City VAMC Director

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(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information

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(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 17 Jun 2020 09:50:30 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: (b)(5)

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 18:34:32 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT/Arrive at KC Vet Center

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 9 Jun 2020 18:49:55 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Leadership Briefing

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 23 Jun 2020 19:39:03 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: 3:30pm Wheels up from MCI to DFW

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 17 Jun 2020 11:47:29 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT/Arrive at Hampton Inn Turnersville, NJ

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 18:35:04 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Screening and leadership briefing

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 9 Jun 2020 18:56:41 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Facility Tour

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 23 Jun 2020 19:40:02 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Layover in DFW

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 17 Jun 2020 11:51:33 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Lunch w/Congressman

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 18:35:33 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT Lunch

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 9 Jun 2020 19:14:44 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Introduction to COVID-19 Screening Area

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 23 Jun 2020 19:40:57 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: 6:58pm Wheels up from DFW to DCA

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 18:36:16 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT/Arrive at Leavenworth NC

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 9 Jun 2020 19:17:56 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Facility Tour

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 23 Jun 2020 20:56:24 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT (b)(6) on to Korean War Memorial - arrival
10:30am

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 18:36:37 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Vehicle tour

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 9 Jun 2020 19:19:27 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Media Prep

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 24 Jun 2020 11:55:48 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Dr. Lieberman & Dr. MacDonald re: COVID Spikes

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 18:36:58 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT/Arrive a MCI airport

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 17 Jun 2020 13:03:46 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT VACO

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 9 Jun 2020 19:22:23 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Media Interview with WSOC

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 24 Jun 2020 12:41:29 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: TRAVEL - New York

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 18:37:22 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Exec Time

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 17 Jun 2020 13:43:43 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: RAH
Attachments: June 18 2020.docx

DAILY BRIEFING BOOK

Thursday, June 18, 2020

SECRETARY ROBERT L. WILKIE

7:45 – 8:15 am	Daily Sync Mtg	SECVA Suite	
9:00 – 10:00 am	Weekly Call w/ VSOs	OBCR	Tab 1
10:15 -10:30 am	Videotaping of Korean Memorial	Broadcast Center	Tab 2
10:40- 11:00 am	Interview w/ David Webb Show	SECVA Suite	Tab 3
11:30 am	Hair Cut	SECVA Suite	
12:15 – 12:45 pm	Interview w/ FOX Across America	SECVA Suite	Tab 4
12:45 pm	ERT New Jersey Veterans Health Clinic		

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 9 Jun 2020 19:26:30 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Introduction to COVID-19 Screening Area

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 24 Jun 2020 12:41:23 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Interview w/ Jon Scott, Bill Hemmer Reports, FOX News
Attachments: Quad - Jon Scott - Bill Hemmer Reports.pptx

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From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 18:37:51 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Gate Transition / Boarding

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 17 Jun 2020 14:30:03 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Interview w/ Spectrum News

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 9 Jun 2020 19:27:23 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Facility Tour

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 24 Jun 2020 12:50:48 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Lunch

From: (b)(6) (b)(6) R. EOP/OVP
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 23:41:53 +0000
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) R. EOP/OVP; (b)(6) @HHS.GOV; (b)(6) @treasury.gov; (b)(6)
(b)(6)
EOP/WHO; (b)(6) @cdc.gov; (b)(6) @niaid.nih.gov; (b)(6) @hhs.gov; sh1@fda.hhs.gov; (b)(6)
(b)(6) EOP/NSC; (b)(6) @cms.hhs.gov; RLW; (b)(6) EOP/OVP; (b)(6) EOP/OVP; (b)(6)
(b)(6) EOP/NSC; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6)
EOP/WHO; (b)(6) @sd.mi; (b)(6) @fema.dhs.gov; (b)(6) @hhs.gov; (b)(6)
EOP/WHO; (b)(6)
EOP/OVP; (b)(6) @dol.gov; (b)(6) @hrsa.gov; (b)(6) @usda.gov; (b)(6) @od.nih.gov; (b)(6) @
hhs.gov; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6)
(b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) EOP/OVP; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) CDR
USN WHMO/WHMU; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) EOP/OVP; (b)(6)
EOP/WHO; (b)(6) EOP/OVP; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) M. EOP/OVP; DL OVP
NSA EXECSEC; (b)(6) @mail.mil; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6)
EOP/WHO; (b)(6) @treasury.gov; (b)(6) @treasury.gov; (b)(6) @hud.gov; (b)(6)
(b)(6) @hud.gov; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6)
EOP/WHO; (b)(6) @cdc.gov; (b)(6) @niaid.nih.gov; (b)(6) @nih.gov; (b)(6) @hhs.gov; (b)(6)
(b)(6)
EOP/WHO; (b)(6) @fda.hhs.gov; (b)(6) @fda.hhs.gov; (b)(6) @fda.hhs.gov; (b)(6)
(b)(6) @CMS.HHS.GOV; (b)(6) @cms.hhs.gov; (b)(6) @cms.hhs.gov; Powers,
Pamela; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @hhs.gov; (b)(6) @hhs.gov; (b)(6)
(b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) @sd.mil; (b)(6)
EOP/OVP; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) @sd.mil; (b)(6) @sd.mil; (b)(6)
(b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) EOP/OVP; (b)(6)
EOP/WHO; (b)(6) @hhs.gov; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; DL WHO COMMS
Speechwriters; (b)(6) @hhs.gov; (b)(6) @fema.dhs.gov; (b)(6)
EOP/WHO; (b)(6) @hhs.gov; (b)(6) fema.dhs.gov; (b)(6)
EOP/OVP; (b)(6) @mail.mil; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6)
EOP/WHO; (b)(6) @hrsa.gov; (b)(6) @dol.gov; (b)(6) @nih.gov; (b)(6) @od.nih.g
ov; (b)(6) @usda.gov; (b)(6) @usda.gov; (b)(6) EOP/OVP; (b)(6)
B. EOP/OVP
Cc: (b)(6) EOP/OVP; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6)
EOP/WHO
Subject: [EXTERNAL] White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting
Attachments: (b)(5)
(b)(5)

Importance: High

Good evening,

Apologies for the delay, and thank you in advance for your patience.

Tomorrow's – Friday, June 26th – **White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting** will take place at the **Department of Health and Human Services** in the **Secretary's Conference Room, 610F** at **11:00am**.

All participants must be tested for COVID-19 prior to the meeting's start time.

Materials attached.

Thank you,

(b)(6) (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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of the Freedom of Information

From: (b)(6) EOP/WHO
Sent: Wed, 17 Jun 2020 14:31:22 +0000
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) L.;Cashour, Curtis; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; Hutton, James; Tucker, Brooks; Verschoor, Thayer; Van Dahlen, Barbara L.; Syrek, Christopher D. (Chris); (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) EOP/WHO
Subject: Stakeholder Briefing Call on White House PREVENTS Task Force Announcement

Here is the dial-in info for the 5:00 p.m. call.

-----Original Appointment-----

From: (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6)@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 10:19 AM
To: (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; Hutton, James; Tucker, Brooks; Verschoor, Thayer; Van Dahlen, Barbara L.; Syrek, Christopher D. (Chris); (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; Cashour, Curtis
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Stakeholder Briefing Call on White House PREVENTS Task Force Announcement
When: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 5:00 PM-5:45 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).
Where: Dial in

Title

Briefing Call on White House PREVENTS Task Force Announcement

RSVP URL

<https://ems9.intellor.com?do=register&t=1&p=901663>

Host Dial in (Speakers Only)

Host Dial-In: (877) 369-5243
Leader Code: (b)(6)###

You can access your list of registered participants at <https://ems9.intellor.com/RegReport/2wQa9RhcQ>

Agenda

- I. Introduction - (b)(6) OPL
- II. Remarks from Secretary Wilkie
- III. Remarks from Dr. Van Dahlen
- IV. Remarks from (b)(6)
- V. Q&A

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 9 Jun 2020 19:30:28 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Facility Tour

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 24 Jun 2020 13:20:07 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: En Route to Residence

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 17 Jun 2020 14:38:32 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT (b)(5)

From: RLW
Sent: Fri, 26 Jun 2020 12:42:29 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Senator Collins Virtual Town Hall
Attachments: RE: Secretary Call w/ Senator Collins- Wed June 24 @9:30am, EBS for Tele-townhall with Senator Collins- (ME) - 7.14.20.docx, Sen. Collins, Susan (R-ME)--OCLA Bio.docx, Senator Collins_Highlights-July 2020.docx, Resources for Veterans-July2020.docx, VA_COVID_Response_July 13, 2020.pdf, VA Maine Talking Points.docx

(b)(6) and (b)(6)

I am working on the EBS for the tele-townhall w/ Senator Collins on Wednesday, July 15, but wanted to provide some of the details for your convenience/reference.

Senator Susan Collins (R-ME)
Tele-townhall for Veterans in Maine
Wednesday, July 15, 2020, 6:30-7:30PM
Co-host call number + PIN: (pending)

OVERVIEW OF EVENT:

The Senator is hosting a tele-townhall for Veterans in Maine. The Secretary and other VA officials will join the event as her guest. The Secretary and others will check in at [6:25 or 6:30]. The event opens to callers at 6:35pm.

PHONE ATTENDEES/PARTICIPANTS:

- PDUSB Margarita Devlin
- VISN 1 Director Ryan Lilly
- Togus VAMC Director Tracye Davis
- (b)(6) (listen)
- Cathy Haverstock (listen)
- [3-4 other staff listeners]

OUTLINE OF EVENT:

- Senator Collins will provide opening remarks: Introduction, recognition of Veterans; appreciation of VA services/facilities/staff in Maine; comments/key concerns regarding Veteran issues in Maine; kick-off questions for Secretary. (3-5 minutes)
- Secretary Wilke opening comments. (3-5 minutes)
- Calls from Veterans (3-5 mins each for about 45-50 minutes).
 - Calls may be addressed by the Senator, SecVA or by his team.
- Closing comments by Senator Collins.

We will have talking points and fact sheets attached to the EBS; will submit to all on Monday.

R,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Congressional Relations Officer
Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs (OCLA)
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
(b)(6) (m)
New England Delegations (PA, MA, NY, NJ, RI, CT, NH, VT, ME)

From: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @va.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 12:57 PM
To: (b)(6) @va.gov>; (b)(6) (b)(6) L.
(b)(6) @va.gov> (b)(6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: Senator Collins Tele-Town Hall w/ Secretary

Thanks so much for the update!

From: (b)(6) @va.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 12:57 PM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @va.gov>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @va.gov>;
(b)(6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: Senator Collins Tele-Town Hall w/ Secretary

(b)(6)

Senator Collins staff confirmed a 6:35 start time for the Tele-townhall on July 15. They said the Secretary would need to join at 6:25 or 6:30.

Call information will be provided ASAP—and thank you!

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) @va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 11:11 AM
To: (b)(6) VBAVACO <(b)(6) @va.gov>
Cc: (b)(6) @va.gov>; (b)(6) @va.gov>;
(b)(6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: Senator Susan Collins hosting Tele-Townhall with SecVA as guest

Good morning (b)(6)

Can you confirm if PDUSB Devlin is available? The current facts about the event are here:

- The tele-townhall is scheduled for July 15 at 6:35pm.

- We anticipate the Senator will want to chat with Secretary briefly before the call begins, so will plan to dial in at 6:25 or 6:30.
- Call # will be provided at least 1 day prior to the call
- The Secretary has asked for 3 staff to participate with speaking privileges:
 - Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Benefits
 - VISN 1 Director
 - Togus VAMC Director
- Basic outline for the call:
 - Senator Collins provide opening remarks... recognition of Veterans; appreciation of VA services/facilities/staff in Maine... comments/key concerns regarding Veteran issues in Maine... introducing guest(s)...Secretary... (3-5 minutes)
 - Secretary Wilke provides comments ... (3-5 minutes)
 - Taking calls from callers (3-5 mins each for about 45-50 minutes).
 - i. Calls may be addressed by Senator, SecVA or deferred to VBA or VHA staff on the line.
 - ii. We can always take contact information and get back to them.
 - Closing comments by Senator Collins (... importance of Veterans issues; thank you Sec Wilkie + staff)

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Congressional Relations Officer
Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs (OCLA)
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

(b)(6) (m)

New England Delegations (PA, MA, NY, NJ, RI, CT, NH, VT, ME)

1 hour event

Jackie—

Senator Collins staff confirmed a 6:35 start time for the Tele-townhall on July 15. They said the Secretary would need to join at 6:25 or 6:30.

Call information will be provided ASAP—and thank you!

(b)(6)

From: RLW
Sent: Fri, 26 Jun 2020 12:37:47 +0000
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) L.
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Secretary Call w/ Senator Collins- Wed June 24 @9:30am

Absolutely—I want Paul Lawrence, the Tigua VAMC Director and the VISN 1 Director on the call as well.

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @va.gov>
Date: Friday, Jun 26, 2020, 8:36 AM
To: RLW <rlw@va.gov>
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @va.gov>
Subject: FW: Secretary Call w/ Senator Collins- Wed June 24 @9:30am

Sir,
Senator Collins is asking if you would participate in a virtual townhall on July 15 at 6:00 or 6:30pm.

Your calendar can accommodate the requested date of July 15 should you decide to participate. (You will be in Detroit on July 13-14.)

Please let me know if this is something we can schedule for you.

Thank you,
(b)(6)

(b)(6) (b)(6)
**Executive Assistant to the
Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs**
(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) @va.gov>
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2020 8:31 AM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @va.gov>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @va.gov>
Cc: Haverstock, Cathy (b)(6) @va.gov>
Subject: FW: Secretary Call w/ Senator Collins- Wed June 24 @9:30am

During the Secretary's call with Collin he floated the idea of doing with her (tele-town hall) what he did with Ernst.

Collins' office has proposed the highlighted date/time. Let me know if this is something that will work and our staff will begin prepping.

Thanks!

From: (b)(6)@va.gov
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 11:16 AM
To: (b)(6)@va.gov
Subject: RE: Secretary Call w/ Senator Collins- Wed June 24 @9:30am

(b)(6)

Senator Collins' office contacted me in follow up to yesterday's call. The Senator would like to plan a Veteran's conference call, and was hoping the Secretary would join her for the call.

Her office has suggested July 15th early evening (maybe 6:00 or 6:30 for one hour)... and was wondering if that would work for the Secretary's schedule.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Congressional Relations Officer
Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs (OCLA)
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

(b)(6) (m)

New England Delegations (PA, MA, NY, NJ, RI, CT, NH, VT, ME)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 10:43 AM
To: (b)(6)@va.gov
Subject: Secretary Call w/ Senator Collins- Wed June 24 @9:30am

(b)(6)

Here's the EBS for the Secretary's call tomorrow... note I provided recent background as reminders of her touchpoints with VA, but no talking points, as I have no idea why he asked for the call or what he wants to talk about.

I included the note about his cancelled trip from early April, and (b)(6) has no knowledge of that trip being rescheduled yet.

Please let me know if you think this needs more. Or if you want me to add the generic COVID talking points back into this. Then you or I can send up to (b)(6)

Thank you,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Congressional Relations Officer
Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs (OCLA)
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
(b)(6) (m)
New England Delegations (PA, MA, NY, NJ, RI, CT, NH, VT, ME)

From: (b)(6)@va.gov>

Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 10:51 AM

To: (b)(6)@va.gov>

Subject: RE: Susan Collins

The Senator can call (b)(6)

No need for you to be on the call, but if you could put together an EBS just in case that would be great. Would also reach out to (b)(6) from the travel team and see whatever happened to that trip that got canceled. May be good to note that on the EBS.

Thanks!

(b)(6)@va.gov

From: (b)(6)@va.gov>

Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 10:46 AM

To: (b)(6)@va.gov>

Subject: RE: Susan Collins

The Senator is available on Wednesday from 9:30-9:45 for a call with the Secretary. Can we confirm?

Also, please advise if you want front office to be in direct contact with her scheduler since it is personal... am I needed for the call?

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 8:11 AM
To: (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: Susan Collins

No idea. Just tell them it's a personal call.

From: (b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 8:10 AM
To: (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: Susan Collins

Good morning.

Yes of course. Topic?

From: (b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 8:09 AM
To: (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: FW: Susan Collins

Good morning (b)(6)

Could you please reach out to Collins' office and see if Sen Collins would be able to jump on the phone for a short call with the Secretary?

We have availability anytime on **Wed morning from 9-10.**

Thanks!

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6), (b)(6), (b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 7:35 AM
To: Haverstock, Cathy (b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6)
(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: (b)(6), (b)(6), (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: Susan Collins

The Secretary would like to speak with Susan Collins some time this week.

Can you all please help schedule?

Thank you.

(b)(6)



EXECUTIVE BRIEFING SUMMARY
Senator Susan Collins (R-ME)
Wednesday, July 15, 2020, 6:35-7:35PM
Tele-townhall for Veterans in Maine
Co-host call number: 877-390-4658
ID Code: (b)(6)

OCLA POC: (b)(6)
Event: Tele-townhall for Veterans in Maine

OVERVIEW OF EVENT:

The Senator is hosting a tele-townhall for Veterans in Maine. The Secretary and other VA officials will join the event as her guest. The Secretary and others should check in to the call at **6:25**. The event opens to callers at **6:35pm**.

- Senator Collins can see the veteran's name and phone number on her screen, she jots it down, and tells them we will call them back asap. In the past she has specifically told veterans with casework issues not to state their personal information over the phone to protect their privacy.
- The Senator's office emailed an invitation to veteran leaders in the state (which they cleared with Senate Ethics and Rules).

PHONE ATTENDEES/PARTICIPANTS:

Guests/speakers will use the co-host call in number and ID 877-390-4658; ID Code: (b)(6)

- PDUSB Margarita Devlin
- VISN 1 Director Ryan Lilly
- Togus VAMC Director Tracye Davis

Staff support/listeners will use a separate call in number and ID Phone #: 877-228-2184; ID Code: (b)(6)

- (b)(6) OCLA
- Cathy Haverstock, OCLA
- Staff listeners from VBA & VISN

OUTLINE OF EVENT:

- Senator Collins will provide opening remarks: Introduction, recognition of Veterans; appreciation of VA services/facilities/staff in Maine; comments/key concerns regarding Veteran issues in Maine; kick-off questions for Secretary. (3-5 minutes)
- Secretary Wilke opening comments. (3-5 minutes)
- Calls from Veterans (3-5 mins each for about 45-50 minutes).
 - Calls may be addressed by the Senator, SecVA or by his team.
- Closing comments by Senator Collins.

BACKGROUND:

- **VA Fellow** (b)(6) just returned to the Senator's staff this week after serving 2 months active duty with Maine Army National Guard. Tom is a JAG.
- **COVID-19** cases in the **State of Maine** (6th from lowest in Nation): 3,558 cumulative cases, 114 deaths. **VA Maine:** 33 cumulative, 5 active, 2 deaths, 0 employee deaths
- VA's **Fourth Mission** in Maine: hasn't been a significant need. VA Maine provided 6 iPads to Maine SVH to support telehealth (one iPad for each SVH facility).
- **Scheduled visit** to Jonesboro, ME August 29 for dedication ceremony of Acadia National Cemetery.
- See Bio for issues: Maine SVH Per Diem for Domiciliary Care, naming of Acadia National Cemetery.

Potential Opening Questions from Senator Collins:

- **Secretary Wilkie – What steps are being taken by the VA to protect veterans during this unprecedented public health crisis?**
 - The safety of our employees and patients is our highest priority and one that we take very seriously. VA implemented an aggressive public health response to protect and care for Veterans, their families, health care providers and staff in the face of this unprecedented health risk.
 - These measures include outreach to Veterans and staff, clinical screening at VA health care facilities, and protective procedures for patients admitted to community living centers and spinal cord injury units.
 - From the beginning, we have been working directly with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other Federal partners to monitor the outbreak of the virus.
 - VA has been a leader in testing and continues to ensure that Veterans and personnel have access to testing.
 - Due to previous experience with response to Legionnaires, Influenza, Ebola, Zika and regional epidemics, VA maintains its own public health laboratory. With the publication of the viral sequences, VA has been able to develop its own COVID-19 molecular test in addition to validating the CDC assay. This allowed VA to provide its own laboratory reference service and avoid difficulties in obtaining testing services early in the pandemic.
 - VA established national contracts for several COVID-19 testing platforms which today provide a testing capacity of 60,000 tests per week.
 - VHA facilities balance a blend of in-house rapid and high throughput testing with available commercial laboratory testing to provide testing for active COVID-19 to symptomatic Veterans and staff.
 - Results collected from this testing are stored securely in the VA electronic health record and used to report confirmed cases of COVID-19 on VA's Access to Care website.
- **The pandemic is taking a toll on many Americans' mental health. The VA recently launched the REACH campaign to help support veterans and prevent suicide. Can you tell us a little more about that and what resources are available to veterans in crisis?**

- White House and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) launched the REACH national public health campaign aimed at empowering all Americans to play a critical role in preventing suicide on July 7.
 - The goal of REACH, which was established by the President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide (PREVENTS), is to change the conversation around suicide by urging people to recognize their own risk and protective factors — as well as the risk and protective factors of their loved ones.
 - REACH will empower our nation's Veterans to seek and receive help and it will encourage them to reach out to their brothers and sisters in need who may be vulnerable.
 - The power of this campaign will change how we talk about mental health and suicide in our nation. It will ensure that those in need, especially the men and women who have served our great nation, will receive the care and support they deserve.
 - The REACH campaign website, we are within reach, provides information to help people recognize risk factors for suicide, including financial stress, chronic illness or pain, isolation and mental illness, in themselves and in their loved ones. It also links to resources that can provide assistance in avoiding the hopelessness that can lead to suicide.
 - Although suicide is preventable, the nation is facing an epidemic in deaths, with 132 Americans dying by suicide each day. In 2017 there were 47,173 suicide deaths and an estimated 1.4 million suicide attempts. For Veterans, the overall suicide rate is 1.5 times higher and the female Veteran suicide rate is 2.2 times higher than the general population after adjusting for age and/or gender.
 - The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline provides confidential support 24 hours a day at 800-273-8255. Veterans and service members, including National Guard and Reserve, who need immediate help should call the 1-800 number and press 1 to reach the Veterans Crisis Line, chat online at www.veteranscrisisline.net/get-help/chat or text 838255.
- **The VA traditionally provides veterans' health care, benefits and memorial affairs. During the pandemic, you have spoken about the VA's "Fourth Mission" to assist states while ensuring that veterans remain your top priority. Can you describe some of the ways that the VA is assisting communities?**
 - While normal Federal Government operations were reduced or curtailed during the pandemic, VHA's mission is unique, and our workload is greater than ever in support of our Veterans and our Nation.
 - In times of national crisis, such as the current Coronavirus pandemic, VA provides services to the nation based on requests from states, while being clear that Veterans are first. This is known as VA's Fourth Mission.
 - VA has provided Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) of greater than 330,000 pieces including gowns, gloves, masks, face shields, Powered Air Purifying Respirators (PAPR), goggles, and shoe covers in support of the Fourth Mission. In addition, VA has provided other resources including hand sanitizer, laundry support, test kits and testing support, no touch thermometers, stethoscopes,

oxygen concentrators, CARDIOHELP Kits and webcams for use with existing equipment to state and local facilities.

- o As part of the Fourth Mission humanitarian support, VA has admitted 279 United States non-Veteran citizens for care at VA Medical Centers during COVID-19.
- o VA deploys personnel to support other VA Medical Centers who have been impacted by COVID-19 as well as provide support to state and community nursing homes. To date, VA has deployed personnel to more than 45 states.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1) Senator Collins –OCLA Bio
- 2) Senator Collins Highlights—provided by her office
- 3) Resources for Veterans + General Talking Points (from townhall w/ Sen Ernst)
- 4) VA Maine Fact Sheet/Talking Points
- 5) VA COVID-19 Pandemic Response Weekly Report (July 13, 2020)

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Withheld pursuant to exemption

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of the Freedom of Information

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Withheld pursuant to exemption

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of the Freedom of Information

SENATOR COLLINS' SUPPORT OF VETERANS

More than 114,000 veterans live in the Maine, which has the second most veterans per capita in the country. As the daughter of a World War II Purple Heart recipient, Senator Collins learned first-hand of the sacrifice that these heroes and their families make to advance the cause of freedom. She has worked to support the needs of Veterans by ensuring access to health care, holding VA accountable in the wake of scandal, and protecting the benefits our veterans have earned through their service. As a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, she has long supported funding for vital VA benefits and services and has worked to ensure that they are streamlined, efficient, and effective.

Awards Received for Legislative Contributions on Behalf of Veterans

- **Veterans of Foreign Wars 2017 Congressional Award:** Senator Collins was selected for the prestigious award given to only one Member of Congress each year in recognition of significant legislative contributions on behalf of veterans. VFW National Commander Brian Duffy at the time stated that, "Senator Collins has a long record of looking out for you—the veterans of America. She has taken the lead on a number of issues, including cosponsoring the Female Veterans Suicide Prevention Act...Much needs to be done, and thanks to the leadership of Senator Collins, much will be done to help our veterans."
- **Elizabeth Dole Foundation 2018 Congressional Caregiver Champion Award:** The first given by the Dole Foundation, Senator Collins received the award for her outstanding advocacy of military caregivers. Senator Elizabeth Dole said of the award: "Senator Collins has devoted herself to finding legislative solutions to the most urgent concerns of our military and veteran caregivers. Through her dedication and leadership, she has helped forever change how America supports our hidden heroes. She is a true champion of all of America's caregivers, and I am proud to recognize her with this honor."

Improving Access to Quality Health Care for Veterans

- **Protecting Rural Care and Access Received Closer to Home (ARCH):** First implemented in 2011 to ensure veterans in Northern Maine did not need to travel up to 600 miles roundtrip to the Togus VA in Augusta, Senator Collins has led efforts to preserve the popular ARCH program and ensure continuity of care for rural veterans in Maine. In 2014, the ARCH pilot was extended for two years in the reform legislation which created the Veterans Choice Program, based on the provisions of the *Veterans Health Care Access Received Closer to Home Act of 2014* cosponsored by Senator Collins. She has consistently secured funding to continue ARCH in annual appropriations legislation, and repeatedly advocated for continuing ARCH in congressional hearings and letters to VA leadership. Following a visit at Senator Collins' request by then-VA Secretary David Shulkin in 2016, VA signed a provider agreement allowing veterans to continue to receive ARCH-like access with funding provided under the Choice Program. In annual appropriations, she continues to secure additional funding for VA rural health care and provisions directing VA to maintain continuity of care for veterans who participated in ARCH.

- **Authorizing VA Health Care Clinics:** Senator Collins co-lead efforts to authorize 27 VA medical facilities leases, including the Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) in Portland. After introducing legislation to authorize the leases, and following advocacy with congressional and administration leadership, the leases were authorized in the *VA Choice and Quality Employment Act of 2017*. The VA announced the award of a lease for a new CBOC in Portland as a result of these efforts in September 2019.
- **Increasing Mental Health Access:** Senator Collins has year-after-year pushed to increase funding for mental health services and suicide prevention outreach in the VA. She joined the Maine delegation in August 2019 in sending a letter to Secretary Wilkie urging VA to establish a permanent unit to provide long-term beds dedicated to mental health and substance abuse treatment. Senator Collins has also lead efforts to expand access to mental and behavior health specialists for servicemembers, including National Guard and Reserve personnel, through amendments that were adopted in the FY2011 and FY2012 NDAA. In the 116th Congress, she is a cosponsor of the *Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act*, which would bolster VA's mental health workforce, improve access to rural veterans' mental health care, and invest in alternative treatment options.
- **Securing Maine Veterans' Homes Grants:** Senator Collins has worked to increase funding for VA's State Veterans Home Construction Grant Program, which has led to tens of millions of dollars in grants to build facilities for Maine's veterans. In April 2018, Senator Collins invited Secretary Wilkie to participate in the groundbreaking ceremony of a new Maine Veterans' Home facility in Augusta, which was constructed with the help of a \$50 million grant funded by this program.
- **Keeping VA Accountable and Expanding Veterans Choice:** When allegations surfaced in 2014 that VA employees had been falsifying appointment wait-time data – and prior to the worst of the allegations coming to light – Senator Collins immediately asked the VA Inspector General to investigate. Senator Collins later cosponsored and supported the original legislation establishing the Veterans Choice Program, and supported the *VA MISSION Act's* passage in 2018, which streamlines the delivery of health care and helps veterans access care closer to home. Senator Collins also cosponsored the enacted *VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act*, which allows the VA Secretary to dismiss bad employees and ensure appropriate due process protections for whistleblowers.

Supporting Veterans and Military Families in Need

- **Led Expansion of VA Caregiver Program:** After introducing legislation for years to expand VA caregiver benefits to veterans of all generations, the *VA MISSION Act* enacted in 2018 included this expansion. Previously, only post-9/11 veterans were eligible for this program. As Chairman of the Senate Aging Committee, Senator Collins held a hearing on military caregivers in June 2017. Senator Collins continues to lead efforts to ensure this program is adequately funded in annual appropriations legislation.
- **Combatting Veteran Homelessness:** As Chairman of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Subcommittee, Senator Collins has ensured funding for

HUD-VASH vouchers to prevent veteran homelessness even as successive presidential administrations have proposed to end the program. As a result of Senator Collins efforts, homelessness among veterans nationwide declined by 50-percent since 2010. Since 2008, Maine has been awarded 238 VASH vouchers.

- **Repealing the “Widow’s Tax”:** After years of advocacy by Senator Collins, the fiscal year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act repealed the unfair offset that prevented as many as 67,000 surviving spouses – including more than 260 from Maine – from receiving the full benefits they deserve. The average offset which impacted widowers and widows amounted to more than \$11,000 per year, which families will now be able to retain. Senator Collins had been the lead Republican sponsor of the *Military Widow’s Tax Elimination Act* for years.
- **Fighting for Service-Connected Benefits:** Senator Collins has supported efforts to ensure veterans are eligible for the benefits they have earned through their service.
 - **Burn Pits** - She was a cosponsor of the *Burn Pits Accountability Act*, enacted into law as part of the FY2020 NDAA, which would require servicemembers to be evaluated for health issues caused by exposure to open burn pits and toxic airborne chemicals during routine health exams. She has also cosponsored the *Veterans Burn Pits Exposure Recognition Act of 2019*.
 - **Concurrent Receipt** – She cosponsored legislation (S.3393) in 2020 to provide for concurrent receipt of veterans’ disability compensation and military retirement pay for retirees with fewer than 20 years of service and a combat-related disability. This legislation would allow certain veterans to receive both VA disability payments in addition to military retirement pay.
 - **Agent Orange** – In 2013, she introduced legislation directing VA to establish a registry of certain veterans, including Maine National Guard members, who may have been exposed to Agent Orange while serving at Gagetown in New Brunswick, Canada. For numerous years, Senator Collins has included language in the annual MilCon-VA Appropriations Committee reports directing or urging the VA to research the effects of Agent Orange and other toxic exposures at Gagetown. In 2017 and 2019, she cosponsored the *Fairness for Korean War Veterans Act* to broaden the service-connected presumption for soldiers who served in the Korean War.
- **Protecting Veterans from Scammers:** As Chairman of the Senate Aging Committee, Senator Collins has led efforts to protect seniors from ruthless scammers. In November 2019, she held a hearing to highlight scams targeting veterans and their veteran benefits and sent a letter to the VA Secretary calling on VA to step up its efforts to protect veterans. Senator Collins later sponsored legislation, the *Veteran Pension Protection Act*, requiring VA to track victims, scammers, and trends and to proactively protect veterans from predatory benefits poachers.
- **Ensuring Free Access to National Parks for Disabled Veterans:** For several years Senator Collins has introduced legislation she coauthored, the *Wounded Veterans Recreation*

Act, to permit disabled veterans of any disability rating free access to America's National Parks. Currently, only veterans with 100% disability are granted free access to the parks. The Senate unanimously passed Sen. Collins' legislation in June 2020.

Ensuring Education and Employment Opportunities for Veterans

- **Expanding Education Benefits:** Senator Collins cosponsored the Post-9/11 GI Bill, which expands the educational benefits that our nation offers to those who have served and permits those benefits to be transferred to spouses and dependents. In 2007 Senator Collins sponsored the *Total Force GI Bill*, which was designed to enhance educational benefits for members of the Reserves and the Guard and was included in the fiscal year 2008 NDAA.
- **Apprenticeships for Servicemembers Leaving the Military:** An amendment authored by Senator Collins was included in the FY2019 NDAA which allows federal agencies to participate in the DOD skills training, apprenticeship, and internships programs for military members transitioning to civilian life. Previously, only private industry employers could participate in these programs.

Supporting Veterans During the COVID-19 Pandemic

- **Ensuring Veterans Received Rebate Checks:** Sen. Collins led a letter to the secretaries of the Treasury and Veterans Affairs, as well as the commissioners of the IRS and Social Security Administration, urging them to ensure that veterans receiving non-taxable disability and other VA benefits would not have to file a tax return in order to receive a rebate check under the *CARES Act*. Two weeks later, the IRS announced that veterans would receive rebate checks, up to \$1,200 for individuals, without filing any additional paperwork, ensuring more veterans would receive the payments.
- **Providing VA Emergency Funding:** In the Appropriations Committee portion of the *CARES Act* enacted in March 2020, the VA was provided \$19.6 billion to increase purchases of medical equipment and supplies such as PPE and testing kits, improve access to telehealth, and bolster support to the most vulnerable veterans such as the homeless and those in VA-run nursing homes. In May, Senator Collins led a letter to VA Secretary Robert Wilkie urging him to prioritize rapid testing kits to Togus and ensure adequate supplies of PPE.
- **Protecting GI Bill Benefits for Remote Learning:** As universities and colleges across the country suspended in-person classes and shifted to online operations due to the pandemic, legislation cosponsored by Senator Collins was enacted into law in March 2020 to ensure veterans using the GI Bill would continue to receive their full education benefits.

Resources for Veterans:

- **Veterans Crisis Line:** The Veterans Crisis Line connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring VA responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text. Veterans and their loved ones can call **1-800-273-8255 and Press 1**, chat online, or send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential crisis intervention and support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. More information is available at <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>.
- **Make the Connection:** This online resource connects Veterans, their family members and friends, and other supporters with information and solutions to issues affecting their lives. More information is available at <https://maketheconnection.net/>.
- **Resource Locator:** This online resource helps Veterans easily find VA resources in their area including Suicide Prevention Coordinators, crisis centers, VAMCs, outpatient clinics, Veterans Benefits Administration offices, and Vet Centers. More information is available at: www.veteranscrisisline.net/ResourceLocator.
- **Veterans Self-Check Quiz:** VA and the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline joined with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention to create the Veterans Self-Check Quiz. The 10-minute quiz is a safe, easy way to learn whether stress and depression might be affecting you. Using this service is completely voluntary and confidential. More information is available at: <https://www.vetselfcheck.org/welcome.cfm>.
- **Veteran Training:** The Veteran Online Self-Help Portal provides tools for overcoming everyday challenges. The tools help Veterans work on problem-solving skills, manage anger, develop parenting skills, and more. More information is available at: <https://www.veterantraining.va.gov/>.
- **AboutFace:** AboutFace videos feature the real stories of Veterans who have experienced posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and how treatment can help, with additional perspectives from their family members and VA clinicians. More information is available at <https://www.ptsd.va.gov/apps/AboutFace/>.
- **Self help mobile apps:** Mobile applications (apps) provide self-help, education and support to help manage symptoms. See <https://www.ptsd.va.gov/appvid/mobile>
- **National Center for PTSD Website:** Information about PTSD and PTSD treatment for Veterans, families, and friends. Learn more at <https://www.ptsd.va.gov/>
- **National Call Center for Homeless Veterans (877-4AID-VET / 877-424-3838):** Veterans who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness, their family members, friends, and supporters can call or chat online with the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans where trained counselors are ready to talk confidentially 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. More information is available here: <https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/NationalCallCenter.asp>.

- **Vet Centers:** Vet Centers across the country provide a broad range of counseling, outreach, and referral services to combat Veterans and their families. Vet Centers guide Veterans and their families through many of the major adjustments in lifestyle that often occur after a Veteran returns from combat. Services for a Veteran many include individual and group counseling in areas such as PTSD, alcohol, and drug assessment, and suicide prevention referrals. All services are free and confidential. More information is available at: <https://www.vetcenter.va.gov/>.
 - **Vet Center Call Center (1-877-WAR-VETS):** This is an around-the-clock, confidential **call center** where combat **Veterans** and their families talk about their military experience or any other issue they are facing in their readjustment to civilian life.
- **Reducing Firearm & Other Household Safety Risks for Veterans and Their Families:** This brochure provides best practices for safely storing firearms and medications along with advice for loved ones on how to talk to the Veteran in their life about safe storage: https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/docs/Brochure-for-Veterans-Means-Safety-Messaging_508_CLEARED_11-15-19.pdf.
- **Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Resource Toolkit for Never Federally Activated Former Guard and Reserve Members:** This toolkit connects former members of the Guard and Reserves, their families, and their providers with mental health and suicide prevention resources available through VA and in the community. The toolkit is available at https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/docs/Toolkit_National_Guard_and_Reserve_Members_CLEARED_2-21-19.pdf.

Resources for Families and Friends

- **#BeThere Prevention Initiative:** The #BeThere prevention initiative teaches members of the community how simple acts can help save a Veteran in crisis. More information is available at <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/BeThere.aspx>.
- **Coaching into Care (1-888-823-7458):** A national telephone service of the VA, Coaching into Care aims to educate, support, and empower family members and friends who are seeking care or services for a Veteran. More information is available at <https://www.mirecc.va.gov/coaching/>.
- **How to Talk to a Child About a Suicide Attempt in Your Family:** If there has been a recent suicide attempt in your family, this may be one of the toughest experiences you and your children may ever face. It is important to take care of yourself, so that you are better able to care for your child. More information is available at <https://www.mirecc.va.gov/visn19/talk2kids/>.
- **Start the Conversation:** This customizable toolkit provides information about common issues that many Veterans face, as well as concrete steps to help you support a Veteran who may be dealing with emotional distress or at risk for suicide. Create your own toolkit at <https://starttheconversation.veteranscrisisline.net/>.

- **Together We Can Series:** This series provides evidenced-based information on suicide risk and protective factors for Veterans, their families, caregivers, friends, and community members. More information is available at https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/resources.asp.

VHA 10NC1 (Suicide/MH/Homelessness) Talking Points

- Significant progress has been made to prevent and end Veteran homelessness. The number of Veterans experiencing homelessness in the United States has declined by nearly half since 2010.
- On a single night in January 2019, 37,085 Veterans were experiencing homelessness 2.1 percent fewer than in 2018 (37,878).
- Since 2010, over 800,000 Veterans and their family members have been permanently housed or prevented from becoming homeless.
- As of June 8, 2020, 81 areas (78 communities and 3 states*) have met the benchmarks and criteria established by the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), VA and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and have publicly announced an effective end to Veteran homelessness.

Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program Response to COVID-19

- On April 24, 2020, \$201.5M in CARES Act funds distributed to grantees.
- SSVF is focusing on three critical areas: emergency housing in hotels/motels; HUD-VASH support while Public Housing Authorities (PHA) have limited functioning; and expanded prevention in response to high unemployment.
- Over 5,000 hotel/motel placements have occurred through May, 2020 to reduce risk of COVID-19 exposure for vulnerable Veterans.
- Many regulatory limits have been waived through Stafford Act.
- Extensive technical assistance has been provided to grantees on risk mitigation and reducing inflows into homelessness.
- In FY 2020 through April, over 73,000 Veterans and family members have been served with 81% of exits placed in permanent housing.

Grant and Per Diem (GPD) Program

- The GPD Case Management grant, providing housing retention services for homeless Veterans, began October 1, 2019.
 - During the first 6 months of the grant over 1,080 unique Veterans have been served by the program.
 - Of the 150 Veterans that exited the program 73% were housed at the time of exit.
- The CARES Act states that the VA Secretary may waive the GPD per diem limits. The waiver request was approved by the Secretary on April 28, 2020 and allows grantees to backdate their per diem requests to the enactment of the CARES Act.

- On April 29, 2020, the GPD National Program Office notified all grantees of the waiver and method to request an increase in per diem.
 - As of June 5, 2020, GPD approved 409 per diem rate increase requests tied to 8,602 transitional housing beds and six service centers.

The average increase was an additional \$24.27 per bed per day. For these projects, this equates to approximately \$4,000,000/month in additional per diem funding

HUD-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program

- HUD-VASH is a collaborative program between VA and HUD to move Veterans and their families out of homelessness and into permanent housing. HUD provides housing assistance through its Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8) that allows homeless Veterans to rent privately owned housing.
- Beginning in fiscal year (FY) 2008 through FY 2020, Quarter 1, approximately 101,000 subsidized housing vouchers have been allocated to HUD-VASH.
- Voucher utilization as of April 30, 2020: 78% (78,585 Veterans housed)
- COVID-19 and the corresponding shut-downs strongly negatively impacted HUD-VASH processes, including reductions of over 50% in vouchers issued to Veterans.
- HUD-VASH remains focused on efforts to improve voucher utilization, including:
 - Developing virtual capabilities for VA medical center (VAMC) and PHA processes.
 - Targeting vouchers for Veterans placed in hotels during the COVID-19 emergency.
 - Updating and expanding HUD-VASH Continuum for other than honorable (OTH) Veterans.
 - Expanding pilot efforts with lower-acuity Veterans receiving case management from non-HUD-VASH providers.
 - Filling HUD-VASH case manager vacancies.

Homeless Patient Aligned Care Teams (H-PACTs)

New H-PACT site opening in Fargo, North Dakota this summer with expanded use of telehealth services in place to expand access and meet the care needs of the rural Veteran population in that area and work to continually provide virtual care as needed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Veterans Justice Programs

The Veterans Treatment Court Improvement Act of 2018 required VA to hire at least 50 additional Veterans Justice Outreach Specialists. New positions totaling 51 FTE were awarded in response to VAMCs' requests. As of April 2020, 48 (94%) of these positions have been filled or are under active recruitment by their VAMCs.

Homeless Veterans Community Employment Services (HVCES)

- Through April 30, 2020, there were approximately 10,461 newly documented, unique instances of employment for Veterans engaged with or who exited from VA Homeless Programs or Services.
- HVCES is partnering with the Department of Labor Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP) to provide a joint training for VHA staff and grantees to improve employment outcomes for Veterans who have experienced homelessness.

Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV)

- Through April 30, 2020, over 70,000 Veterans have received HCHV outreach and case management services.
- Through April 30, 2020, nearly 60% of the Veterans who exited HCHV Contract Residential Services program exited directly into permanent housing.
- HCHV continues to lead HPO's efforts in coordinated entry integration, most recently partnering with SSVF, HUD and USICH to hold national calls (one for VA staff and one for community partners) focused on the critical role of coordinated entry in the community's response to the COVID-19 crisis.

VBA Current Issues:

BVA Backlog of Claims

While the Board does not track the number of pending appeals by state, all Veterans can check the status of their appeal via the appeals status tracker. Veterans can see, in real time, where their claim or appeal is in its progression, any evidence they've filed, what they've claimed, any evidence VA has requested of them, their representative and their claim type.

The Board of Veterans' Appeals (Board) is the Secretary's designee to decide appeals from all three administrations (VBA, VHA, NCA) and the office of General Counsel. In response to the growing number of claims and appeals, in February 2019, VA implemented the Appeals Modernization Act (AMA), which streamlines the complicated and lengthy legacy appeals process and gives Veterans more choice, clarity and control over their claims and appeals. VA and Veterans have seen positive results from AMA. In FY19, the Board decided a record high of 90,089 appeals and completed a record of over 22,000 hearings.

Since April of 2019, VA has reduced the number of appeals from over 396,000 to 239,000 as of April 2020. We continue to make significant strides as an agency to provide decisions ensuring Veterans receive the benefits and services to which they are entitled.

In October 2019, VA released its plan to reduce legacy appeals by the end of calendar year 2022. Despite COVID-19, VA is still on track to reduce its legacy appeals. As of May 24, the Board had 96,305 legacy appeals and 43,205 AMA

appeals pending. The Board continues to prioritize legacy appeals, while simultaneously working AMA appeals.

Prior to COVID-19, the Board was on target to surpass the decisions goal and reach its goal of conducting a record 24,300 hearings in FY 2020. While production numbers remain strong, our ability to hold hearings has been significantly impacted due to COVID-19 operational changes. Through the end of March 2020, the Board held 11,455 hearings, was averaging 4,478 hearings per week, and was 57 hearings above its goal. The Board also reduced the number of pending legacy hearing requests from 75,946 at the start of FY 2019 to 56,761 at the end of March 2020. Due to COVID-19, the Board suspended all in-person hearings including travel board, video, and central office, and is only conducting virtual hearings at this time. Virtual hearings have allowed the Board to increase its capacity to serve more Veterans wherever they are located, and ensure the safety of Veterans, their representatives and VA employees. The Board encourages Veterans who have a scheduled hearing to consider opting for a virtual hearing. Until it is safe for VA to resume in-person hearings, virtual hearings are the only viable option. For more information about virtual hearings, please see the enclosed fact sheet.

Fiduciary Program:

(P&F RESPONSE) In the Fiduciary program, approximately 70 percent of field examinations are normally conducted through face-to-face meetings. To ensure we are able to continue to appoint fiduciaries and provide oversight of our most vulnerable beneficiaries in the Fiduciary program, VBA deployed the use of VA Video Connect, Skype, and telephonic contact in lieu of face-to-face meetings. Due to the elimination of travel to and from field examination appointments, we have experienced an 8% increase in productivity from March and 12% increase in field examination completions in April, when compared to the average of the prior months in FY20. Overall, timeliness for initial appointment field examinations and follow-up field examinations has also improved by 12% and 18% respectively.

Aid & Attendance:

(OFO/P&F RESPONSE) VA is committed to providing timely services to pension claimants. Currently, claims for Veterans Pension based on the need for Aid and Attendance (A&A) are processed in an average of 84 days. VA is continuously exploring new ways to minimize delays and further improve processing time for Veterans Pension based on the need for A&A. Currently, collaboration between VA's Office of Information Technology and the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) is underway in one of the largest automation efforts in VA. Computerized systems will automatically record data and generate award payments and correspondence, thus allowing VA to focus claims processors on only those claims that require manual processing.

Contract C&P Exams

{MDE PIO Response}: On May 18, 2020, the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) established the Medical Disability Examination Program Integration Office (MDEPIO) and detailed a Senior Executive to lead the office as a separate entity and report directly to the Under Secretary for Benefits. This office is responsible for overseeing VBA's return to full and expanded exam capacity during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, and to improve oversight over all aspects of the program, to include the quality of the contract compensation and pension (C&P) exams.

The MDEPIO has instituted several safeguards within the contract examination process to identify and address issues that may arise and adversely impact the Veteran or the Veteran experience during a C&P examination. Veteran satisfaction surveys are released to all Veterans who undergo a C&P exam to provide their feedback on their examiner and their examination experience. Additionally, Veterans can submit their concerns through their representative, their local Regional Office, or via telephone at 1-800-827-1000.

All complaints related to contract examiners are forwarded to MDEPIO for a potential investigation and response. In most cases, MDEPIO will task the contract vendor with investigating the complaint about the vendor's employee or subcontracted provider. The vendor must submit a report of this investigation to MDEPIO for review and a discussion of further action with the vendor, to include specific remedial action. MDEPIO has requested a vendor investigation regarding the complaint referenced in this inquiry.

COVID: CONTINGENCY PLANNING TALKING POINTS:

- VA has contingency plans in place to address the needs of the Veteran enrollee population and has been activating our 4th mission as the civilian health care system needed assistance. VA has been modeling the COVID-19 spread in across the nation in order to prepare for outbreaks and to reinforce areas 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.
- 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. Our collective occupancy rate is 47%.

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 35 ongoing mission assignments. We are providing care to a total of 45 states and territories at this time.
- VA is caring for approximately 250 civilians in our facilities.

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 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/face covering vs an N95 respirator given the demand on the 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 also testing all patients and employees in our Community Living Centers and Spinal Cord Injury Units to protect our most vulnerable populations.
- 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.
- We have received results on over 150,000 tests.
- 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.
- We are now conducting over 30,000 video telehealth sessions per day, an increase of over 900%
- 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 53% since March.

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 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.

- VA will be issuing further guidance with more granularity about when which type of PPE is required, and by whom. That said, experts are nearly unanimous in indicating that not everyone in a hospital needs an N95 mask. A face covering more than sufficient for those not in direct contact with a COVID-19 patient.
- Our supply chain is currently forecasting sufficient PPE, at the burn rate we are currently sustaining, for the next few months. Obviously, much of that could change as the global supply chain continues to respond to increased demand from all corners.



US Department of Veterans Affairs COVID-19 Pandemic Response

Weekly Report

July 7–July 13, 2020

“Americans are coming together to fight COVID-19 in ways they haven’t joined together since World War II, and VA is providing vital services to both Veterans and non-Veterans as part of this fight.”

VA Secretary Robert Wilkie



VETERAN CARE



VA has tested **376,523** Veterans and employees for COVID-19 (as of July 13, 2020)



9.21M total patients currently enrolled in VA health care



6,070 patients admitted to VA facilities for COVID-19 (as of July 13, 2020)
» 713 current inpatients with COVID-19



VA has diagnosed **24,701** Veterans with COVID-19 (as of July 13, 2020)



17,815 patients with COVID-19 have reached convalescence (as of July 13, 2020)



397,400 total VA employees
» VHA onboarded **26,218** new hires from March 29–July 6, 2020
» **5,036** new registered nurses hired from March 29–July 6, 2020

VIRTUAL CARE



138,766 weekly telehealth to home or off-site visits (June 21–27, 2020)



1,140% increase in telehealth to home or off-site visits since March 1 (as of July 13, 2020)



461,634 prescription refill requests placed through My HealtheVet (July 5–11, 2020)



271,858 Secure Messages exchanged through My HealtheVet (July 5–11, 2020)

MEDIA OUTREACH



VA has published **45** news releases related to COVID-19 since February 2020:



“VA offers debt relief to Veterans through year’s end”



“Help Heal Veterans donates craft kits to VA hospitals to help provide activities for Veterans who are alone”

Secretary Wilkie has participated in **134** media opportunities since February 2020

270 good news stories have been published since February 2020



The New York Times (July 9, 2020)
“Teletherapy, Popular in the Pandemic, May Outlast It”



AARP (July 9, 2020)
“Father and Son Treated for COVID-19 Together at VA Hospital”

VETERAN OUTREACH



VA has sent **4** batches of text messages (VEText) to VA customers, resulting in **32.2M** total texts with COVID-19 news and resources, including virtual mental health (as of July 13, 2020)



VA.gov/Coronavirus has had **15,073** visitors (July 6–13, 2020)



VA.gov has had **2,236,993** visitors (July 6–13, 2020)

VETERAN ENGAGEMENT



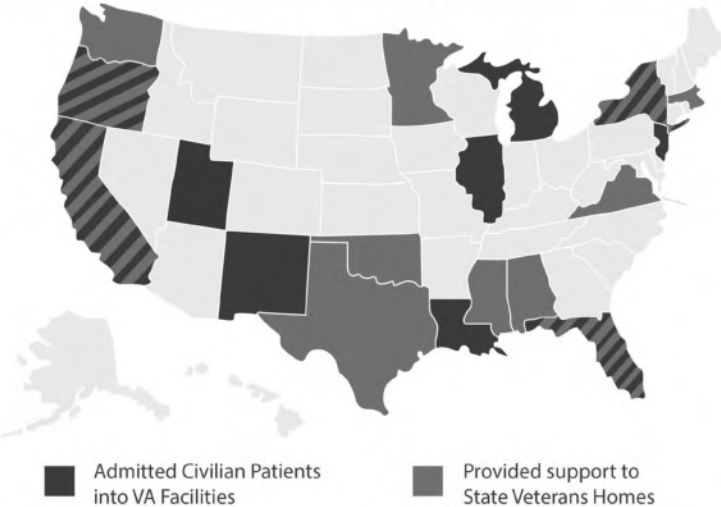
29,437 COVID-19 related calls have been made to VA311 and the White House VA Hotline



19,477 calls have been made to VA's COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions Hotline (844-698-2311)

All figures listed in the section above are as of July 13, 2020.

SUPPORT TO STATES AND OTHER AGENCIES



750+ VA employees are currently supporting non-VA facilities



120+ Veterans from **12** State Veterans Homes have been admitted for care in VHA facilities
 » States supported: MA, NY, VA, AL, FL, MS, TX, OK, WA, OR, CA, MN



Provided up to **30** beds to patients in Portland, OR



Distributed **100** masks to Tribal Veterans between the Cheyenne and Standing Rock Reservations



Little Rock VAMC has performed more than **1,200** tests for the Arkansas Department of Health (as of June 13, 2020)



Received **5** patients from the Indian Health Service in Gallop, NM to our Albuquerque Medical Center

Unless otherwise noted, all figures listed in the section above are as of July 13, 2020.

SUPPORT TO CIVILIAN NURSING HOMES



Admitted **12** Veteran patients from community nursing homes
 » States supported: RI, CA



Providing **29** nurses and CNAs to NH nursing homes



Providing support to **60** nursing homes in FL with **195** nurses and certified nursing assistants (CNAs) caring for an estimated **6,580** patients



Providing **15** nurses and CNAs to support a group home in RI

All figures listed in the section above are as of July 13, 2020.

NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION



2,243 total COVID-19 related Veteran interments
 » **37,499** total interments from March 9–July 13, 2020
 » **6,400** total Veteran tributes



20,479 calls received at VBA National Call Center related to COVID-19 since March 1



61,246 VA Video Connect appointments conducted for VA benefits



1,419,579 Veterans reached in **35** states through tele-town halls held between March and July to discuss VA's COVID-19 response

BOARD OF VETERANS' APPEALS



1,686 virtual hearings held by the Board of Veterans' Appeals since March 23



33,964 decisions issued by the Board of Veterans' Appeals since March 23

All figures listed in the section above are as of July 13, 2020.

Call your VA medical center (www.va.gov/find-locations) before going to a clinic, urgent care center, or emergency room. Calling first helps us protect you, other Veteran patients, and medical staff.

VA's COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions Hotline (844-698-2311)

Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1

VA311 (844-698-2311)

www.va.gov/Coronavirus

[VA Coronavirus FAQs page](#)

Download your VA Welcome Kit:
www.va.gov/welcome-kit/

Sign up for weekly VA e-mail updates at:
www.va.gov/VetResources



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

SecVA and Senator Collins Tele-Townhall Talking Points
July 15, 2020
VA Maine Healthcare System
Talking Points

The MISSION Act gives Veterans greater access to health care and expands services for caregivers.

- Staff expansion has allowed for VA Maine to increase delivery of services to caregivers through the Program of General Caregiver Support Services (PGCSS)

VA Maine has several CBOC leases in progress to improve services for our Veterans.

- Replacement Portland CBOC
 - New construction for a 62,000 sq. ft. CBOC in southern Maine
 - Current SACO and Portland CBOCs will be combined with no lapse in services
 - Groundbreaking scheduled for July 17, 2020
 - Estimated Occupancy in late fall 2021
- Replacement Rumford CBOC
 - Close to initial award to build a replacement CBOC offering improvements in space (increase by 1,500 sq. ft.) and PACT compliance flow
 - Complex situation with contract and current lessor who has already filed a protest of VA's requirements in the solicitation and lost
 - Anticipate current lessor will file protest with award if his location is not chosen
 - This lessor has an 11-year history of protests with numerous complaints to the SecVA's office
- Replacement Caribou CBOC
 - Close to initial award to build a replacement CBOC in northern Maine offering improvements in space (increase by 1,800 sq. ft) and PACT compliance flow
 - Senator Collins, Congressmen Golden and a vocal group of Veterans is in support of keeping the CBOC in its current location at Cary Medical Center

VA Maine continues to expand our Suicide Prevention program.

- Received VISN funding to increase staffing
- Collaborating with community partners to create the Maine Safer Homes Taskforce (MSHT)

VA Maine is working toward establishing an RRTP for Maine Veterans.

- Submitted a high priority Out-of-Cycle SCIP request on Jan 2020 for a 24-bed facility
- Working through approval process with positive support from Maine Congressional Delegation to prioritize this project

In FY20, community care referrals have increased more than 20% over the same time period in FY19.

- Successful implementation of Referral Care Teams to help reduce community care referrals with more than one dozen teams implemented
- Veterans and providers are frustrated with the new National Call Center for Community Care and the recent Wolfe vs Wilkie letter

The following talking points are COVID-19 related:

VA Maine collaborated with Maine National Guard to establish an external triage unit to limit COVID-19 exposure inside Togus.

VA Maine has significantly increased its use of telehealth as a modality of care.

- Increase in the utilization of VA Video Connect of over 2000% in FY20
- A total of 18% of our Veterans have received care via a telehealth modality
- Creation of a Virtual Congestive Heart Failure Clinic now in pilot

VA Maine's new Fisher House maintained limited services during COVID-19.

- Began accepting families in February 2020
- SecVA visit to April 2020 grand opening cancelled due to COVID-19
- 36 Families Served
- 59 Guests Accommodated
- 96 Lodging Days Provided

COVID-19 testing capability continues to improve.

- Created pathway for quick turnaround for PCR testing with VA Connecticut
- Improved acquisition of rapid, 1-hour Cepheid PCR test kits that can be performed at VA Maine
- Improved supply of testing swabs and reagent kits
- IgG antibody testing available on site

Veterans are struggling with Universal Masking Policies for a variety of reasons.

- Disbelief with public health emergency/COVID-19 reality
- Challenges with masks due to medical condition or mental health issues

VA Maine CLC operations quickly adapted during the pandemic.

- No confirmed COVID-19 infections in CLC Residents and staff
- CLC visitation practices were established for Residents to promote well-being

VA Maine has acquired an adequate supply of PPE.

- Currently maintaining a minimum of 60 days of stock on hand to support execution of Phase I of the "Moving Forward" plan
- The national supply chain could become a barrier to expanding additional services

VA Maine supported other facilities during the pandemic.

- Supported VISN 1 with supplies such as PPE, negative pressure machines and test kits.
- Deployed a total of 44 volunteers to support 62 DEMPS, FEMA, Intra-VISN deployments. *Note: Some volunteers traveled to NYC via DoD Air Transport.*

VA Maine is "Moving Forward" with expanding service offerings using a phased approach.

- Specialty services with clinical review team approval on 6/1/2020
- Surgery (Phase I) on 7/13/2020
- Primary Care and Mental Health (Phase I) on 7/20/2020
 - Portland and Saco CBOCs delayed until August due to community COVID-19 rates
 - Access Points in Bingham, Houlton and Fort Kent temporarily closed due to COVID-19 social distancing challenges

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 9 Jun 2020 19:35:06 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Gate Transition/Aircraft Boarding

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 24 Jun 2020 15:04:22 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Video Tape for 2020 VFW Virtual Convention
Attachments: 2020 07 24-2 VFW 2020 Virtual Convention Script.docx

Hello, I'm Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie, and I'm honored to join you for your 121st annual convention.

The fact that you are meeting virtually is a reminder that this has been a challenging year — for VA, for our Nation, and for the VFW as you work to ensure Veterans are respected for their service, receive the care and benefits they've earned, and are fully recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made.

But there is much good news to share.

Last year, Congress approved a \$220 billion budget for VA, reflecting renewed trust in VA from Veterans, Congress and the American people. Congress is likely to approve an increase this year, and the reasons is simple:

This is not the VA you read about in 2014. Today's VA is rededicated to the task President Lincoln

assigned us 155 years ago, “to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan.”

Our record tells the story of VA’s turnaround as we’ve implemented major reforms.

Under the MISSION Act, we successfully gave Veterans real, permanent choice. We completed more than 59.9 million internal episodes of care in the last fiscal year, record high and 1.7 million more than the year before.

We implemented critical updates to the GI Bill under the Harry W. Colmery Act and took on the task of caring for thousands of Blue Water Navy Veterans.

And we continue to make progress on the difficult initiative of conforming our electronic health care records to those in the Defense Department.

We push on with these reforms even as we simultaneously cope with the significant challenges posed by a global pandemic.

Though COVID-19 was a shock to health care systems around the world, your VA responded quickly to mitigate the effects of the virus. We took steps that allowed us to keep serving Veterans, including the immediate implementation of emergency management procedures, expanding telehealth access and prohibiting visitors to VA nursing homes and spinal cord injury centers.

Here's where we stand: As of late June, VA had tested more than 279,000 patients for COVID-19, and over 232,000 of those tests were returned negative.

More than 16,000 Veterans nationwide were diagnosed with the virus. But 80 percent of those Veterans are 14 days past their last positive test and recovering at home.

We are caring for about 2,100 Veterans with the virus. We have about 1,100 positive COVID tests among VA employees, but our infection rate among staff is about one half of one percent—incredibly low compared to other health care systems.

We've hired more than 22,000 new employees since late March, including over 4,400 registered nurses.

I'm also proud to report that we have a very low incidence of COVID infection in our Community Living Centers, even though many non-VA nursing homes and Veterans homes became hotspots.

This stability has allowed us to fully engage in our "Fourth Mission," which is to support the national health care system in times of stress.

We've accepted 54 missions from FEMA, 32 of which are ongoing, in 46 states and territories.

By April, we were accepting requests to open dozens of our beds to non-Veteran patients in New York and New Jersey.

And we deployed 582 VA staff to community nursing homes around the nation, and 411 to help at state Veterans homes.

This crisis has taken a toll. It claimed the lives of more than 1,400 Veterans and 38 VA staff members.

But even during this unprecedented event, VA's standing among Veterans continued to improve. Despite the challenges, the outlook for VA is strong. Recent survey results show that a record high 90 percent of Veterans trust VA care.

This is good news for VFW members. It shows that VA can be trusted to turn a budget increase into real results for Veterans, and builds trust for future budget debates.

I'd like to close by thanking you for your new initiative to highlight how Veterans continue to serve this nation even after leaving the military.

Your #StillServing campaign reveals the character of so many Veterans. It shows that their love for this nation doesn't end just because they became civilians, and that there are always ways to serve America, at any age.

But it's also a model for how Americans should be working together as we continue to deal with the fallout from COVID-19, and a new wave of civil unrest that is raising questions about whether we are one nation.

The clarity so many of your Veterans bring to these issues is very much needed, and it's my hope that your effort resonates throughout this nation.

With that, I'd like to offer you best wishes for a productive 2020 virtual convention and to your new National Commander-in-Chief, Hal Roesch. And to your outgoing Commander, "Doc" Schmitz – thank you for your leadership and your many contributions to Veterans.

May God bless our Veterans and those currently serving, and may He continue to bless our Great Nation. Thank you.

###

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 17 Jun 2020 15:05:52 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: 10:40am Interview - David Webb Show
Attachments: Quad - David Webb - David Webb Show_updated.pptx

Page 2 of 2

Withheld pursuant to exemption

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of the Freedom of Information

From: RLW
Sent: Fri, 26 Jun 2020 17:57:40 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Phone Call w/Mr. John Hesse - He will call us at (b)(6)

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 9 Jun 2020 20:42:17 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Prep for HVAC Call
Attachments: EBS COVID 061620 HVAC.docx, EBS for SecVA Prep.docx



EXECUTIVE BRIEFING SUMMARY
Chairman Takano/Ranking Member Roe
Tuesday June 16, 2020
1:00 P.M.
Call

June 16, 2020 1:00 P.M

OCLA POC: Cathy Haverstock

Driver: 4 Corners Request

Subject: COVID 19 Response

Participants: Chairman Takano/Ranking Member Roe, and other Members TBD **VA:**
SECVA, Dr. Stone, Dr. Lawrence

PURPOSE OF EVENT/MEETING:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decisional | <input type="checkbox"/> Informational | <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Remarks | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> Courtesy Call |

OVERVIEW OF EVENT:

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

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EXECUTIVE BRIEFING SUMMARY

**Prep for call w/ Chairman Takano and Rep. Roe
Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 9:00 A.M. (Eastern)**

Teleconference

1-800-767-1750 Access

June 16, 2020. 9:00 A.M.; Teleconference

OCLA POC: Mobile

Participants: Cathy Haverstock, Special Assistant, OCLA Chief Officer, Women's Health Services, VHA and Jacqueline Hayes-Byrd, Center for Women Veterans, Ms.

POINT OF CONTACT: Congressional Relations Officer, VA-OCLA, @va.gov;

PURPOSE OF EVENT/MEETING:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decisional | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Informational | <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Remarks | <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> Courtesy Call |

OVERVIEW OF EVENT:

Prep for meeting this afternoon's teleconference with Takano and Roe

SECVA ROLE:

- Receive information from VA subject matter experts on Women's Health, Women Veterans and the "Stand Up to Stop Harassment" campaign.

OBJECTIVE:

-

ATTENDEES:

Cathy Haverstock, Special Assistant, Acting Assistant Secretary OCLA (in person)

Director Health Legislative Affairs Team, OCLA (online)

Senior Advisor to the Under Secretary for Health, OCLA (online)

Chief Officer Women's Health, VHA (online)

Jacqueline Hayes-Byrd, Director Center for Women Veterans

Senior Strategist to VHA COS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

(b)(5)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- N/A

LOGISTICS:

VANTS Line - 1800-767-1750 Access (b)(6) (Most participants will be online)

ATTACHMENTS:

- HVAC Women Veterans Task Force – Mission Statement
- HVAC WVTF Membership

The Women Veterans Task Force advances equity in provision of access to resources, benefits, and healthcare for women veterans.

Mission:

The bipartisan Women Veterans Task Force (“Task Force”), chaired by Congresswoman Julia Brownley (CA-26) will work to increase the visibility of the two million women who have served in the U.S. military and promote inclusivity and equitable access to comprehensive healthcare, benefits, education and economic opportunity, and other federal resources, particularly at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Women have served in the U.S. military since the Revolutionary War. Long before women could formally serve, hundreds of women, like Deborah Sampson and Cathay Williams, disguised themselves as men to serve in the armed forces. Thousands more served in critical roles such as battlefield medicine and intelligence. Hundreds of thousands of women answered the call to serve in World War I and World War II, and their invaluable contributions were recognized when women became permanent members of the armed forces in 1948. Currently, seven women veterans serve in Congress, four in the House of Representatives, and three in the Senate.^[1]

Today, there are two million women veterans living in the United States. Women comprise the fastest growing subpopulation of both the military and veteran populations. Currently, women comprise nearly 20% of serving military personnel and 10% of the veteran population. The women veteran population is projected to grow to 18% of the total veteran population by 2040. Reforming the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other institutions where appropriate, keeping in mind jurisdictional limits, is required to keep pace with the rapid growth of the women veteran population, and ensure equity in access to resources.

The primary concern is creating a cultural transformation in which women veterans are visibly recognized for their service to the nation and have a

sense of belonging. In order to access the resources that are available to them, the Department of Veterans Affairs must first foster an environment that is safe and respectful. The Women Veterans Task Force will develop policy specifically focused on supporting women veterans, and on transforming existing systems and institutions with an eye on equity, through outreach, oversight, and legislation.

Policy Priorities:

1. Culture: Ensuring a welcoming and inclusive culture at the VA
2. Healthcare: Providing equity and access to VA healthcare, including women-specific care, such as gynecology and obstetrics
3. Economic Opportunity: Improving economic opportunities for women veterans and their families
4. Benefits Access: Guaranteeing that women veterans have equal access to VA benefits, including education, disability, and pension benefits.

MEMBERSHIP



Chairwoman Julia Brownley, D-California

Majority Members

- [Mark Takano, D - California](#)
- [Lauren Underwood, D - Illinois](#)
- [Max Rose, D - New York](#)
- [Kathleen Rice, D - New York](#)
- [Joe Cunningham, D - South Carolina](#)
- [Susie Lee, D - Nevada](#)
- [Chris Pappas, D - New Hampshire](#)
- [Gil Cisneros, D - California](#)
- [Colin Allred, D - Texas](#)
- [Mike Levin, D - California](#)
- [Conor Lamb, D - Pennsylvania](#)
- [Elaine Luria, D - Virginia](#)
- [Anthony Brindisi, D - New York](#)
- [Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan, D - Northern Mariana Islands](#)

Minority Members

- Dr. Phil Roe, R - Tennessee
- Mike Bost, R - Illinois
- Dr. Neal Dunn, R - Florida
- Andy Barr, R - Kentucky
- Amata C. Radewagen, R - American Samoa
- Gus M. Bilirakis, R - Florida
- Dan Meuser, R - Pennsylvania
- Steve Watkins, R - Kansas
- Jack Bergman, R - Michigan

Participating Members, Off-Committee:

- Rep. Terri Sewell - AL-09
- Rep. Tom O'Halleran - AZ-01
- Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick - AZ-02
- Rep. Ruben Gallego - AZ-07
- Rep. Debbie Lesko - AZ-08
- Rep. Doris Matsui - CA-06
- Rep. Jackie Speier - CA-14
- Rep. Ro Khanna - CA-17
- Rep. Judy Chu - CA-27
- Rep. Tony Cardenas - CA-29
- Rep. Pete Aguilar - CA-31
- Rep. Norma Torres - CA-35
- Rep. Katie Porter - CA-45
- Rep. Lou Correa - CA-46
- Rep. Susan Davis - CA-53
- Rep. Diana DeGette - CO-01
- Rep. John Rutherford - FL-04
- Rep. Kathy Castor - FL-14
- Rep. Lois Frankel - FL-21
- Rep. Wasserman-Schultz - FL-23
- Rep. Lucy McBath - GA-06
- Rep. Tulsi Gabbard - HI-02
- Rep. Robin Kelly - IL-02

- Rep. Jan Schakowsky - IL-09
- Rep. Cheri Bustos - IL-17
- Rep. Lori Trahan - MA-03
- Rep. Ayanna Pressley - MA-07
- Rep. Chellie Pingree - ME-01
- Rep. Debbie Dingell - MI-12
- Rep. Brenda Lawrence - MI-14

- Rep. Elissa Slotkin - MI-18
- Rep. Betty McCullum - MN-04
- Rep. Alma Adams - NC-12
- Rep. Annie Kuster - NH-02
- Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman - NJ-12
- Rep. Deb Haaland - NM-01
- Rep. Xochitl Torres Small - NM-02
- Rep. Ben Ray Lujan - NM-03
- Rep. Dina Titus - NV-01
- Rep. Steven Horsford - NV-04
- Rep. Nydia Velázquez - NY-07
- Rep. Carolyn Maloney - NY-12
- Rep. Antonio Delgado - NY-19
- Rep. Grace Meng - NY-06
- Rep. Bill Johnson - OH-06
- Rep. Kendra Horn - OK-05
- Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick - PA-01
- Rep. Chrissy Houlahan - PA-06
- Rep. Mary Gay Scanlon - PA-05
- Rep. Susan Wild - PA-07
- Rep. David Cicilline - RI-01
- Rep. Lizzie Fletcher - TX-07
- Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee - TX-18
- Rep. Henry Cuellar - TX-28
- Rep. Sylvia Garcia - TX-29
- Rep. Suzan Delbene - WA-01
- Rep. Pramila Jayapal - WA-07

- Rep. Gwen Moore - WI-04
- Rep. Jenniffer Gonzalez-Colon, Puerto Rico
- Rep. Carol Miller, WV-03

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 24 Jun 2020 17:39:58 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: RAH
Attachments: June 25 2020.docx

DAILY BRIEFING BOOK

Thursday, June 25, 2020

SECRETARY ROBERT L. WILKIE

7:45 – 8:15 am	Daily Sync Mtg	SECVA Suite	
9:15 – 9:45 am	FaceTime Interview w/Cole Johnson, KCEN, Ch 6, NBC, Temple TX	SECVA Suite	Tab 1
10:00 – 10:15 am	ERT ^{(b)(6)}		
10:15 – 10:30 am	ERT Korean War Memorial		
11:00 – 11:30 am	Korean War Memorial 70th Anniversary Commemoration Program w/POTUS		Tab 2
11:30 am – Noon	ERT VACO		
12:00 – 12:45 pm	Lunch	SECVA Suite	
12:45 – 1:15 pm	ERT Korean War Memorial		
1:20 – 1:40 pm	Korean War Memorial 70th Anniversary Commemoration Program w/Ambassador Soo Hyuck Lee		Tab 3
1:45 pm	ERT Residence		

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 17 Jun 2020 15:06:55 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: 12:35pm Interview - Fox Across America
Attachments: Quad - Fox Across America - Fox News Radio Update.pptx

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From: RLW
Sent: Fri, 26 Jun 2020 19:01:33 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Quarterly call w/ Tillis & Tester
Attachments: EBS EHRM 071620 Senators Tester and Tillis.docx

202-228-0808, (b)(6) #



EXECUTIVE BRIEFING SUMMARY

Ranking Member Tester/Senator Tillis

Thursday July 16, 2020

10:30 A.M. Call

July 16, 2020 10:30 A.M.

OCLA POC: Cathy Haverstock

Driver: Requested by Senators Tester and Tillis

Subject: EHRM Program

Participants: Ranking Member Tester and Senator Tillis

VA Participants: SECVA, Dr. Stone and Mr. Windom

PURPOSE OF EVENT/MEETING:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decisional | <input type="checkbox"/> Informational | <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Remarks | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> Courtesy Call |

OVERVIEW OF EVENT:

Teleconference with Members to discuss the Department's Electronic Health Record Modernization (EHRM) Program.

- **EHRM Budget:** During the June 3 SVAC hearing on VA's 2021 budget and in recent requests for information, **Senator Tester** expressed the below concerns on the program's budget.
 - Questioned whether OEHRM needs the full \$2.6 billion in funding for fiscal year 2021, amid COVID-19
 - Wants to ensure there is reliability in reporting the full cost of the EHRM effort

EHRM PROGRAM TALKING POINTS:

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EHRM IMPLEMENTATION AMID COVID-19:

- During the June 3 hearing, **Senator Tillis** voiced his understanding regarding revisions needing to be made to the EHRM Go-Live, as a result of COVID-19. The Senator expressed interest in pursuing other resources, like telehealth, to provide functionality to Veterans earlier.

7/7/2020 LETTER BY SENATOR TESTER TO SECVA ON EHRM:

- Senator Tester was the lead signatory on a letter to SECVA on the status of the EHRM effort. The letter addresses cost, noting that it is important to identify clear and measurable metrics for assessing impact. The letter also questions how the EHRM effort will be handled with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and how VA will strengthen end-user training to best support the provider and Veteran.

Additionally, it is noted that, according to an OIG report, critical infrastructure and IT projects have not been completed, potentially jeopardizing the EHRM effort.

UPCOMING CONGRESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT ON EHRM:

- OEHRM leadership will provide a briefing to the staff on HVAC/SVAC and HAC/SAC to provide fidelity on OEHRM's FY21 spend plan and to walk through the revised EHRM deployment schedule based on COVID-19 impacts; this briefing is scheduled for August 3, 2020. Following the July 1 Congressional briefing before HVAC/SVAC, **Senator Tester's staff** requested a follow up briefing to discuss OEHRM's FY21 budget request, which will be accomplished through the August 3 briefing.

Members may discuss the Department's response to COVID-19.

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From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 9 Jun 2020 20:57:43 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: RAH
Attachments: June 10-11 2020.docx

DAILY BRIEFING BOOK

Wednesday, June 10, 2020

SECRETARY ROBERT L. WILKIE

7:45 – 8:15 am	Daily Sync Mtg	SECVA Suite	
8:45 – 9:15 am	Video Tapings: Current Situation & Wheelchair Games	Broadcast Center	<u>Tab 1a</u> <u>Tab 1b</u>
10:30 am	ERT DCA		
11:48 am	Wheels Up to Charlotte, NC		Trip Book

DAILY BRIEFING BOOK

Thursday, June 11, 2020

SECRETARY ROBERT L. WILKIE

4:00 – 5:00 pm	Weekly Call w/VSOs 1-877-446-3914 Code: (b)(6)	SECVA Residence	Tab 2
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SCRIPT – SECRETARY WILKIE

I want to acknowledge the very difficult time we find ourselves in as a nation. Today I want to express my profound love for America and the Veterans that fought in uniform to fulfill the promises of our founders for every person.

In the meantime, please pray that America's strength and resolve can be found in her everyday leaders like those that have honorably served and we can once again in Lincoln's words, '**Bind Up The Nation's Wounds**' together.

Our Veterans well know that in the military we work together toward the common goals to accomplish the defense needs of the nation. We must listen to one another, genuinely care for one another, and recognize that our dreams are tightly woven together.

Just as Lincoln saw the need to take care of our Veterans as a nation, we understand that our fate as a people is a shared one. We need each other in ways to numerous to enumerate. We will enjoy the fruits of the liberty that our Veterans fought so bravely to gain and preserve only if we strive as a people who sincerely believe in the rights of all men and women.

VA will continue on the path of genuine concern and caring for our Veterans and their families. The nation can look to VA as beacon of hope that has no other reason for existing but to serve those who served so willingly to preserve and protect the rights of our fellow citizens.

Respect and dignity are the rights of all men and women without regard to background, social standing, or beliefs. I know our great and noble employees who have proven themselves as courageous and dedicated throughout the pandemic understand this better than anyone.

Let us determine to stand together, work together, and care for one another to heal our wounds and realize the dream of a more perfect union.

SCRIPT DRAFT 4
NAT'L VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES
210 words ~ 2 minutes

Hello, I'm Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie.

Welcome, everyone, to the 2020 National Veterans Wheelchair Games' At Home Challenge.

Since the days of World War II when Veterans played wheelchair basketball at VA hospitals, sports have been a critical element in rehabilitation and recreation therapy.

Those Veterans pioneered wheelchair sports.

And they understood what you know from personal experience—the great power of adaptive sports.

For more than three decades with the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, VA and our partners at Paralyzed Veterans of America have helped Veterans with disabilities overcome daily challenges and be healthier, more active, and more independent.

This year, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we can't meet in Portland.

So in the spirit of adaption, we redesigned the 2020 games to focus on what you can do at home.

And like those first wheelchair athletes so many years back, you're breaking new ground and overcoming new challenges by pioneering our first ever at-home competition.

Some things will never change.

Your strength and courage confronting the challenges of your injury will always be inspiring to all of us.

So give it all you've got.

Not just this week, but every single day.

Thank you, God bless, and thank you for your dedication and sacrifice to this nation.

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Non Responsive Record

of the Freedom of Information

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 24 Jun 2020 19:03:03 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: LUNCH

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 17 Jun 2020 15:10:38 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Daily Sync Meeting

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 29 Jun 2020 11:30:03 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT/Arrive at Northwest Tucson Clinic

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 12:01:04 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Live Radio Interview w/KTAR

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 17 Jun 2020 15:45:11 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Meet w (b)(5)

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 29 Jun 2020 11:30:39 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Screening and Tour

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 10 Jun 2020 12:24:33 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: En Route to VACO

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 12:01:34 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT/Arrive at Phoenix Regional Office

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 17 Jun 2020 15:50:28 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT (b)(5)

From: (b)(6) (b)(6) R. EOP/OVP
Sent: Mon, 29 Jun 2020 13:36:49 +0000
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) R. EOP/OVP; (b)(6) @HHS.GOV; (b)(6) @treasury.gov; (b)(6)

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Pamela (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @hhs.gov (b)(6) @hhs.gov; (b)(6)
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Speechwriters (b)(6) @hhs.gov (b)(6) @fema.dhs.gov; (b)(6)
EOP/WHO; (b)(6) @hhs.gov; (b)(6) fema.dhs.gov; (b)(6)
EOP/OVP (b)(6) @mail.mil; (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6)
EOP/WHO; (b)(6) @hrsa.gov; (b)(6) C@dol.gov; (b)(6) @nih.gov (b)(6) @od.nih.g
ov (b)(6) @usda.gov (b)(6) @usda.gov (b)(6) EOP/OVP (b)(6)
B. EOP/OVP
Cc: (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6)
EOP/NSC (b)(6) EOP/OVP
Subject: [EXTERNAL] White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting
Attachments: (b)(5)
(b)(5)

All -

There will be a **White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting at 5:30pm** today in the White House (b)(6) Preliminary materials attached.

Thank you,

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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: Wed, 10 Jun 2020 13:10:09 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT/Arrive at Fox Park

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 12:01:57 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Leadership Briefing

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 17 Jun 2020 17:30:01 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: OIG re: Risk of Misstatements & Fraud / VA's Financial Statements
Attachments: AU-C 240 Prep for SECVA_7.1.2020.docx, Updated EBS May 2018 LL (2) - DRAFT
- Meeting w Secretary on Jul 8 9am.docx, Talking points -- FS auditor meeting with Secretary on July 8 at 9am.docx, 2955775 - OIG Engagement Letter for FY 2020 Audit of VA's Financial Statements - SECVA-VACFO signed.pdf

Ticket No. A101370FY20

Prep Materials for SECVA

AU-C 240 Interview with VA's Auditors (CliftonLarsonAllen)

What is an AU-C 240 Interview and why do they want to interview SECVA?

- Auditors are required to consider the possible existence of fraud when performing the financial statement audit
- Our auditors hold AU-C 240 interviews with VA leadership in July to assess:
 - fraud that could materially impact the financial statements;
 - consistency of answers being provided by VA leadership;
 - potential focus areas for audit testing.
- As a result of the AU-C 240 interviews, auditors could expand testing of internal controls to validate the operating effectiveness of controls managing fraud risk

Audit Reminders

- Chief Financial Officer Act of 1990 requires VA and other large agencies to produce audited financial statements each year
- The audit is an independent assessment of whether VA's financial statements are presented fairly and in accordance with accounting standards
- OIG/Clifton Larson Allen (CLA) conduct VA's financial statement audit
- VA has had a clean (unmodified) opinion since 1999 and received its 21st consecutive clean audit opinion in FY 2019

Documents the SECVA will end up signing related to the audit (in November)

- Agency Financial Report (AFR) Agency Head Letter – The AFR must contain a message from the Secretary of VA containing an assessment that the financial statements are fairly presented in all material aspects in the AFR.
- Management Representation Letter (MRL) – A written representation from VA leadership that they have fulfilled their responsibility for the preparation and fair presentation of the statements. SECVA's MRL will be supported by eight individual MRLs from affected Administrations and staff offices.
- Statement of Assurance (SOA) – SECVA signs an SOA that attests to overall health of VA's internal controls over its operations, financial reporting, and compliance with laws and regulations based on the results of the internal controls assessments.

AU-C 240 Possible Questions and Suggested Responses

- 1. How do you communicate to the organization and, in particular, to your Unders/Assistants the importance of identifying risk and mitigating fraud?**
 - Everyone must take annual training on fraud and ethics plus the I CARE training that emphasizes our core values — Integrity, Commitment, Advocacy, Respect, and Excellence.
 - Meet daily with my CFO to review overall financial operations and areas of concern to include any suspected vulnerabilities or potential fraud.
 - Communicate expectations at town-halls, site visits, and many varied appearances that I will not tolerate any ethical breaches or violations of federal statute.
 - At a senior level, I reinforce my expectations through our now well-defined governance structure, including the VA Operations Board, SECVA Daily Sync Meetings, and SECVA Meetings with Under Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries.
- 2. Do you understand and accept responsibility for the entity's internal control and for the preparation and fair presentation of the entity's financial statements?**
 - Yes. I have communicated my position across the Department that I will not tolerate unethical or untruthful behavior in any venue.
- 3. Are you aware of any fraudulent activities?**
 - The only *confirmed* fraud I am aware of is that which is reported by the Office of Inspector General as completed investigations.
 - All VA employees have a duty to report suspected fraud, and I would do the same if I was made aware of any suspected activities.
- 4. What areas are susceptible to fraud?**
 - With a \$220 billion program, we are highly susceptible to fraud. High dollar/high transaction areas are particularly susceptible. Community Care for example. Also, VA has received \$19 billion in supplemental funding for COVID-19 and it must be spent quickly, this is high-risk.
- 5. What are you doing to mitigate these risks?**
 - For Community Care we have numerous claims reviews, both pre and post. Our partners, like Optum and Triwest, employ industry best practices for fraud detection.
 - For COVID, we are re-doubling our control and oversight efforts
 - As an example, VA is reviewing 100% of its COVID-19 related travel vouchers to ensure authorization and compliance.
 - We make sure that those who are authorized to exceed their pay cap due to COVID-19 activities have received proper approval.

6. What other initiatives do you have in place to mitigate instances of fraud?

- Office of Management (OM) leads an evaluation of VA programs to identify programs most susceptible to fraud.
 - Evaluation is performed annually and looks at a variety of risk factors (e.g., materiality, decentralization of the program).
 - Results inform work with Administrations to identify high-fraud risk programs and specific fraud risks and develop associated mitigation actions.
- We have a quarterly, cross-VA Fraud, Waste, and Abuse (FWA) Executive Stakeholder Meeting to discuss vulnerabilities, ongoing initiatives and areas for closer coordination and collaboration.

7. Do you think the obligate and pay issue will affect the accuracy of your community care models?

- No. This is a technical issue we are correcting with a legislative fix. We changed from setting an estimated amount of money aside for Community Care claims to just paying the claims when they are approved during processing. It's freed up billions. There is a technical issue related to procurement law and how we do the accounting, but all agree it needs to be and will be corrected.

8. Do you think the COVID pandemic response and disruption to routine health care will affect the accuracy of your community care models?

- Yes, possibly, because we have never been through something like this. It's disrupting routine health care. But our actuaries are working with industry and studying patterns to revise the models to ensure that the effects of COVID are considered for improved accuracy.

9. Are you aware of the legislation or guidance that requires agencies to manage fraud risks?

- Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019 (PIIA) repealed and replaced the Fraud Reduction and Data Analytics Act passed in 2016. Additional legislation and guidance that requires agencies to manage fraud risks are, OMB Circular A-123, GAO's Green Book, and GAO's Fraud Risk Framework.



EXECUTIVE BRIEFING SUMMARY

**Meeting Concerning Risk of Misstatements in
VA's Financial Statements Due to Fraud or Error**

July 8, 2020

9:00-10:00AM

OBCR and VANTS line – 1-800-767-1750 / code

POINT OF CONTACT: *(person to verify details; often the individual who fills out this form)*

Larry Reinkemeyer, Assistant Inspector General for Audits and Evaluations

PURPOSE OF EVENT/MEETING: *(check one)*

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decisional | <input type="checkbox"/> Informational | <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Remarks | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> Courtesy Call |

ATTENDEES: *(List names, titles, and organization)*

Secretary of Veterans Affairs

The Honorable Robert Wilkie

Acting Deputy Secretary

Pamela Powers

Acting Chief of Staff

Brooks Tucker

Assistant Secretary for Management and Chief Financial Officer

The Honorable Jon Rychalski

Office of Inspector General

The Honorable Michael Missal, Inspector General

, Deputy Inspector General

Larry Reinkemeyer, Assistant Inspector General for Audits and Evaluations

Director, Financial Audits Division

CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP (CLA)

(b)(6)	Lead Principal
(b)(6)	Principal
(b)(6)	Second Reviewer Principal
(b)(6)	Manager

OVERVIEW OF EVENT: *Overview of event – why they are there and the relevance*

- The Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990, as amended, requires VA to prepare annual financial statements that the OIG or its contractor must audit.
- The OIG contracted with CLA to perform VA's fiscal year 2020 financial statement audit.
- Professional auditing standards require CLA to meet with VA senior officials who are responsible for overseeing VA's strategic direction.

SECVA ROLE: *Principal is there to address/speak, etc.*

The auditors will ask the Secretary questions about the risk of material misstatements in VA's financial statements due to fraud or error and how VA management has responded to those risks.

OBJECTIVE: *(One to three bullets on what the SecVA/DepSec/CoS should achieve.)*

- The financial statement auditor is required by professional auditing standards to meet with senior officials who are responsible for overseeing the strategic direction of VA.
- The auditors will communicate basic information about VA's financial statement audit and make inquiries regarding the risk material of misstatements in VA's financial statements due to fraud or error.

BACKGROUND:

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

BACKGROUND OF THE ORGANIZATION/GROUP:

- The OIG contracted with CLA to perform VA's fiscal year 2020 financial statement audit. CLA is an independent public accounting firm and has audited VA's financial statements since fiscal year 2010.

RECOMMENDATIONS: *(If any)*

None

OUTCOMES: *(Concise summary of what is expected)*

The auditor requests the following from this meeting:

- Views from the Secretary and Acting Deputy Secretary concerning the risk of misstatements in VA's financial statements due to fraud or error

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. ***Talking Points. On a separate page, immediately following the EBS. TP's are short, clear statements of major issues to be covered in the meeting. They should: 1) Avoid pleasantries and filler; 2) Focus on achieving the objectives of the meeting; and, 3) Be crafted to ensure a logical flow to the discussion.***
 - B. ***List and attach supporting documents included with this Executive Summary, e.g. issue briefs, bios, agendas, recommendations from prior meetings on the subject.***
-
- A. Talking Points – "Meeting with the Secretary on July 8, 2020, 9:00am regarding the risk of misstatement in VA's FY 2020 financial statements due to fraud or error"
 - B. Engagement Letter for the Audit of VA's Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2020

Talking Points

Meeting with the Secretary on July 8, 2020, 9:00am
Regarding the risk of misstatements in VA's FY 2020 financial statements due to fraud or error

Purpose of the Meeting

(b)(5)

Page 09 of 15

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information

**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

Memorandum

Date: June 4, 2020

From: Assistant Inspector General for Audits and Evaluations (52)

Subj: Engagement Letter for the Audit of VA's Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2020
Project Number 2020-01408-AF-0001

To: Secretary of Veterans Affairs (00)
Assistant Secretary for Management and Chief Financial Officer (004)

Pursuant to the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990, as amended, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP (CLA), an independent public accounting firm, will audit VA's financial statements for fiscal year 2020. The Office of Inspector General (OIG) contracted with CLA to perform this audit. The objectives and scope of the audit are to:

1. Express an opinion on whether VA's financial statements as of and for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2020 and 2019, are fairly presented, in all material respects, in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles;
2. Report any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses¹ in internal control over financial reporting for fiscal year 2020 that come to CLA's attention as a result of the audit;
3. Report on the results of CLA's tests of VA's compliance with selected provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements for fiscal year 2020; and
4. Report whether VA's financial management systems substantially comply with the requirements of the Federal Financial Management Improvement Act (FFMIA) as of September 30, 2020.

Upon completion of the audit, CLA will issue a written report consistent with these objectives. CLA cannot provide assurance that an unmodified opinion on the financial statements will be expressed. Circumstances may arise in which it is necessary for CLA to modify its opinion or add emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraphs or withdraw from the engagement. If CLA's opinion on the financial statements is other than unmodified, CLA and the OIG will discuss the reasons with management in advance.

The purpose of the report on internal control and compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, grant agreements, and financial management systems' substantial compliance with FFMIA

¹A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over financial reporting that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance. A material weakness is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over financial reporting, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis.

requirements solely will be to describe the scope of CLA's testing of internal control and compliance with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, grant agreements, and FFMIA requirements and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting or compliance with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements or on financial management systems' substantial compliance with FFMIA requirements. Accordingly, CLA's report on internal control and compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, grant agreements, and financial management systems' substantial compliance with FFMIA requirements will not be suitable for any other purpose.

Management's Responsibilities

CLA's audit will be conducted on the basis that VA's management acknowledges and understands that it has responsibility for the following:

1. Preparation and fair presentation of VA's financial statements in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles;
2. Maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting for VA. This includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error;
3. Complying with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements applicable to VA;
4. Preparing, measuring, and presenting the required supplementary information (RSI) in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles;
5. Preparing and presenting other information included in documents containing the audited financial statements and auditor's report, and ensuring the consistency of that information with the audited financial statements and RSI;
6. Designing, implementing, and maintaining internal controls to prevent and detect fraud. This includes providing management's written representation that it has disclosed to the auditor the results of its assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud;
7. Maintaining adequate accounting records, selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies, and safeguarding U.S. government assets related to VA's operations; and
8. Ensuring that VA's financial management systems substantially comply with FFMIA requirements.

In addition, VA's management acknowledges and understands that it has the responsibility to provide us with:

1. Access to all information of which management is aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, such as records, documentation, and other matters;
2. Additional information that CLA may request from management for the purpose of the audit; and
3. Unrestricted access to persons within VA from whom CLA determines it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

VA management agrees to communicate to CLA the following:

1. The discovery of any material misstatement that would affect the fair presentation of its fiscal year 2020 or prior fiscal year's financial statements;

2. All deficiencies in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting as of September 30, 2020, including separately identifying any deficiencies management believes to be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses;
3. A description of (a) any fraud that did, or suspected fraud that could, result in a material misstatement to the financial statements and (b) any other fraud that did not, or suspected fraud that would not, result in a material misstatement to VA's financial statements, but involves senior management or management or other employees who have a significant role in VA's internal control;
4. Any events occurring, or facts discovered after the date of the financial statements, of which management may become aware, that may affect the financial statements;
5. Whether, subsequent to the date being reported on, there were any changes in internal control or other factors that might significantly affect internal control, including any corrective actions taken by management with regard to material weaknesses and significant deficiencies; and
6. Any planned inclusion of the auditor's report and the audited financial statements in documents prepared by VA and to provide a copy of any such documents to CLA and the OIG prior to issuance.

As part of the audit process, CLA will require from VA management written confirmation concerning representations made to CLA in connection with the audit of the financial statements, including internal control over financial reporting; compliance with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements; and other related matters.

Definition and Limitations of Internal Control over Financial Reporting

An entity's internal control over financial reporting is a process effected by those charged with governance, management, and other personnel, the objectives of which are to provide reasonable assurance that (1) transactions are properly recorded, processed, and summarized to permit the preparation of financial statements in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, and assets are safeguarded against loss from unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition, and (2) transactions are executed in accordance with provisions of applicable laws, including those governing the use of budget authority, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements. Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibilities

CLA is responsible for conducting the audit in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards and Office of Management (OMB) Bulletin No. 19-03, *Audit Requirements for Federal Financial Statements*. Those standards require that CLA plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable, rather than absolute, assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the auditor's assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. An audit also involves evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, together with the inherent limitations of internal control, an unavoidable risk exists that some material misstatements in the financial statements may not be detected, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards.

In making its risk assessments, CLA will consider internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of VA's internal control over financial reporting. As such, CLA will not express an opinion on internal control. In addition, CLA will not consider all internal controls relevant to operating objectives as broadly established under the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (FMFIA) or OMB Circular No. A-123, *Management's Responsibility for Enterprise Risk Management and Internal Control*, such as those controls relevant to preparing performance information and ensuring efficient operations. CLA's internal control work will not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control, including those that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies.

CLA will communicate all deficiencies in internal control of which it becomes aware. CLA is responsible for communicating in writing to those charged with governance any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control that come to CLA's attention as a result of the audit. If CLA identifies deficiencies in VA's internal control that it considers not to be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies, CLA will communicate these matters in writing to management and, where appropriate, will report on them separately. In addition, if CLA identifies misstatements or new deficiencies, CLA will communicate them to VA management on a timely basis.

In accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards, CLA is responsible for testing compliance with selected provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements applicable to VA that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts in VA's financial statements and performing certain other limited procedures as part of CLA's audit. CLA will not test compliance with all laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements applicable to VA. CLA and the OIG caution that noncompliance may occur and not be detected by these tests.

CLA is also responsible for (1) testing whether VA's financial management systems substantially comply with the three FFMIA requirements and (2) applying certain limited procedures to any required supplementary information, and reading other information included with the financial statements in a document containing the auditor's reports.

Audit Coordination and Other Matters

To use audit resources efficiently and expedite audit completion, CLA will work with VA staff to obtain information needed for the audit. This assistance may include preparing schedules or analyses; locating, copying, and providing selected documents; and participating in meetings. CLA will need draft financial statements and any other information to be included in the document containing the auditor's report in sufficient time for CLA to complete its audit in accordance with the reporting date set by OMB. CLA will discuss this assistance with VA staff and arrive at mutually acceptable time frames.

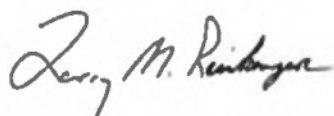
CLA and the OIG conducted an entrance conference with VA staff on February 12, 2020. CLA plans to issue its report by the date required by OMB. If CLA encounters problems that will

affect the reporting date, CLA and the OIG will discuss them with you in a timely manner. CLA and the OIG look forward to working with VA and appreciate its cooperation in working with CLA to complete the audit in a timely manner.

Marlon Perry, CLA's Principal In-Charge, is responsible for supervising the engagement and signing the audit report. He will be assisted by Pat Byer, Engagement Principal and Sarah Mirzakhani, the IT Principal.

The attached acknowledgment page should be signed by you and returned to the OIG to indicate your acknowledgment of, and agreement with, the terms and arrangements of the audit of the financial statements and to indicate management's acknowledgment and understanding of management and the auditor's respective responsibilities.

Should this letter not represent your understanding of the nature of this engagement, or should you have any questions or need further information, please contact me at 202-461-4725.



LARRY M. REINKEMEYER

Attachment

Management's Acknowledgment of the Audit Engagement Terms

On behalf of VA and its management, I acknowledge and agree to the terms and arrangements described above for the audit of VA's financial statements, including our respective responsibilities, and the scope of work and related reporting on (1) the financial statements; (2) internal control over financial reporting; (3) compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements applicable to VA; (4) financial management systems' substantial compliance with FFMIA requirements; (5) the required supplementary information; and (6) other information to be included in the document containing the auditor's report and financial statements.

Robert L. Wilkie

6/22/20

Signature
Robert L. Wilkie
Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Date

Jon J. Rychalski
1367389

Digitally signed by Jon J.
Rychalski 1367389
Date: 2020.06.08 10:29:52 -04'00'

Signature
Jon J. Rychalski
Assistant Secretary for Management and Chief Financial Officer

Date

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 10 Jun 2020 13:10:53 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Call w/Gov. Phil Murphy (NJ)

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 12:02:26 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Exec time

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 29 Jun 2020 15:44:57 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Opening REMARKS: PREVENTS Launch, REACH
Attachments: REACH Launch Event Speaker Details .docx, ROS - 7720REACHLaunch-6.docx

The Honorable Robert L. Wilkie
Secretary
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

The PREVENTS Office would like to invite Secretary Wilkie to participate in the launch of the PREVENTS National Public Health campaign at the National Press Club (529 14th Street NW, Washington DC) on July 7 from 1:00 – 2:00 EDT.

The nationwide public health campaign is aimed at educating Americans that suicide is preventable, creating awareness of mental health and suicide prevention best practices with a call to action for ALL Americans to take the PREVENTS Pledge to Prevent Suicide.

We would ask Secretary Wilkie to provide 10 minutes of remarks at the event. Other speakers will include, Second Lady Karen Pence (invited), DoD Secretary Mark Esper (invited), and Dr. Barbara Van Dahlen, PREVENTS Executive Director. PREVENTS will unveil the campaign with a new video as well as images that can be used to amplify its messages.

Given restrictions due to the COVID- 19 pandemic, the in-person event will be limited to fewer than 50 attendees, including stakeholders and representatives of VSOs/MSOs and other stakeholder organizations, but it will be livestreamed. Media will be invited to attend.

Please let us know if Secretary Wilkie is available to participate. The PREVENTS Office will provide background information and talking points as requested.

Sincerely,

Dr. Barbara Van Dahlen, Ph.D.
Executive Director
PREVENTS

PREVENTS

The President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans
and End a National Tragedy of Suicide



PREVENTS Public Health Campaign Launch Speaker/Panelist Instructions

Event Details

Location: National Press Club, Ballroom
529 14th Street NW
Washington, DC 20045

Tuesday, July 7, 2020 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Speaker/Panelist Suggested Arrival Time: 12:30-12:45 PM

Speaker Ready Room

Winners Room. All speakers will be mic'd in the Winners Room in prep for their speaking role and receive directions on where speaker reserved seating is located in the front row of the Ballroom.

Access to the National Press Club

The National Press Club is a secure facility. All attendees must have a valid QR code to pass through the security gate. Simply present the Access Code below on your mobile device at the turnstiles located on the 13th floor of the Press Club to enter. Please plan to arrive 15-20 minutes before the start of the program to allow time to pass through security and get mic'd for the event.



Additional items to note before you arrive at the Press Club and during your visit:

- All guests must wear a face mask while you are at the Press Club. Speakers must wear masks when entering and exiting the Ballroom. Masks may be removed while speaking on stage. Speaker chairs on stage will be properly positioned for social distancing.
- Elevators will be limited to no more than 2 occupants in each car so it may take a few minutes to arrive at the 13th floor. During your entire time at the Club you should maintain a social distancing of 6 feet from all other persons.
- When you arrive at the facility expect to have your temperature checked via a facial recognition device and provide contact information for contact tracing. This check will happen BEFORE you are admitted to the Club. Those with a temperature that indicates possible COVID-19 will not be allowed to enter.

PREVENTS

The President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans
and End a National Tragedy of Suicide



VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Run of Show

July 7, 2020

PREVENTS National Public Health Campaign Launch: REACH

1:00 – 2:30 pm

12:40: Dr. Barbara Van Dahlen greets Surgeon General Jerome Adams at the door of the National Press Club and escorts him to the Ballroom

12:50: Dr. Barbara Van Dahlen greets Second Lady Karen Pence in front of the Bloomberg Room and walks her to the Ballroom.

- Waiting to hear about Secretary Wilkie and Undersecretary Donovan's arrival times

Seats will be reserved for speakers/panelists in the front row of the ballroom. The stage will be set with a podium and 4 chairs for the later panel discussion.

12:55 Karen Migdail @podium Describe the departure procedures (rows will be released one at a time to keep people from congregating near the elevators)

1:00: Dr. Van Dahlen will go to the podium

- Welcome
- Introduce Second Lady Karen Pence

Barbara will move to the seat left of the stage

1:05 – 1:12 Second Lady Karen Pence (at the podium)

1:12 – 1:14 Barbara returns to podium to introduce Robert Wilkie, VA Secretary

1:14 – 1: 21 Secretary Wilkie (at the podium) – discusses REACH from the VA perspective

1:21 – 1:22 Barbara returns to podium to introduce Matthew Donovan, Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness

1:22 – 1:29 Matthew Donovan, Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness @podium – discusses REACH from the DoD perspective

PREVENTS

The President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans
and End a National Tragedy of Suicide



VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

- 1:29 – 1:31 Barbara returns to podium to introduce Surgeon General Dr. Jerome Adams
- 1:31 – 1:38 Dr. Jerome Adams @podium – discusses REACH from the public health perspective
- 1:40 – 2:00 Dr. Barbara Van Dahlen @ podium will present the REACH campaign
- Presentation will include several PPT slides, a slide show presentation and a video which will be shown on two 60- inch monitors.
- 2:00 – 2:30 Panel Discussion
- Panelists will move from reserved seating in the front to the armchairs on the stage. They will be wearing lavalier microphones.
- Barbara Van Dahlen will interview the panelists
 - Dr. Elise Van Winkle, Executive Director of the Office of Force Resiliency for the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness
 - Dr. (b)(6), President and CEO, Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute
 - Dr. (b)(6) VA Director of Suicide Prevention
- 2:30 Program will end. Audience will be released row by row to avoid crowding in the NPC lobby

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 17 Jun 2020 18:58:02 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Videotaping of Korean War Memorial
Attachments: 2020 07 25-1 70th Anniversary of the Outbreak of the Korean War AG PK.doc

70 years ago, on June 25th 1950, the Republic of Korea's "morning calm" was shattered by the roar of artillery as more than 100,000 North Korean troops attacked across the 38th parallel.

The fighting was atrocious. Before the war ended, nearly two million Americans had served. More than 36,000 gave their lives; over 100,000 were wounded; and more than 7,000 were captured — and almost 40 percent of those American prisoners perished in captivity.

For the duration of the war, Korean and American troops fought side-by-side. They faced a determined foe and punishing elements.

They battled in places they called Pork Chop Hill and Heartbreak Ridge; in cities and towns like Seoul, Chipyeong-ni, and Pusan; and in battles at the Chosin Reservoir and in unnamed locations known only by grid coordinates and hilltop elevations.

Freedom is not free, and their lives were the price we paid to preserve it on the peninsula.

On the anniversary of the war's outbreak, we pause to honor American and South Korean soldiers who fought, bled, died, went missing and suffered brutal captivity.

Today, we remember the generation of soldiers we fought with, and who guaranteed democracy in the prosperous Republic of Korea.

Decades later, a new generation walks in their boots. But the strength of our alliance is as

strong as ever, and we continue to support and assist each other through hardships of all types – especially in the face of new threats that recognize no national borders.

Just last month, our Department of Veterans Affairs was honored to accept a donation of half a million protective masks from the Republic of Korea to assist our department as we fought the COVID-19 pandemic.

South Korea's generous gift to America's Veterans is deeply appreciated. And you'll be pleased to know they went to the Armed Forces Retirement Home, Korean War Veterans of the Hopi tribe in Arizona, and 172 chapters of the U.S.-Korean War Veterans Association across the country.

As it was 70 years ago when our alliance was forged in fire, so it is today. Now, as then, Kapshi Kapshida! [Kap si - kap si dah] "We go together!"

God bless our men and women who serve in uniform. God bless our Veterans. And may God continue to bless our great nations.

###

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 10 Jun 2020 13:11:38 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Transition to Department of NJ Veterans of Foreign Wars Convention

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 12:02:48 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: VSO Roundtable

From: (b)(6) (b)(6) R. EOP/OVP
Sent: Tue, 30 Jun 2020 16:42:22 +0000
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) R. EOP/OVP (b)(6) @HHS.GOV (b)(6) @treasury.gov (b)(6)

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EOP/WHO (b)(6) @cdc.gov (b)(6) @niaid.nih.gov; (b)(6) @hhs.gov (b)(6) @fda.hhs.gov; (b)(6)
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(b)(6) EOP/NSC; (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6) @sd.mil; (b)(6) @fema.dhs.gov; (b)(6) @hhs.gov; (b)(6)
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EOP/OVP (b)(6) @dol.gov; (b)(6) @hrsa.gov; (b)(6) @usda.gov; (b)(6) @od.nih.gov; (b)(6) @
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EOP/WHO (b)(6) @treasury.gov; (b)(6) @treasury.gov; (b)(6) @hud.gov; (b)(6)
(b)(6) @hud.gov; (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6)
EOP/WHO; (b)(6) @cdc.gov; (b)(6) @niaid.nih.gov; (b)(6) @nih.gov; (b)(6) @hhs.gov; (b)(6)
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EOP/WHO (b)(6) @fda.hhs.gov; (b)(6) @fda.hhs.gov; (b)(6) @fda.hhs.gov; (b)(6)
(b)(6) @CMS.HHS.GOV; (b)(6) @cms.hhs.gov; (b)(6) @cms.hhs.gov; Powers,
Pamela (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @cms.gov; (b)(6) @hhs.gov; (b)(6)
(b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) @sd.mil; (b)(6)
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EOP/WHO (b)(6) @hhs.gov; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; DL WHO COMMS
Speechwriters (b)(6) @hhs.gov; (b)(6) @fema.dhs.gov; (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6) @hhs.gov; (b)(6) @fema.dhs.gov; (b)(6)
EOP/OVP; (b)(6) @mail.mil; (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6) @hrsa.gov; (b)(6) @dol.gov; (b)(6) @nih.gov; (b)(6) @od.nih.g
ov; (b)(6) @usda.gov; (b)(6) @usda.gov; (b)(6) EOP/OVP (b)(6)

B. EOP/OVP
Cc: OVP NSA Plans and Ops Calendar (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6)
W. EOP/WHO (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) EOP/OVP

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

(b)(5)
Importance: High

All -

There will be a **White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting** on **Tuesday, June 30th** in EEOB 376 at **1:30pm**. Preliminary materials attached.

Thank you,

(b)(6) (b)(6)

Operations Coordinator, White House Coronavirus Task Force
Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff
The Office of the Vice President

(b)(6)

Page 3 of 9

Withheld pursuant to exemption

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of the Freedom of Information

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Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information

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of the Freedom of Information

Page 6 of 9

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Page 7 of 9

Withheld pursuant to exemption

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of the Freedom of Information

Page 8 of 9

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information

Page 9 of 9

Withheld pursuant to exemption

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of the Freedom of Information

From: (b)(6) (b)(6) R. EOP/OVP
Sent: Wed, 17 Jun 2020 17:19:49 +0000
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) R.
EOP/OVP;AMA2@HHS.GOV (b)(6) @treasury.gov (b)(6) @cdc.gov (b)(6) @niaid.nih.gov (b)(6) @hq.
dhs.gov (b)(6) @hhs.gov (b)(6) @fda.hhs.gov (b)(6) (HHS/IOS) (b)(6)
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NSA EXECSEC (b)(6) @mail.mil (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6) @treasury.gov (b)(6) @treasury.gov (b)(6) @hud.gov (b)(6)
(b)(6) @hud.gov (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6)
EOP/WHO; (b)(6) @cdc.gov (b)(6) @niaid.nih.gov (b)(6) @nih.gov (b)(6) @hhs.gov; (b)(6)
(b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6) @fda.hhs.gov (b)(6) @fda.hhs.gov (b)(6) @fda.hhs.gov; (b)(6)
(b)(6) @CMS.HHS.GOV; (b)(6) @cms.hhs.gov (b)(6) @cms.hhs.gov; Powers,
Pamela (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @hhs.gov (b)(6) @hhs.gov (b)(6)
(b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) @sd.mil; (b)(6)
EOP/OVP (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) @sd.mil (b)(6) @sd.mil (b)(6)
(b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) EOP/OVP; (b)(6)
EOP/WHO; (b)(6) @hhs.gov; (b)(6) EOP/WHO;DL WHO COMMS
Speechwriters (b)(6) @hhs.gov (b)(6) @fema.dhs.gov (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6) @hhs.gov; (b)(6) @fema.dhs.gov; (b)(6)
EOP/OVP; (b)(6) @mail (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6) @hrsa.gov (b)(6) @dol.gov (b)(6) @nih.gov; (b)(6) @od.nih.g
ov (b)(6) @usda.gov (b)(6) @usda.gov (b)(6) EOP/OVP
Cc: (b)(6) M. EOP/WHO; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6)
R. EOP/OVP; (b)(6) EOP/NSC (b)(6) EOP/OVP
Subject: [EXTERNAL] White House Coronavirus Task Force
Attachments: (b)(5)
(b)(5)
Importance: High

All -

There will be a **White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting** on **Wednesday, June 17th** at **4:00pm** in the White House (b)(6) Preliminary materials attached.

Thank you,

(b)(6) (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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Withheld pursuant to exemption

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of the Freedom of Information

Page 8 of 9

Withheld pursuant to exemption

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of the Freedom of Information

Page 9 of 9

Withheld pursuant to exemption

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From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 10 Jun 2020 13:11:56 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Keynote address

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 12:03:17 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT/Arrive at Phoenix VAMC

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 30 Jun 2020 18:17:37 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD - Rhode Island

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 10 Jun 2020 13:12:18 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Media Prep/HOLD

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 12:03:45 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Screening

From: (b)(6) EOP/OVP
Sent: Mon, 1 Jun 2020 19:41:16 +0000
To: (b)(6), EOP/OVP (b)(6) @HHS.GOV (b)(6) @treasury.gov; (b)(6)
A. EOP/WHO (b)(6) @cdc.gov (b)(6) @niaid.nih.gov; (b)(6) @hhs.gov (b)(6) @fda.hhs.gov (b)(6)
(b)(6) EOP/NSC (b)(6) @cms.hhs.gov; RLW (b)(6) EOP/OVP; (b)(6) EOP/NSC; (b)(6)
(b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6) @sd.mil (b)(6) @fema.dhs.gov (b)(6) @hhs.gov (b)(6)
EOP/WHO; (b)(6)
EOP/OVP; (b)(6) @dol.gov; (b)(6) @hrsa.gov (b)(6) @usda.gov (b)(6) @od.nih.gov (b)(6) @
hhs.gov; (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6)
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USN WHMO/WHMU (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) EOP/OVP (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6) EOP/OVP (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) EOP/OVP; DL OVP
NSA EXECSEC; (b)(6) @mail.mil; (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6)
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, (b)(6) R. EOP/OVP (b)(6)
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Pamela (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @hhs.gov (b)(6) @hhs.gov (b)(6)
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EOP/WHO (b)(6) @hhs.gov; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; DL WHO COMMS
Speechwriters (b)(6) @hhs.gov (b)(6) @fema.dhs.gov (b)(6)
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ov; (b)(6) @usda.gov; (b)(6) @usda.gov (b)(6) EOP/OVP
Cc: (b)(6) EOP/OVP (b)(6) calendar (b)(6)
EOP/OVP (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) (CDC/OD/OCS)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting
Attachments: (b)(5)
(b)(5)

Importance: High

All -

There will be a **White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting on Tuesday, June 2nd at 11:00am** in the White House (b)(6) Materials attached.

Thank you,

(b)(6) (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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Page 15 of 15

Withheld pursuant to exemption

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From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 18 Jun 2020 10:54:27 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Appt

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 10 Jun 2020 13:14:13 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT/Arrive Lunch location

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 12:04:05 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Leadership briefing

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 18 Jun 2020 16:26:52 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Phone Call w/ Chairwoman Wasserman Schultz
Attachments: EBS - Wasserman Schultz - July 8.docx, 20200702 - VA COVID-19 weekly for Hill.pdf, AO Cost Talking Points - SASC Drill - July 2020.docx



EXECUTIVE BRIEFING SUMMARY
Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Wednesday, July 8, 2020
3:30PM Call

July 8, 2020; 3:30pm

OM POC: Jon Rychalski, Kristy Shea

Driver: Proactive Biweekly Updates

Subject: COVID 19 Response

Participants: Chairwoman Wasserman Schultz, (b)(6) HAC MilConVA

Majority Clerk **VA:** SECVA, Dr. Paul Lawrence, Jon Rychalski, Dr. (b)(6)

(b)(6)

PURPOSE OF EVENT/MEETING:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decisional | <input type="checkbox"/> Informational | <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Remarks | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> Courtesy Call |

OVERVIEW OF EVENT:

Teleconferences with Member to discuss the Department’s response to COVID-19.

FY 2021 House Appropriations MilConVA Bill:

- The bill provides a total of \$104.8 billion in discretionary appropriations for VA, an increase of \$12.3 billion above the 2020 enacted level and \$35 million below the President’s budget request. These resources will serve to expand access to services for Veterans and will boost oversight and accountability across the department.
- Legislation also includes \$12.5 billion in emergency spending for VA to address rising cost of Veterans’ health care
- The bill makes unprecedented investments in our veterans through our VA medical system to ensure that every Veteran has access to the top-notch health care that they deserve. It includes historic spending for women Veterans, mental health, suicide prevention, medical research, opioid abuse prevention, rural health initiatives, whole health initiatives and homeless prevention, while closely monitoring VA claims processing and system modernization
- The subcommittee continues to include prescriptive language in the House Report administrative provisions for banning canine research.
- Full committee markup is scheduled for Thursday, July 9 at 10am.

COVID19 Obligations:

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Florida 4th Mission Update:

(b)(5)

Timing of Obligations

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Tester NDAA Amendment for AO Presumptives:

(b)(5)

Attachments:

- Weekly COVID-19 obligations

Department of Veterans Affairs
Coronavirus Supplementals Appropriations, Obligations, and Paid Expenditures
 Data as of July 1, 2020
 (Amounts in Thousands)

VA Account	Appropriated	Allocated	Current Total Obligations	Paid Expenditures
CARES Act, P.L. 116-136				
Medical Services	\$ 14,432,000.00	\$ 14,432,000.00	\$ 1,823,316.73	\$ 1,080,880.32
Medical Community Care	2,100,000.00	2,100,000.00	29,815.45	29,765.48
Medical Support and Compliance	100,000.00	100,000.00	39,582.35	26,962.86
Medical Facilities	606,000.00	606,000.00	53,629.46	36,809.21
Medical Care	17,238,000.00	17,238,000.00	1,946,343.99	1,174,417.87
Information Technology	2,150,000.00	2,150,000.00	757,380.05	121,246.45
Veterans Benefits Administration	13,000.00	13,000.00	4,554.83	4,287.50
State Home Construction Grants	150,000.00	150,000.00	-	-
General Administration	6,000.00	6,000.00	751.38	207.87
Office of Inspector General	12,500.00	12,500.00	2,491.45	1,177.61
VA Total, CARES Act, P.L. 116-136	19,569,500.00	19,569,500.00	2,711,521.69	1,301,337.29

Families First Coronavirus Response Act, P.L. 116-127				
Medical Services	30,000.00	30,000.00	29,848.65	20,813.60
Medical Community Care	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00
VA Total, Families First Act, P.L. 116-127	60,000.00	60,000.00	59,848.65	50,813.60

Early COVID-19 response efforts may not have used the COVID-19 specific accounting codes. Adjustments are ongoing, and changes will continue to be reflected in future reports. Additionally, weekly reporting may vary from the final monthly SF-133 due to the date of reporting.

Base Funds, P.L. 116-94				
Medical Services			83,869.27	(14,705.33)
Medical Community Care			-	-
Medical Support and Compliance			41,321.65	32,734.75
Medical Facilities			94,182.61	62,190.09
James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center (JALFHCC)			6,270.61	4,766.53
Medical Care			225,644.14	84,986.04
Information Technology			1,707.20	(0.05)
Veterans Benefits Administration			-	-
National Cemetery Administration			2,035.92	669.04
State Home Construction Grants			-	-
General Administration			88.89	74.08
Office of Inspector General			-	-
VA Total, Base Funds, P.L. 116-94	-	-	229,476.15	85,729.11
Grand Total, All Funds	\$ 19,629,500.00	\$ 19,629,500.00	\$ 3,000,846.48	\$ 1,437,880.01

Additional Information on Obligations:

Department of Veterans Affairs:

- VA has obligated \$3.001 billion for COVID-19 response through July 1st. This is an increase of approximately \$271.025 million from June 23rd.
- Regardless of funding source, VA has spent \$1.547 billion on supplies and equipment to support COVID-19 efforts through July 1st. During the week prior, \$38.343 million in supplies and materials and \$15.235 million in equipment was obligated, which includes action taken to secure PPE, test kits, and other large purchases.
- Regardless of funding source, VA has spent \$80.862 million for employee uniforms and protective clothing to include: cost of uniforms issued to operating personnel; and items purchased for use as protection against infection, contamination, or injury to a person.

Veterans Health Administration:

As noted above, accounting adjustments will transfer previous obligation against base funding to the COVID-19 supplemental funding. Obligations of note include:

- VHA has obligated \$2.232 billion for COVID-19 response through July 1st. This is an increase of approximately \$137.549 million from June 23rd.
- Regardless of funding source, VHA has spent \$1.201 billion on supplies and equipment to support COVID-19 efforts through July 1st. During the week prior, \$38.144 million in supplies and materials and \$13.109 million in equipment was obligated, which includes action taken to secure PPE, test kits, and other large purchases.
- Regardless of funding source, VHA has spent \$80.825 million for employee uniforms and protective clothing to include: cost of uniforms issued to operating personnel; and items purchased for use as protection against infection, contamination, or injury to a person.
- Regardless of funding source, VHA has spent \$201.497 million for grants to homelessness service providers for Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF), \$3.215 million for the VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program, and \$10.049 million in per diem grants for care of Veterans in state homes.

CARES Act Specific:

- Of the supplemental funding VHA received via the CARES Act, \$1.059 billion has been spent on supplies and equipment through July 1st. During the week prior, \$36.598 million in supplies and materials and \$14.397 million in equipment was obligated, which includes action taken to secure PPE, test kits, and other large purchases.
- Of the supplemental funding VHA received via the CARES Act for Medical Services, \$1.033 billion has been spent on supplies and equipment through July 1st. During the week prior, \$36.382 million in supplies and materials and \$13.955 million in equipment was obligated, which includes action taken to secure PPE, test kits, and other large purchases.
- Of the supplemental funding VHA received via the CARES Act, VHA has spent \$62.574 million for employee uniforms and protective clothing to include: cost of uniforms issued to operating personnel; and items purchased for use as protection against infection, contamination, or injury to a person.

Veterans Benefits Administration:

- VBA has obligated \$4.555 million for COVID-19 response through July 1st. This is an increase of approximately \$162.006 thousand from June 23rd.
- Regardless of funding source, VBA has spent \$4.082 million on supplies and equipment to support COVID-19 efforts through July 1st. During the week prior, \$106.564 thousand in supplies and materials was obligated.

Office of Information Technology:

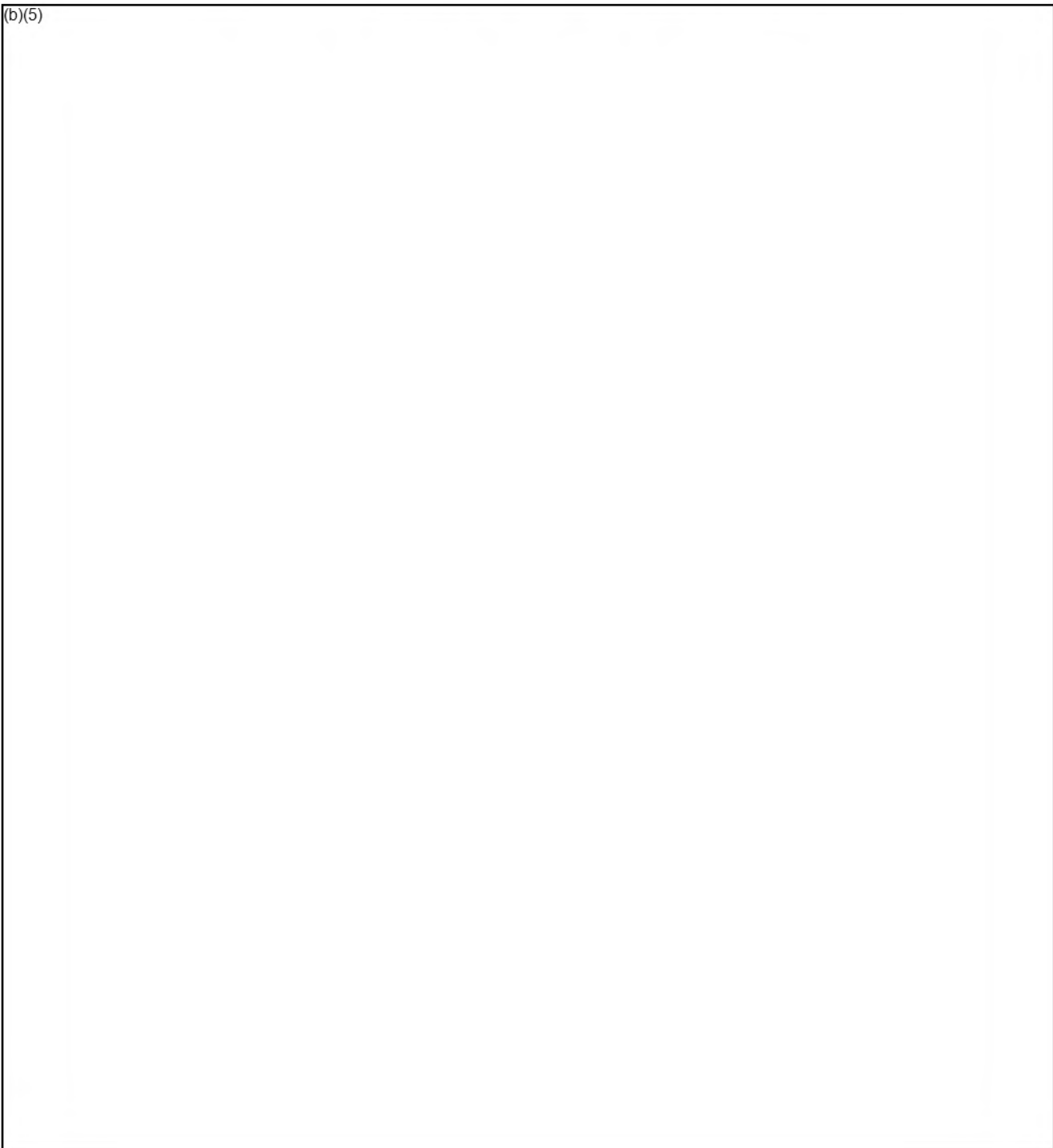
- OIT has obligated \$759.087 million for COVID-19 response through July 1st. This is an increase of approximately \$132.522 million from June 23rd.
- Regardless of funding source, OIT has spent \$341.211 million on supplies and equipment to support COVID-19 efforts through July 1st. During the week prior, \$2.41 thousand in supplies and materials and \$2.129 million in equipment was obligated.

**VBA Talking Points on
Cost of Adding Agent Orange Presumptive Conditions**

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**VBA Talking Points on
Cost of Adding Agent Orange Presumptive Conditions**

(b)(5)



**VBA Talking Points on
Cost of Adding Agent Orange Presumptive Conditions**

(b)(5)

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 10 Jun 2020 13:14:38 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT/Arrive at Residence

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 12:04:28 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Facility tour

From: VHA Healthcare Operations Center
Sent: Mon, 1 Jun 2020 11:34:37 +0000
To: VHA Healthcare Operations Center; (b)(6); VHA VISN

Director (b)(6) (WMC) (b)(6)
(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) VHACO (b)(6) Cussatt, Dominic (SES); (b)(6)
(b)(6) Everett, John P. (SES) (b)(6) (10RCS) (b)(6)
(b)(6)
(b)(6) (HEFP/10NA5E); (b)(6) (WMC) (b)(6)
(b)(6) VHA NCOD (b)(6)
(b)(6)
(b)(6) (WMC); Powers, Pamela (b)(6)
(b)(6); VHA HOC All Staff; VHA OHT C19 Action (b)(6)
(b)(6) (HEFP/10NA5C) (b)(6)
(b)(6)
(b)(6) (Physician); VHA VISN CMO Only (b)(6)
(b)(6) (V17); (b)(6)
(b)(6) MBA, FACHE (b)(6) @deloitte.com (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
(VACO) (b)(6) (V20) (b)(6) (Portland) (b)(6)
(V20) (b)(6) (OGC) (b)(6) (OGC) (b)(6)
(V20) (b)(6) (Prometheus); (b)(6)
(b)(6) DURVAMC (b)(6)
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(b)(6) @mckinsey.com; (b)(6)
(b)(6)
(b)(6) Microsoft; (b)(6)
(b)(6) (V20) (b)(6)
FNCVAMC (b)(6)
OEM (b)(6) /HACO; (b)(6)
(b)(6) (ERPI) (b)(6)
(b)(6) (VISN 22)

Subject: Copy: Daily COVID19 Preparation Call - Week of 6/1

NOTE: The 6/1/2020 Daily Call will be held at 2:30 PM ET.

This meeting invite will be refreshed weekly. This invite is for the week of 6/1/2020. A new meeting invite will be sent on 6/8.

The Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Operations, Renee Oshinski, will continue to host the Coronavirus preparation call daily at 3:30pm Eastern.

Please remember to mute your phones when you are not speaking. The entire audience may be muted; if you are dialing in, you must press *6 to unmute yourself. If you are able to, using the Skype integrated audio through your computer may provide a better meeting experience

Join Skype Meeting

Trouble Joining? [Try Skype Web App](#)

Join by phone

844-376-0278,,	<input type="text" value="(b)(6)"/>	(East)	English (United States)
844-815-1331,,	<input type="text" value="(b)(6)"/>	(East)	English (United States)
844-770-5400,,	<input type="text" value="(b)(6)"/>	(East)	English (United States)

[Find a local number](#)

Conference ID

[Forgot your dial-in PIN?](#) | [Help](#)



From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 18 Jun 2020 17:28:15 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Travel - Kansas City, MO

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 10 Jun 2020 13:47:23 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Interview w/ Fox Business "Final Edit"
Attachments: Quad -Liz MacDonald - Fox Business_updated-16jun20-2.pptx, 06 15 Wilkie WH elder justice summit-jeh.docx, video connect.docx

400 N. Capitol. Third floor. "Live Shots

Page 2 of 8

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Page 7 of 8

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News Release, June 12, 2020

VA Video Connect visits increase 1000% during COVID-19 pandemic
Video appointments provide Veterans safe, convenient access to care

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today telehealth video appointments using [VA Video Connect](#) increased from approximately 10,000 to 120,000 appointments a week between February and May of 2020.

This increase of 1000% is attributed to VA providers and Veterans taking [precautions against COVID-19](#).

“As we near the three-year anniversary of the launch of VA Video Connect, even during these challenging times, VA has and continues to maintain access to high-quality health care for Veterans,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “As the service becomes more popular, VA remains committed to providing a seamless user experience to ensure Veterans have access to care where and when they need it.”

VA Video Connect allows Veterans and their caregivers to meet virtually with their VA care teams on any computer, tablet, or mobile device with an internet connection. It is one of the largest and most successful digital health platforms in the nation and currently enables more than 25,000 virtual appointments, including [mental health appointments](#) each day.

VA is also taking strides to bridge the digital divide for Veterans who lack the technology or broadband internet connectivity required to participate in VA telehealth services. More than 26,000 cellular-enabled tablets are currently distributed to Veterans across the country. Major wireless carriers T-Mobile, Sprint, now part of T-Mobile, [SafeLink](#) by Tracfone and Verizon are allowing Veterans to access VA telehealth services without incurring data charges.

Due to increased demand during the COVID-19 pandemic, VA is rapidly expanding VA Video Connect, allowing more Veterans and VA care teams to connect by video. During this time, Veterans using VA Video Connect with limited data plans could temporarily [experience data charges](#). While, cellular carriers are taking measures to support Veterans during this period of expansion — Veterans with concerns are encouraged to contact their carrier.

Read more about [VA Video Connect](#). For information about VA's telehealth services visit connectedcare.va.gov.

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 12:04:52 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Media prep / Avail

From: (b)(6) (b)(6) R. EOP/OVP
Sent: Thu, 18 Jun 2020 18:28:29 +0000
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) R. EOP/OVP (b)(6) @HHS.GOV (b)(6) @treasury.gov (b)(6)

(b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6) @cdc.gov (b)(6) @niaid.nih.gov; (b)(6) @hhs.gov; (b)(6) @fda.hhs.gov (b)(6)
(b)(6) EOP/NSC (b)(6) @cms.hhs.gov; RLW (b)(6) EOP/OVP (b)(6) EOP/OVP; (b)(6)
(b)(6) EOP/NSC; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6) @sd.mil; (b)(6) @fema.dhs.gov (b)(6) @hq.dhs.gov (b)(6)
@hq.dhs.gov (b)(6) (DOT); (b)(6) @hhs.gov; (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6)
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EOP/OVP (b)(6) @dol.gov (b)(6) @hrsa.gov (b)(6) @usda.gov (b)(6) @od.nih.gov; (b)(6) @
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(b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) EOP/OVP (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) CDR
USN WHMO/WHMU; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) EOP/OVP; (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6) EOP/OVP (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) EOP/OVP; DL OVP
NSA EXECSEC (b)(6) @mail.mil (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6) @treasury.gov; (b)(6) @treasury.gov; (b)(6) @hud.gov (b)(6)
(b)(6) @hud.gov (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6) @cdc.gov; (b)(6) @niaid.nih.gov (b)(6) @nih.gov (b)(6) @hhs.gov; (b)(6)
(b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6) @fda.hhs.gov (b)(6) @fda.hhs.gov; (b)(6) @fda.hhs.gov (b)(6)
(b)(6) @CMS.HHS.GOV (b)(6) @cms.hhs.gov (b)(6) cms.hhs.gov; Powers,
Pamela (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @hhs.gov; (b)(6) @hhs.gov (b)(6)
(b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) @sd.mil; (b)(6)
EOP/OVP (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) @sd.mil (b)(6) @sd.mil (b)(6)
(b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) EOP/OVP; (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6) @hhs.gov (b)(6) EOP/WHO; DL WHO COMMS
Speechwriters (b)(6) @hhs.gov (b)(6) @fema.dhs.gov (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6) @hhs.gov (b)(6) @fema.dhs.gov (b)(6)
EOP/OVP; (b)(6) @mail.mil (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6) @hrsa.gov (b)(6) @dol.gov; (b)(6) @nih.gov (b)(6) @od.nih.g
ov (b)(6) @usda.gov (b)(6) @usda.gov (b)(6)
EOP/OVP; (b)(6) @dot.gov
Cc: (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6)
M. EOP/WHO (b)(6) EOP/OVP; OVP NSA Plans and Ops Calendar; (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6) EOP/OVP

Subject: [EXTERNAL] White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting

Attachments: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Importance: High

All -

There will be a **White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting** on **Friday, June 19th** at **4:00pm** in the White House Situation Room. Preliminary materials attached.

Thank you,

(b)(6) (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, 2 Jun 2020 12:55:39 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Phone Call w/ Pete K re: upcoming speeches

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 10 Jun 2020 16:22:20 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT Residence

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 12:05:36 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT/Arrive at Lunch location

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 18 Jun 2020 18:57:42 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: RAH
Attachments: June 22 2020.docx

DAILY BRIEFING BOOK

Monday, June 22, 2020

SECRETARY ROBERT L. WILKIE

7:45 – 8:15 am	Daily Sync Mtg	SECVA Suite	
8:30 – 9:00 am	Pete & Traci re: Upcoming Speeches	SECVA Suite	
9:00 – 10:30 am	VA Operations Board Meeting 1-844-376-0278 Code: (b)(6) #	OBCR	Tab 1
11:00 – 11:30 am	Prep for WH Task Force Meeting 1-877-446-3914 Code: (b)(6) #	SECVA Suite	
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Lunch	SECVA Suite	
1:00 – 1:15 pm	Phone Call w/ Vitor Rocha, Philips CEO ** 1-800-767-1750 / code (b)(6) # ** Deb Scher will attend call Also on the call: Christine Storm , Bus Category Leader Patient Care Analytics, Connected Care Nathan Naylor , Director VA Solutions Development, Govt., Govt Bus Development & Sales	SECVA Suite	Tab 2
1:30 – 2:00 pm	ERT DC VAMC		
2:00 – 2:30 pm	Medical Testing		
2:30 – 3:00 pm	ERT VACO		
TBD	(T) WH Task Force Meeting	SECVA Residence	
3:30 – 5:00 pm	VHA COVID-19 Update 1-844-376-0278 Code: (b)(6) #	SECVA Residence	

8/21/2020 12:03 PM

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 2 Jun 2020 17:14:31 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: FaceTime Interview w/ Royale Da, KOAT-TV, Albuquerque (ABC affiliate)
Attachments: 200608 - KOAT, Royale Da.pptx

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From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 12:06:01 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Lunch

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From: RLW
Sent: Fri, 19 Jun 2020 10:35:20 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Prevents Event Week
Attachments: PREVENTS Week - July 7-10.docx, WilkiePREVENTSInvitations.docx

PREVENTS

The President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans
and End a National Tragedy of Suicide



VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

PREVENTS Week – July 7 – 12, 2020

**July 7 – Launch of the PREVENTS National Public Health Campaign: *National Press Club
Holman Lounge 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm***

Proposed Speakers:

(b)(5); (b)(6)

July 8 – Faith-based Gathering: *Virtual (Time TBD)*

Proposed Speakers:

(b)(5); (b)(6)

**July 9 – Chamber of Commerce/Hiring our Heroes – release of the Chamber employer guide
and pledge signing: *Virtual (Time TBD)***

Proposed Speakers:

(b)(5); (b)(6)

(b)(5); (b)(6)

Speakers Pending

PREVENTS

The President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans
and End a National Tragedy of Suicide



VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

The Honorable Robert L. Wilkie
Secretary
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

The PREVENTS Office would like to invite Secretary Wilkie to participate in the launch of the PREVENTS National Public Health campaign at the National Press Club (529 14th Street NW, Washington DC) on July 7 from 1:00 – 2:00 EDT.

The nationwide public health campaign is aimed at educating Americans that suicide is preventable, creating awareness of mental health and suicide prevention best practices with a call to action for ALL Americans to take the PREVENTS Pledge to Prevent Suicide.

We would ask Secretary Wilkie to provide 10 minutes of remarks at the event. Other speakers will include, Second Lady Karen Pence (invited), DoD Secretary Mark Esper (invited), and Dr. Barbara Van Dahlen, PREVENTS Executive Director. PREVENTS will unveil the campaign with a new video as well as images that can be used to amplify its messages.

Given restrictions due to the COVID- 19 pandemic, the in-person event will be limited to fewer than 50 attendees, including stakeholders and representatives of VSOs/MSOs and other stakeholder organizations, but it will be livestreamed. Media will be invited to attend.

Please let us know if Secretary Wilkie is available to participate. The PREVENTS Office will provide background information and talking points as requested.

Sincerely,

Dr. Barbara Van Dahlen, Ph.D.
Executive Director
PREVENTS

PREVENTS

The President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans
and End a National Tragedy of Suicide



VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

The Honorable Robert L. Wilkie
Secretary
U.S Department of Veterans Affairs

The PREVENTS Office would like to invite Secretary Wilkie to participate in a virtual roundtable on July 8 at 2:00 PM with national faith-based leaders to discuss the PREVENTS Roadmap and its national public health campaign and PREVENTS Pledge to Prevent Suicide.

In recognition of the power of belonging to a faith-based community as a protective factor against suicide, the discussion at the event will encourage all faith-based leaders to join together the weekend of July 25/26 to use their pulpits to talk to their congregants about suicide prevention using PREVENTS messaging.

We would ask Secretary Wilkie to provide 5-minutes of remarks at the event. Other speakers will include Vice President Michael Pence (invited), Ms. (b)(6) Deputy Director and Special Assistant to the President at The White House (invited), Dr. (b)(6), National Director of Chaplain Service (invited), and Dr. Barbara Van Dahlen, PREVENTS Executive Director.

Given restrictions due to the COVID- 19 pandemic, this will be a virtual event. No media will be invited.

Please let us know if Secretary Wilkie is available to participate. The PREVENTS Office will provide background information and talking points as requested.

Sincerely,

Dr. Barbara Van Dahlen, Ph.D.
Executive Director
PREVENTS

PREVENTS

The President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans
and End a National Tragedy of Suicide



VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

The Honorable Robert L. Wilkie
Secretary
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

The PREVENTS Office would like to invite Secretary Wilkie to participate in a virtual event held in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce/Hiring our Heroes, PREVENTS and the VA Secretary's Center for Strategic Partnerships on July 9 from 1:00 – 2:00 EDT.

The purpose of the event is to release the *Mental Health and Wellbeing in the Workplace: A Practical Guide for Business*, developed under the partnership and will include a second signing of the Hiring Our Heroes Wellbeing in the Workplace Pledge (<https://www.hiringourheroes.org/wellbeing/wellbeing-pledge/>). Secretary Wilkie attended the first signing on November 14, 2019.

We would ask Secretary Wilkie to provide 5-minutes of remarks at the event. Other speakers include (b)(6) Acting Director of the United States Domestic Policy Council (invited); DOL Secretary Eugene Scalia (invited); Eric Eversole, Vice President, U.S. Chamber of Commerce and President, Hiring Our Heroes (invited); and Dr. Barbara Van Dahlen, PREVENTS Executive Director.

Given restrictions due to the COVID- 19 pandemic, this will be a virtual event. No media will be invited.

Please let us know if Secretary Wilkie is available to participate. The PREVENTS Office will provide background information and talking points as requested.

Sincerely,

Dr. Barbara Van Dahlen, Ph.D.
Executive Director
PREVENTS

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 3 Jun 2020 14:33:32 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: FaceTime Interview w/ Crystal Britt, KFVS-TV, Cape Girardeau, MO (CBS affiliate)
Attachments: Crystal Britt - KFVS-TV CBS Cape Girardeau MO - June 9 2020.pptx

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From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 12:06:39 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT/Arrive at Phoenix Indian Medical Center

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 11 Jun 2020 10:37:27 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Senator Ernst Town Hall - SecVA should call in 10 min prior
Attachments: Ernst bio.docx, Sen Ernst SECVA EBS.docx, RE: ernst 6-23 teletownhall ebs

877.229.8523; PIN 316843

All individuals the Secretary requested this morning Should be on the call tomorrow. (I'm confirming which number they should use.)

While this timeline has the Secretary dialing in I would reserve 15 min before the call for any prep or conversations that the Senator May desire.

Run of show (approx)

7pm dial in

7:05pm Ernst opening remarks

7:10pm Sec Wilkie opening remarks

7:15pm Ernst final comment and open to questions

8:00pm wrap up

The format is exactly like a live town hall would be.

Any opening remarks and the topic of the are at the discretion of the Senator, and to an extent the constituents who ask questions. If the constituents don't want to talk about the VA (not likely) then the Secretary wont be very active in the call.

If there are VA questions, the Secretary will field those questions directly from the constituents. Absolutely no way to know what those questions are before hand.

We will get all details about what Sen Ernst expects from this in the 10 min before the townhall goes live while she and the Secretary are both on the phone dialed in. They will have a chance to chat, review the rules with the contractor, and then it will go live. The Senator will make brief opening remarks, she may then ask the Secretary for a quick statement (less than 2 min is appropriate) and then go to questions, or she could just go straight to questions.

Senator Ernst and past guests typically dial into the tele town hall about 10 minutes before the start time, so if Secretary Wilkie can join at this time, that would be great. This would allow a few minutes before the start of the call for Senator Ernst and Secretary Wilkie to touch base briefly.

Secretary Wilkie should dial into the call as a host, but I am also including the participant dial-in information in case you have any staff that would like to listen to the tele town hall. Please make sure they do not use the host information.

Host information: Dial-In: 877.229.8523; PIN (b)(6)
Participant Information: Dial-In: 888.485.5416

For the most part yes. Just a conference call. Except on a much grander scale. The secretary will call into a conference line with the Senator, then they robocall about 10,000 people. Whomever answers has the ability to join this conference call, though not the opportunity to speak. There will be a moderator who works for the call contractor. Between them and Senate staff questions from the constituents are screened. The moderator will choose questions, and then those constituents will get to ask the Senator and the Secretary their pre-cleared question.

Normally lasts an hour. The catch is we will have no idea what questions the Secretary will get asked. But he should understand this from his time on the hill. Traditionally the constituents who call in are relatively favorable to the elected official who hosts the town hall.

From: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)@va.gov
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 7:52 AM
To: (b)(6)@va.gov
Subject: RE: Ernst Town Halls

Conference call, ZOOM, WebEx, FaceTime, etc.

We have had a lot of issues with Virtual events. Honestly, it's been a nightmare. VA doesn't support most of these, lots of firewalls.

Is this just a call in with a conference line? If so, easy peasy.

From: (b)(6)@va.gov
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 7:46 AM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)@va.gov
Subject: RE: Ernst Town Halls

Can you expand on what you mean by platform? As to where, the Secretary can call in from wherever he wants.

From: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)@va.gov
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 6:37 AM
To: (b)(6)@va.gov; (b)(6) (b)(6) L.

(b)(6)@va.gov>; Haverstock, Cathy (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: Ernst Town Halls

We can make either date work.

Lets do the JUNE 23, Tuesday at 7:05pm

Can you tell me how long this is, where/what platform, etc.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 2:28 PM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)@va.gov>;
Haverstock, Cathy (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: Ernst Town Halls

Afternoon everyone,

Ernst office has sent the following dates for possible tele-town halls. Let me know if either of these work and I will advise the Senate office.

Tuesday, June 23 at 7:05pm EST

Wednesday, June 24 at 7:05pm EST

(b)(6)

Special Assistant
Office of Congressional & Legislative Affairs
810 Vermont Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20420



Choose VA

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of the Freedom of Information



EXECUTIVE BRIEFING SUMMARY

Sen. Joni Ernst
June 23, 2020
7:05 P.M. Iowa Tele-Townhall

June 23, 2020 7:05 P.M

OCLA POC: (b)(6)

Driver: SECVA

Subject: VA Tele-Townhall

Participants: Sen. Ernst VA: SECVA

Phone Number:

Host information: Dial-In: 877.229.8523; PIN (b)(6)

Participant Information: Dial-In: 888.485.5416

PURPOSE OF EVENT/MEETING:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decisional | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Informational | <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Remarks | <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> Courtesy Call |

OVERVIEW OF EVENT:

Teleconference with Member and Iowa constituents. Senator Ernst and past guests typically dial into the tele town hall about 10 minutes before the start time, so if Secretary Wilkie can join at this time, that would be great. This would allow a few minutes before the start of the call for Senator Ernst and Secretary Wilkie to touch base briefly.

Secretary Wilkie should dial into the call as a host, but I am also including the participant dial-in information in case you have any staff that would like to listen to the tele town hall. Please make sure they do not use the host information.

*(***Per Ernst's staff: One thing that previous guests have done is to have websites/phone numbers on hand with resources that may be helpful to veterans (e.g. resources/help lines for mental health conditions, PTSD, suicide, homelessness, etc.). ...Note: All of these resources/TPs are included below)*

Resources for Veterans:

- **Veterans Crisis Line:** The Veterans Crisis Line connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring VA responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text. Veterans and their loved ones can call **1-800-273-8255 and Press 1**, chat online, or send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential crisis intervention and support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. More information is available at <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>.
- **Make the Connection:** This online resource connects Veterans, their family members and friends, and other supporters with information and solutions to issues affecting their lives. More information is available at <https://maketheconnection.net/>.
- **Resource Locator:** This online resource helps Veterans easily find VA resources in their area including Suicide Prevention Coordinators, crisis centers, VAMCs, outpatient clinics, Veterans Benefits Administration offices, and Vet Centers. More information is available at: www.veteranscrisisline.net/ResourceLocator.
- **Veterans Self-Check Quiz:** VA and the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline joined with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention to create the Veterans Self-Check Quiz. The 10-minute quiz is a safe, easy way to learn whether stress and depression might be affecting you. Using this service is completely voluntary and confidential. More information is available at: <https://www.vetselfcheck.org/welcome.cfm>.
- **Veteran Training:** The Veteran Online Self-Help Portal provides tools for overcoming everyday challenges. The tools help Veterans work on problem-solving skills, manage anger, develop parenting skills, and more. More information is available at: <https://www.veterantraining.va.gov/>.
- **AboutFace:** AboutFace videos feature the real stories of Veterans who have experienced posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and how treatment can help, with additional perspectives from their family members and VA clinicians. More information is available at <https://www.ptsd.va.gov/apps/AboutFace/>.
- **Self help mobile apps:** Mobile applications (apps) provide self-help, education and support to help manage symptoms. See <https://www.ptsd.va.gov/appvid/mobile>
- **National Center for PTSD Website:** Information about PTSD and PTSD treatment for Veterans, families, and friends. Learn more at <https://www.ptsd.va.gov/>
- **National Call Center for Homeless Veterans (877-4AID-VET / 877-424-3838):** Veterans who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness, their family members, friends, and supporters can call or chat online with the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans where trained counselors are ready to talk confidentially 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. More information is available here: <https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/NationalCallCenter.asp>.
- **Vet Centers:** Vet Centers across the country provide a broad range of counseling, outreach, and referral services to combat Veterans and their families. Vet Centers guide Veterans and their families through many of the

major adjustments in lifestyle that often occur after a Veteran returns from combat. Services for a Veteran many include individual and group counseling in areas such as PTSD, alcohol, and drug assessment, and suicide prevention referrals. All services are free and confidential. More information is available at: <https://www.vetcenter.va.gov/>.

- **Vet Center Call Center (1-877-WAR-VETS):** This is an around-the-clock, confidential **call center** where combat **Veterans** and their families talk about their military experience or any other issue they are facing in their readjustment to civilian life.
- **Reducing Firearm & Other Household Safety Risks for Veterans and Their Families:** This brochure provides best practices for safely storing firearms and medications along with advice for loved ones on how to talk to the Veteran in their life about safe storage: https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/docs/Brochure-for-Veterans-Means-Safety-Messaging_508_CLEARED_11-15-19.pdf.
- **Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Resource Toolkit for Never Federally Activated Former Guard and Reserve Members:** This toolkit connects former members of the Guard and Reserves, their families, and their providers with mental health and suicide prevention resources available through VA and in the community. The toolkit is available at https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/docs/Toolkit_National_Guard_and_Reserve_Members_CLEARED_2-21-19.pdf.

Resources for Families and Friends

- **#BeThere Prevention Initiative:** The #BeThere prevention initiative teaches members of the community how simple acts can help save a Veteran in crisis. More information is available at <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/BeThere.aspx>.
- **Coaching into Care (1-888-823-7458):** A national telephone service of the VA, Coaching into Care aims to educate, support, and empower family members and friends who are seeking care or services for a Veteran. More information is available at <https://www.mirecc.va.gov/coaching/>.
- **How to Talk to a Child About a Suicide Attempt in Your Family:** If there has been a recent suicide attempt in your family, this may be one of the toughest experiences you and your children may ever face. It is important to take care of yourself, so that you are better able to care for your child. More information is available at <https://www.mirecc.va.gov/visn19/talk2kids/>.
- **Start the Conversation:** This customizable toolkit provides information about common issues that many Veterans face, as well as concrete steps to help you support a Veteran who may be dealing with emotional distress or at risk for suicide. Create your own toolkit at <https://starttheconversation.veteranscrisisline.net/>.
- **Together We Can Series:** This series provides evidenced-based information on suicide risk and protective factors for Veterans, their families, caregivers, friends, and community members. More information is available at https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/resources.asp.

VHA 10NC1 (Suicide/MH/Homelessness) Talking Points

- Significant progress has been made to prevent and end Veteran homelessness. The number of Veterans experiencing homelessness in the United States has declined by nearly half since 2010.
- On a single night in January 2019, 37,085 Veterans were experiencing homelessness 2.1 percent fewer than in 2018 (37,878).
- Since 2010, over 800,000 Veterans and their family members have been permanently housed or prevented from becoming homeless.
- As of June 8, 2020, 81 areas (78 communities and 3 states*) have met the benchmarks and criteria established by the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), VA and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and have publicly announced an effective end to Veteran homelessness.

Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program Response to COVID-19

- On April 24, 2020, \$201.5M in CARES Act funds distributed to grantees.
- SSVF is focusing on three critical areas: emergency housing in hotels/motels; HUD-VASH support while Public Housing Authorities (PHA) have limited functioning; and expanded prevention in response to high unemployment.
- Over 5,000 hotel/motel placements have occurred through May, 2020 to reduce risk of COVID-19 exposure for vulnerable Veterans.
- Many regulatory limits have been waived through Stafford Act.
- Extensive technical assistance has been provided to grantees on risk mitigation and reducing inflows into homelessness.
- In FY 2020 through April, over 73,000 Veterans and family members have been served with 81% of exits placed in permanent housing.

Grant and Per Diem (GPD) Program

- The GPD Case Management grant, providing housing retention services for homeless Veterans, began October 1, 2019.
 - During the first 6 months of the grant over 1,080 unique Veterans have been served by the program.
 - Of the 150 Veterans that exited the program 73% were housed at the time of exit.
- The CARES Act states that the VA Secretary may waive the GPD per diem limits. The waiver request was approved by the Secretary on April 28, 2020 and allows grantees to backdate their per diem requests to the enactment of the CARES Act.
- On April 29, 2020, the GPD National Program Office notified all grantees of the waiver and method to request an increase in per diem.
 - As of June 5, 2020, GPD approved 409 per diem rate increase requests tied to 8,602 transitional housing beds and six service centers.

The average increase was an additional \$24.27 per bed per day. For these projects, this equates to approximately \$4,000,000/month in additional per diem funding

HUD-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program

- HUD-VASH is a collaborative program between VA and HUD to move Veterans and their families out of homelessness and into permanent housing. HUD provides housing assistance through its Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8) that allows homeless Veterans to rent privately owned housing.
- Beginning in fiscal year (FY) 2008 through FY 2020, Quarter 1, approximately 101,000 subsidized housing vouchers have been allocated to HUD-VASH.
- Voucher utilization as of April 30, 2020: 78% (78,585 Veterans housed)
- COVID-19 and the corresponding shut-downs strongly negatively impacted HUD-VASH processes, including reductions of over 50% in vouchers issued to Veterans.
- HUD-VASH remains focused on efforts to improve voucher utilization, including:
 - Developing virtual capabilities for VA medical center (VAMC) and PHA processes.
 - Targeting vouchers for Veterans placed in hotels during the COVID-19 emergency.
 - Updating and expanding HUD-VASH Continuum for other than honorable (OTH) Veterans.
 - Expanding pilot efforts with lower-acuity Veterans receiving case management from non-HUD-VASH providers.
 - Filling HUD-VASH case manager vacancies.

Homeless Patient Aligned Care Teams (H-PACTs)

New H-PACT site opening in Fargo, North Dakota this summer with expanded use of telehealth services in place to expand access and meet the care needs of the rural Veteran population in that area and work to continually provide virtual care as needed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Veterans Justice Programs

The Veterans Treatment Court Improvement Act of 2018 required VA to hire at least 50 additional Veterans Justice Outreach Specialists. New positions totaling 51 FTE were awarded in response to VAMCs' requests. As of April 2020, 48 (94%) of these positions have been filled or are under active recruitment by their VAMCs.

Homeless Veterans Community Employment Services (HVCES)

- Through April 30, 2020, there were approximately 10,461 newly documented, unique instances of employment for Veterans engaged with or who exited from VA Homeless Programs or Services.
- HVCES is partnering with the Department of Labor Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP) to provide a joint training for VHA staff and grantees to improve employment outcomes for Veterans who have experienced homelessness.

Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV)

- Through April 30, 2020, over 70,000 Veterans have received HCHV outreach and case management services.
- Through April 30, 2020, nearly 60% of the Veterans who exited HCHV Contract Residential Services program exited directly into permanent housing.
- HCHV continues to lead HPO's efforts in coordinated entry integration, most recently partnering with SSVF, HUD and USICH to hold national calls (one for VA staff and one for community partners) focused on the critical role of coordinated entry in the community's response to the COVID-19 crisis.

***VBA Current Issues:** VBA held a townhall in Iowa in late May which the Senator was unable to attend. Instead she provided a set of questions from her office, seen below, along with the responses we provided on 6-12.

**Congressional Response-Senator Ernst VBA Townhall Questions-
May 28, 2020**

- **It is important to make sure Veterans understand the VA's plans for resuming full services at its facilities in the coming months, both medical and benefits offices. How is VBA doing and/or working to do this?**

(OFO's response) VBA has developed a three-phase approach to resuming normal, pre-COVID-19 operations. This approach aligns with the White House and National Guidelines for Opening Up America Again. Each Regional Office's phases will be dependent upon local conditions. Throughout each of the phases, Veterans can continue to get information about benefits or file a claim for benefits by visiting our website at www.va.gov. Veterans with claims specific or other questions may request information via Inquiry Routing & Information System (IRIS) at <https://iris.custhelp.va.gov/> or telephone at 1-800-827-1000 from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET.

- **Veterans in Iowa are concerned about the backlog of claims that are pending at the Board of Veterans' Appeals. Any update on that would be appreciated.**

(AMO deferred response to BVA) BVA's response: While the Board does not track the number of pending appeals by state, all Veterans can check the status of their appeal via the appeals status tracker. Veterans can see, in real time, where their claim or appeal is in its progression, any evidence they've filed, what they've claimed, any evidence VA has requested of them, their representative and their claim type.

The Board of Veterans' Appeals (Board) is the Secretary's designee to decide appeals from all three administrations (VBA, VHA, NCA) and the office of General Counsel. In response to the growing number of claims and appeals, in February 2019, VA implemented the Appeals Modernization Act (AMA), which streamlines the complicated and lengthy legacy appeals process and gives Veterans more choice, clarity and control over their claims and appeals. VA and Veterans have seen positive results from AMA. In FY19, the Board decided a record high of 90,089 appeals and completed a record of over 22,000 hearings.

Since April of 2019, VA has reduced the number of appeals from over 396,000 to 239,000 as of April 2020. We continue to make significant strides as an agency to provide decisions ensuring Veterans receive the benefits and services to which they are entitled.

In October 2019, VA released its plan to reduce legacy appeals by the end of calendar year 2022. Despite COVID-19, VA is still on track to reduce its legacy appeals. As of May 24, the Board had 96,305 legacy appeals and 43,205 AMA appeals pending. The Board continues to prioritize legacy appeals, while simultaneously working AMA appeals.

Prior to COVID-19, the Board was on target to surpass the decisions goal and reach its goal of conducting a record 24,300 hearings in FY 2020. While production numbers remain strong, our ability to hold hearings has been significantly impacted due to COVID-19 operational changes. Through the end of March 2020, the Board held 11,455 hearings, was averaging 4,478 hearings per week, and was 57 hearings above its goal. The Board also reduced the number of pending legacy hearing requests from 75,946 at the start of FY 2019 to 56,761 at the end of March 2020. Due to COVID-19, the Board suspended all in-person hearings including travel board, video, and central office, and is only conducting virtual hearings at this time. Virtual hearings have allowed the Board to increase its capacity to serve more Veterans wherever they are located, and ensure the safety of Veterans, their representatives and VA employees. The Board encourages Veterans who have a scheduled hearing to consider opting for a virtual hearing. Until it is safe for VA to resume in-person hearings, virtual hearings are the only viable option. For more information about virtual hearings, please see the enclosed fact sheet.

- **There is a delay in the processing of fiduciary appointments. In the past this required in person visits and interviews. Is the VA considering alternative avenues to expedite this process?**

(P&F RESPONSE) In the Fiduciary program, approximately 70 percent of field examinations are normally conducted through face-to-face meetings. To ensure we are able to continue to appoint fiduciaries and provide oversight of our most vulnerable beneficiaries in the Fiduciary program, VBA deployed the use of VA Video Connect, Skype, and telephonic contact in lieu of face-to-face meetings. Due to the elimination of travel to and from field examination appointments, we have experienced an 8% increase in productivity from March and 12% increase in field examination completions in April, when compared to the average of the prior months in FY20. Overall, timeliness for initial appointment field examinations and follow-up field examinations has also improved by 12% and 18% respectively.

- **Aid & Attendance Pension claims are also seeing delays in processing. Previously it had taken 90 days for a decision and now it is taking around 12 months. Is the VA taking steps to improve this process?**

(OFO/P&F RESPONSE) VA is committed to providing timely services to pension claimants. Currently, claims for Veterans Pension based on the need for Aid and Attendance (A&A) are processed in an average of 84 days. VA is continuously exploring new ways to minimize delays and further improve processing time for

Veterans Pension based on the need for A&A. Currently, collaboration between VA's Office of Information Technology and the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) is underway in one of the largest automation efforts in VA. Computerized systems will automatically record data and generate award payments and correspondence, thus allowing VA to focus claims processors on only those claims that require manual processing.

- **In Iowa, there are problems with contract examiners. For example, in one case, an examiner that does contract hearing exams has told Veterans that they have hearing loss, but that is not due to military exposure. This examiner has then attempted to sell those Veteran's hearing aids during the C&P exam. How can the VA improve oversight and reporting for these illegitimate examiners who are scamming Veterans in Iowa?**

{MDE PIO Response}: On May 18, 2020, the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) established the Medical Disability Examination Program Integration Office (MDEPIO) and detailed a Senior Executive to lead the office as a separate entity and report directly to the Under Secretary for Benefits. This office is responsible for overseeing VBA's return to full and expanded exam capacity during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, and to improve oversight over all aspects of the program, to include the quality of the contract compensation and pension (C&P) exams.

The MDEPIO has instituted several safeguards within the contract examination process to identify and address issues that may arise and adversely impact the Veteran or the Veteran experience during a C&P examination. Veteran satisfaction surveys are released to all Veterans who undergo a C&P exam to provide their feedback on their examiner and their examination experience. Additionally, Veterans can submit their concerns through their representative, their local Regional Office, or via telephone at 1-800-827-1000.

All complaints related to contract examiners are forwarded to MDEPIO for a potential investigation and response. In most cases, MDEPIO will task the contract vendor with investigating the complaint about the vendor's employee or subcontracted provider. The vendor must submit a report of this investigation to MDEPIO for review and a discussion of further action with the vendor, to include specific remedial action. MDEPIO has requested a vendor investigation regarding the complaint referenced in this inquiry.

COVID: CONTINGENCY PLANNING TALKING POINTS:

- VA has contingency plans in place to address the needs of the Veteran enrollee population and has been activating our 4th mission as the civilian health care system needed assistance. VA has been modeling the COVID-19 spread in across the nation in order to prepare for outbreaks and to reinforce areas 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.
- 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. Our collective occupancy rate is 47%.

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 35 ongoing mission assignments. We are providing care to a total of 45 states and territories at this time.
- VA is caring for approximately 250 civilians in our facilities.

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 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/face covering vs an N95 respirator given the demand on the 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 also testing all patients and employees in our Community Living Centers and Spinal Cord Injury Units to protect our most vulnerable populations.
- 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.
- We have received results on over 150,000 tests.
- 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.

- We are now conducting over 30,000 video telehealth sessions per day, an increase of over 900%
- 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 53% since March.

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 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.
- VA will be issuing further guidance with more granularity about when which type of PPE is required, and by whom. That said, experts are nearly unanimous in indicating that not everyone in a hospital needs an N95 mask. A face covering more than sufficient for those not in direct contact with a COVID-19 patient.
- Our supply chain is currently forecasting sufficient PPE, at the burn rate we are currently sustaining, for the next few months. Obviously, much of that could change as the global supply chain continues to respond to increased demand from all corners.

Recent Casework Letters:

- We have had 5 casework letters from SEN Ernst since 1 April, various topics:
- 2794132 – Eye glasses
- 2807755 – Access to care
- 2815470 – Copy of military treatment records (resolved w/o going into VIEWS) – Hospice care
- 2700439 – Copy of military treatment records

- There does not appear to be a trending theme of issues here.

Facilities/CBOCS in Iowa/VISN 23 Director Robert McDivitt Veterans Health Administration

VA Health Care System

Des Moines: [VA Central Iowa Health Care System](#)
Iowa City: [Iowa City VA Health Care System](#)

Outpatient Clinic

Coralville: [Coralville OPC](#)

Community Service Programs

Cedar Rapids: [Community Resource and Referral Center - Cedar Rapids](#)
Davenport: [Community Resource and Referral Center - Quad Cities](#)
Des Moines: [Community Resource and Referral Center - Des Moines](#)

Community Based Outpatient Clinic

Carroll: [Carroll CBOC](#)
Cedar Rapids: [Cedar Rapids CBOC](#)
Davenport: [Quad Cities VA Clinic](#)
Decorah: [Decorah VA Clinic](#)
Dubuque: [Dubuque VA Clinic](#)
Fort Dodge: [Fort Dodge CBOC](#)
Knoxville: [Knoxville CBOC](#)
Marshalltown: [Marshalltown CBOC](#)
Mason City: [Mason City CBOC](#)
Ottumwa: [Ottumwa VA Clinic](#)
Shenandoah: [Shenandoah VA Clinic](#)
Spirit Lake: [Spirit Lake VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic \(CBOC\)](#)
Waterloo: [Waterloo VA Clinic](#)

Vet Center

Cedar Rapids: [Cedar Rapids Vet Center](#)
Des Moines: [Des Moines Vet Center](#)
Sioux City: [Sioux City Vet Center](#)

Veterans Benefits Administration

Regional Benefit Office

Des Moines: Des Moines Regional Office

National Cemetery Administration

National Cemetery

Davenport: Oakdale Cemetery Soldiers' Lot

Keokuk: Keokuk National Cemetery

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Fri, 19 Jun 2020 15:07:12 +0000
To: (b)(6); (b)(6); (b)(6); Haverstock, Cathy; (b)(6)
(b)(6); (b)(6) L.
Subject: RE: ernst 6-23 teletownhall ebs

The format is exactly like a live town hall would be.

Any opening remarks and the topic of the are at the discretion of the Senator, and to an extent the constituents who ask questions. If the constituents don't want to talk about the VA (not likely) then the Secretary wont be very active in the call.

If there are VA questions, the Secretary will field those questions directly from the constituents. Absolutely no way to know what those questions are before hand.

We will get all details about what Sen Ernst expects from this in the 10 min before the townhall goes live while she and the Secretary are both on the phone dialed in. They will have a chance to chat, review the rules with the contractor, and then it will go live. The Senator will make brief opening remarks, she may then ask the Secretary for a quick statement (less than 2 min is appropriate) and then go to questions, or she could just go straight to questions.

From: (b)(6); (b)(6); (b)(6) @va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2020 4:33 PM
To: (b)(6) @va.gov>; Haverstock, Cathy <(b)(6) @va.gov>; (b)(6) @va.gov>; (b)(6) @va.gov>; (b)(6) @va.gov>; (b)(6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: ernst 6-23 teletownhall ebs

Thanks for this information. Very helpful.

It's not clear to me, though, the format of the Town Hall - Is the Secretary expected to make formal remarks or is that not necessary? Will he take questions? Pre-selected?

Thank you.

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) @va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2020 4:27 PM
To: Haverstock, Cathy <(b)(6) @va.gov>; (b)(6) @va.gov>; (b)(6) @va.gov>; (b)(6) @va.gov>; (b)(6) @va.gov>; (b)(6) @va.gov>
Subject: ernst 6-23 teletownhall ebs

Please see attached

(b)(6)

Congressional Relations Officer
2026 Rayburn House Office Building

P: (b)(6)

C:

From: Haverstock, Cathy <(b)(6)@va.gov>

Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2020 3:07 PM

To: (b)(6)@va.gov; (b)(6)

(b)(6)@va.gov; (b)(6)@va.gov

Subject: RE: ernst teletownhall ebs

Thanks (b)(6) ...need to have the Iowa facilities listed here and what VISN this is, etc...I don't know how much the Secretary knows.

From: (b)(6)@va.gov

Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2020 2:42 PM

To: Haverstock, Cathy (b)(6)@va.gov; (b)(6)@va.gov;

(b)(6)@va.gov

Subject: Fwd: ernst teletownhall ebs

Adding Cathy

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From: (b)(6)@va.gov

Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2020 2:16:28 PM

To: (b)(6)@va.gov

Cc: (b)(6)@va.gov

Subject: ernst teletownhall ebs

Hey (b)(6) wanted to send you a draft version of this before sending it forward. Let me know anything no good or left out. I can't access views right now but if you see anything real relevant there for Iowa let me know. Thanks!

(b)(6)

Congressional Relations Officer
2026 Rayburn House Office Building

P: (b)(6)

C:

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2020 11:45 AM
To: (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: ernst teletownhall ebs

Check out this draft secva EBS for Erns's teletownhall.

(b)(6)
Congressional Relations Officer
2026 Rayburn House Office Building
P: (b)(6)
C: (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 11:43 AM
To: (b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: VA Mobile Health Clinics Information Request

Please make sure all of these questions and answers make it into the tele-town hall prep for the Secretary.

From: (b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 9:47 AM
To: (b)(6)@va.gov> (b)(6)
<(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: OCLA COVID Team <oclacovidteam@va.gov>
Subject: RE: VA Mobile Health Clinics Information Request

Hey everyone-staffer followed up with the additional questions below:

I now have a couple more questions for you...

1. Are there any of these in Iowa? I know they have an MMU- is that the same thing? Do you have a map that discloses the location of these MVCs?
2. Thank you for clarifying that these MVCs are nationwide. However, I see in your response that there are 83 total. Are there plans to increase the number of MVCs in any particular area- specifically rural areas?

(b)(6)
Congressional Relations Officer
2026 Rayburn House Office Building
P: (b)(6)
C: (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@va.gov
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 2:51 PM
To: (b)(6)@va.gov
Cc: OCLA COVID Team <oclacovidteam@va.gov>; (b)(6)@va.gov
Subject: RE: VA Mobile Health Clinics Information Request

Thank you. (b)(6) please respond.

(b)(6)

Congressional Relations Officer
Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of Veterans Affairs
Email: (b)(6)@va.gov
Ph.: (b)(6) **Cell (202)** (b)(6) **Fax (202) 273-9988**
Web www.va.gov



From: (b)(6)@va.gov
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 2:35 PM
To: (b)(6)@va.gov
Cc: OCLA COVID Team <oclacovidteam@va.gov>; (b)(6)@va.gov
Subject: RE: VA Mobile Health Clinics Information Request

Cleared

From: (b)(6)@va.gov
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 2:32 PM
To: (b)(6)@va.gov
Cc: OCLA COVID Team <oclacovidteam@va.gov>; (b)(6)@va.gov
Subject: FW: VA Mobile Health Clinics Information Request

(b)(6)

Below please find responses to an COVID-19 related RFI.

Question 1: How is this program run? How did this program come about?

Response: The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Readjustment Counseling Service (RCS) maintains a fleet of 83 Mobile Vet Centers (MVCs). The MVC program was started in 2010 to extend the reach of 300 “brick and mortar” Vet Centers to eligible individuals in communities that are distant from existing services. MVCs are large vehicles which have space for confidential counseling services and Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) technology that allows staff to access all VA system of records through encrypted connection. With this capability, MVCs are often called upon to support VA in its important mission of providing emergency services in response to National emergencies and disasters. In FY 2019, MVCs were integral in VA’s 4th Mission to respond to National disasters and emergencies through deployments to areas suffering hurricanes, mass shootings, tornadoes and wildfires, providing services to over 2,100 Veterans, active duty Service members, and their families.

Question 2: Just to confirm- this has only been in areas with high volume, such as NYC, correct?

Response: In addition to regularly scheduled outreach and direct counseling via the MVC program, RCS has deployed vehicles and volunteer Vet Center staff, to 14 highly affected cities across the country thus far this year, including New York City. The focus of these deployments have been to 1) provide direct counseling services, care coordination, and outreach to communities that have been stressed by COVID-19; 2) assess the needs of Veterans, active duty Service members, and their families; and 3) augment and increase visibility of VA’s response to COVID-19.

Question 3: This program only handles mental health cases, right?

Response: Vet Centers and MVCs provide readjustment counseling to eligible Veterans, active duty Service members, and their families. These services include:

- Individual, group, and marriage and family counseling for a wide range of socio-economic and psychological concerns
- Outreach to provide access to Vet Center services
- Care Coordination/ referral to appropriate VA and Community based services and benefits.

Question 4: For this to become permanent, does it need to be codified? Do you think this program could be expanded to include all of the U.S.?

Response: The MVC fleet is a permanent asset of RCS and is a dynamic and valuable component of Vet Center services. The fleet of 83 vehicles are dispersed across the continental United States, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Congressional Relations Officer
Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of Veterans Affairs
Email (b)(6)@va.gov
Ph. (b)(6) Cell (b)(6), Fax (202) 273-9988
Web www.va.gov



From: (b)(6)@va.gov
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 4:06 PM
To: (b)(6)@va.gov
Cc: OCLA COVID Team <oclacovidteam@va.gov>; VHA 10B3 Legislative Team <VHA10B3LegislativeTeam@va.gov>
Subject: RE: VA Mobile Health Clinics Information Request

(b)(6)

Please see the cleared responses below.

(b)(6)
Writer/Editor
Office of VHA Legislative Affairs (10B3)
Cell: (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@va.gov
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 3:13 PM
To: (b)(6)@va.gov
Cc: VHA 10B <vha10b@va.gov>; VHA 10B3 Legislative Team <VHA10B3LegislativeTeam@va.gov>
Subject: FW: VA Mobile Health Clinics Information Request - FOR MAIL CALL

From: (b)(6)@va.gov
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 2:36 PM
To: (b)(6)@va.gov
Cc: VHA 10B <vha10b@va.gov>
Subject: Re: VA Mobile Health Clinics Information Request - FOR MAIL CALL

Cleared.

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From: (b)(6)@va.gov
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 2:20:37 PM
To: (b)(6)@va.gov
Cc: VHA 10B <vha10b@va.gov>
Subject: VA Mobile Health Clinics Information Request - FOR MAIL CALL

(b)(6) for clearance,

Requesting your clearance to send this to OCLA. Below are the questions and responses from the CBO and PO:

Question 1: How is this program run? How did this program come about?

Response: The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Readjustment Counseling Service (RCS) maintains a fleet of 83 Mobile Vet Centers (MVCs). The MVC program was started in 2010 to extend the reach of 300 “brick and mortar” Vet Centers to eligible individuals in communities that are distant from existing services. MVCs are large vehicles which have space for confidential counseling services and Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) technology that allows staff to access all VA system of records through encrypted connection. With this capability, MVCs are often called upon to support VA in its important mission of providing emergency services in response to National emergencies and disasters. In FY 2019, MVCs were integral in VA’s 4th Mission to respond to National disasters and emergencies through deployments to areas suffering hurricanes, mass shootings, tornadoes and wildfires, providing services to over 2,100 Veterans, active duty Service members, and their families.

Question 2: Just to confirm- this has only been in areas with high volume, such as NYC, correct?

Response: In addition to regularly scheduled outreach and direct counseling via the MVC program, RCS has deployed vehicles and volunteer Vet Center staff, to 14 highly affected cities across the country thus far this year, including New York City. The focus of these deployments have been to 1) provide direct counseling services, care coordination, and outreach to communities that have been stressed by COVID-19; 2) assess the needs of Veterans, active duty Service members, and their families; and 3) augment and increase visibility of VA’s response to COVID-19.

Question 3: This program only handles mental health cases, right?

Response: Vet Centers and MVCs provide readjustment counseling to eligible Veterans, active duty Service members, and their families. These services include:

- Individual, group, and marriage and family counseling for a wide range of socio-economic and psychological concerns
- Outreach to provide access to Vet Center services
- Care Coordination/ referral to appropriate VA and Community based services and benefits.

Question 4: For this to become permanent, does it need to be codified? Do you think this program could be expanded to include all of the U.S.?

Response: The MVC fleet is a permanent asset of RCS and is a dynamic and valuable component of Vet Center services. The fleet of 83 vehicles are dispersed across the continental United States, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico.

From: (b)(6)@va.gov
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 1:21 PM
To: VHA 10B <vha10b@va.gov>
Cc: VHA 10B3 Legislative Team <VHA10B3LegislativeTeam@va.gov>
Subject: FW: VA Mobile Health Clinics Information Request - FOR MAIL CALL

10B,

Requesting your clearance to send this to OCLA. Below are the questions and responses from the CBO and PO:

Question 1: How is this program run? How did this program come about?

Response: The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Readjustment Counseling Service (RCS) maintains a fleet of 83 Mobile Vet Centers (MVCs). The MVC program was started in 2010 to extend the reach of 300 “brick and mortar” Vet Centers to eligible individuals in communities that are distant from existing services. MVCs are large vehicles which have space for confidential counseling services and Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) technology that allows staff to access all VA system of records through encrypted connection. With this capability, MVCs are often called upon to support VA in its important mission of providing emergency services in response to National emergencies and disasters. In FY 2019, MVCs were integral in VA’s 4th Mission to respond to National disasters and emergencies through deployments to areas suffering hurricanes, mass shootings, tornadoes and wildfires, providing services to over 2,100 Veterans, active duty Service members, and their families.

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Question 4: For this to become permanent, does it need to be codified? Do you think this program could be expanded to include all of the U.S.?

Response: The MVC fleet is a permanent asset of RCS and is a dynamic and valuable component of Vet Center services. The fleet of 83 vehicles are dispersed across the continental United States, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico.

Let me know if you have any questions, thank you.

(b)(6)

Writer/Editor

Office of VHA Legislative Affairs (10B3)

Cell: (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@va.gov
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 11:18 AM
To: (b)(6)@va.gov
Cc: VHA 10B3 Legislative Team <VHA10B3LegislativeTeam@va.gov>
Subject: FW: VA Mobile Health Clinics Information Request - FOR MAIL CALL

Good Morning (b)(6)

These are cleared with edits. I incorporated the edits in the write up below.

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) (VHA) (b)(6)@va.gov
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 10:25 AM
To: (b)(6)@va.gov; VHA 10B3 Legislative Team <VHA10B3LegislativeTeam@va.gov>
Cc: VHA 10A Action <VHA10AAAction@va.gov>
Subject: FW: VA Mobile Health Clinics Information Request - FOR MAIL CALL

10A Clears

From: Fisher, Michael (10RCS) <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 8:32 AM
To: VHA 10A Action <VHA10AAAction@va.gov>

Cc: VHA 10RCS Action <VHA10RCSAction@va.gov>; VHA 10B3 Legislative Team <VHA10B3LegislativeTeam@va.gov>; (b)(6)@va.gov

Subject: FW: VA Mobile Health Clinics Information Request - FOR MAIL CALL

10A- Please see the below response for review and routing to 10B3 (copied).

Question 1: How is this program run? How did this program come about?

Response: The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Readjustment Counseling Service (RCS) maintains a fleet of 83 Mobile Vet Centers (MVCs). The MVC program was started in 2010 to extend the reach of 300 “brick and mortar” Vet Centers to eligible individuals in communities that are distant from existing services. MVCs are large vehicles which have space for confidential counseling services and Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) technology that allows staff to access all VA system of records through encrypted connection. With this capability, MVCs are often called upon to support VA in its important mission of providing emergency services in response to National emergencies and disasters. In FY 2019, MVCs were integral in VA’s 4th Mission to respond to National disasters and emergencies through deployments to areas suffering hurricanes, mass shootings, tornadoes and wildfires, providing services to over 2,100 Veterans, active duty Service members, and their families.

Question 2: Just to confirm- this has only been in areas with high volume, such as NYC, correct?

Response: In addition to regularly scheduled outreach and direct counseling via the MVC program, RCS has deployed vehicles and volunteer Vet Center staff, to 14 highly affected cities across the country thus far this year, including New York City. The focus of these deployments have been to 1) provide direct counseling services, care coordination, and outreach to communities that have been stressed by COVID-19; 2) assess the needs of Veterans, active duty Service members, and their families; and 3) augment and increase visibility of VA’s response to COVID-19.

Question 3: This program only handles mental health cases, right?

Response: Vet Centers and MVCs provide readjustment counseling to eligible Veterans, active duty Service members, and their families. These services include:

- Individual, group, and marriage and family counseling for a wide range of socio-economic and psychological concerns
- Outreach to provide access to Vet Center services
- Care Coordination/ referral to appropriate VA and Community based services and benefits.

Question 4: For this to become permanent, does it need to be codified? Do you think this program could be expanded to include all of the U.S.?

Response: The MVC fleet is a permanent asset of RCS and is a dynamic and valuable component of Vet Center services. The fleet of 83 vehicles are dispersed across the continental United States, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico.

(b)(6)

Chief Officer
Readjustment Counseling Service (10RCS)

(b)(6)
(Mobile)
(b)(6)@va.gov



From: Czarnecki, Tammy <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 4:32 PM
To: Fisher, Michael (10RCS) <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: FW: VA Mobile Health Clinics Information Request

Can you assist?

From: (b)(6) MD <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 4:21 PM
To: Czarnecki, Tammy <(b)(6)@va.gov>; VHA 10NA1 Action <VHA10NA1Action2@va.gov>
Subject: RE: VA Mobile Health Clinics Information Request

(b)(6)

This is all new to us, we have seen no requests to mobilize mobile health clinics. As far as we know, as with everything else the MMU services were curtailed. This may be referring to RCS Mobile Vet Centers which deployed on their own.

Question 1: Mike Fisher?

Question 2: If VISN 2 mobilized their MMU in NYC they did not tell us.

Question 3: Mike Fisher?

Question 4: RCS is permanent and centrally managed and is nationwide – MMUs is not a centrally run/managed program, each VISN/VAMC is responsible for each of the MMUs in their catchment area. Should it be nationwide – Good question – possible a \$100 million dollar program and would need a dedicated staff to manage the program

From: Czarnecki, Tammy <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 4:08 PM
To: VHA 10NA1 Action <VHA10NA1Action2@va.gov>
Subject: FW: VA Mobile Health Clinics Information Request

Would this be you all?

From: (b)(6)@va.gov
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 4:06 PM
To: (b)(6)@va.gov; VHA 10NC Action <vha10ncaction@va.gov>
Cc: VHA 10B3 Legislative Team <VHA10B3LegislativeTeam@va.gov>; VHA 10N Action <VHA10NAction@va.gov>; VHA 10P Actions <VHA10PActions@va.gov>; VHA 10P4 Actions <VHA10P4Actions@va.gov>
Subject: RE: VA Mobile Health Clinics Information Request

Good afternoon,

10P4/10P defer to 10NC on this however, we stand by to provide any assistance if necessary.

V/r,

(b)(6)
Office of the Deputy Under Secretary for Health
for Policy and Services (10P)
Work ph: (b)(6)
Cell: (b)(6)
Email: (b)(6)@va.gov

From: (b)(6)@va.gov
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 2:56 PM
To: VHA 10P Actions <VHA10PActions@va.gov>; VHA 10NC Action <vha10ncaction@va.gov>
Cc: VHA 10B3 Legislative Team <VHA10B3LegislativeTeam@va.gov>; VHA 10N Action <VHA10NAction@va.gov>
Subject: FW: VA Mobile Health Clinics Information Request

Good afternoon,

OCLA received the below Congressional inquiry from Rep. Finkenauer's office regarding VA, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, mobilizing mobile health clinics. Please review the inquiry and provide a response that we can share with Rep. Finkenauer.

Question 1: How is this program run? How did this program come about?

Question 2: Just to confirm- this has only been in areas with high volume, such as NYC, correct?

Question 3: This program only handles mental health cases, right?

Question 4: For this to become permanent, does it need to be codified? Do you think this program could be expanded to include all of the U.S.?

Please provide your responses to our office by **COB Thursday, June 11**. If you feel another office should be assisting in providing a response, feel free to send them this email and cc the **VHA 10B3 Legislative Team**. If you have any questions, please let us know. Thank you.

(b)(6)

Writer/Editor

Office of VHA Legislative Affairs (10B3)

Cell: (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@va.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 1:36 PM

To: VHA 10B3 Legislative Team <VHA10B3LegislativeTeam@va.gov>

Cc: OCLA COVID Team <oclacovidteam@va.gov>

Subject: FW: VA Mobile Health Clinics Information Request

Good afternoon,

OCLA received the below Congressional inquiry from Rep. Finkenauer's office regarding VA, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, mobilizing mobile health clinics. Please review the inquiry and provide a response that we can share with Rep. Finkenauer.

Question 1: How is this program run? How did this program come about?

Question 2: Just to confirm- this has only been in areas with high volume, such as NYC, correct?

Question 3: This program only handles mental health cases, right?

Question 4: For this to become permanent, does it need to be codified? Do you think this program could be expanded to include all of the U.S.?

Thanks,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Congressional Relations Officer

Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs

Department of Veterans Affairs

Email: (b)(6)@va.gov

Ph.: (b)(6) **Cell:** (b)(6) **Fax:** (202) 273-9988

Web: www.va.gov



From: (b)(6)@va.gov
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 1:25 PM
To: OCLA COVID Team <oclacovidteam@va.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@va.gov
Subject: FW: VA Mobile Health Clinics Information Request

Hey all can you respond to the below questions from Finkenauer's office?

(b)(6)

Congressional Relations Officer
2026 Rayburn House Office Building
P: (b)(6)
C:

From: Veterans Affairs – Congressional Liaison Service <vacocls@va.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 1:24 PM
To: (b)(6)@va.gov
Subject: FW: VA Mobile Health Clinics Information Request

From: (b)(6)@mail.house.gov
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 1:20 PM
To: Veterans Affairs – Congressional Liaison Service <vacocls@va.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] VA Mobile Health Clinics Information Request

Good afternoon,

I am with Congresswoman Finkenauer's office, and I handle veterans issues. I noticed in a [press release](#) that the VA, in response to the COVID pandemic, has started mobilizing mobile health clinics. We are interested in learning more about this program, and have a few questions;

1. How is this program run? How did this program come about?
2. Just to confirm- this has only been in areas with high volume, such as NYC, correct?
3. This program only handles mental health cases, right?
4. For this to become permanent, does it need to be codified? Do you think this program could be expanded to include all of the U.S.?

Thank you so much for your help, and any resources or information you have will be greatly appreciated!

Best,

(b)(6) | Legislative Correspondent

Congresswoman Abby Finkenauer (IA-01)
124 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

(b)(6)



From: RLW
Sent: Fri, 19 Jun 2020 12:17:46 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: FaceTime Interview w/News 12 New Jersey
Attachments: Quad_News_12_NJ_Edison_NJ_Walt_Kane_06232020.pptx

Page 2 of 2

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

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From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 3 Jun 2020 14:35:55 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Opening Remarks - Video Teleconference Women Veteran Roundtable
Attachments: 6 16 20 ADEPSECVA Invitation.pdf, Women Veterans Initiative Official Access Information.docx

Slight change of plans....they just told me this is going to be 4 hours...not the original 2 hours so:

1. If he could open @ 12:30 to 12:45 (but I see that takes part of his lunch)
2. Close @ 4:15
3. Or basically whatever time you want they will work it into the agenda.

Sorry ladies....I've been holding 2 hours for 2 weeks and was just told this is going to be half a day. UGH

From: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @va.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 2, 2020 12:45 PM
To: (b)(6) @va.gov>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: June 23 Women Veteran Roundtable

Happy to ask him.

From: (b)(6) @va.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 2, 2020 12:39 PM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @va.gov>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @va.gov>
Subject: June 23 Women Veteran Roundtable

Ladies,

In honor of Women Veteran Month- Ms. Powers is hosting a virtual event with several women veterans from VSO's. She would like SecVA to provide a few opening remarks. We are currently holding June 23 from 2 to 4. If possible, can you hold 2 to 2:15 for this- if he is willing?

(b)(6)

Office of the Deputy Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs

(b)(6) (Office)
(b)(6) (Mobile)

The world is moved along, not only by the mighty shoves of its heroes, but also by the aggregate of tiny pushes of each honest worker. ~ Helen Keller

Page 2 of 4

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THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON

June 16, 2020

Dear Colleagues.

I cordially invite you to join me at a Women Veterans Forum on Tuesday, June 23, 2020, from 12:30-3:30 p.m. Eastern Time. This event will be 100% virtual and will focus on support for women Veterans during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 pandemic. Times, topics and log-in information are enclosed.

This event is extremely important to me as a woman, a Veteran and as the Acting Deputy Secretary here at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). VA is continuously working to meet the needs of women Veterans. Today, we track quality by gender, and unlike other health care systems, VA has reduced gender disparities in important aspects of health screening, prevention and chronic disease management.

I hope this event will be the first in a series of Deputy Secretary-sponsored, women Veteran-focused forums where we share the latest information with you, answer questions and hear your real-time feedback and concerns in a welcoming environment.

As the Secretary has noted many times, women Veterans comprise about 10% of the Veterans we serve. That number will only increase as women are now about 20% of our military force. VA has enrolled 41% of all women Veterans for care, and that number is increasing.

The June 23 event will feature updates from our Veterans Experience Office, the Center for Women Veterans, the Veterans Benefits Administration and the Veterans Health Administration. I am also excited to note that the Deputy Director of the Center for Women Veterans will discuss the I am Not Invisible Campaign.

I look forward to "seeing" you on the 23rd.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Powers", written in a cursive style.

Pamela Powers
Acting Deputy Secretary

Enclosure

Event Information

Event: Women Veterans Initiative
Type: Unlisted Event
Event address for attendees: <https://veteransaffairs.webex.com/veteransaffairs/onstage/g.php?MTID=e249f7d540b14ba6d5de769838f37b431>
Date and time: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 12:30 pm
Eastern Daylight Time (New York, GMT-04:00)
Duration: 3 hours
Description:
Event number: 199 080 9748
Event password: VAWomen#23
Host key: 746528
Alternate Host: (b)(6)

Audio conference: To receive a call back, provide your phone number when you join the event, or call the number below and enter the access code.
USA Toll Number
14043971596
[Show all global call-in numbers](#)
[Show toll-free dialing restrictions](#)
Access code: (b)(6)

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 12:07:08 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Meet and Greet / Leadership briefing

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 30 Jun 2020 15:16:52 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Call to Gov Sununu - SecVA to call (b)(6)
Attachments: (b)(5)

SECVA confirmed to call the **Governor's mobile** (b)(6) on **6 July @ 1pm.**

Please advise if additional assistance required.

(b)(6)
Director, State & Local Government Relations
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420
(b)(6) – Office
(b)(6) – Mobile

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 11:18 AM
To: (b)(6); (b)(6); (b)(6)@va.gov; (b)(6); (b)(6); (b)(6)@va.gov
Cc: Tucker, Brooks <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Syrek, Christopher D. (Chris) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Verschoor, Thayer <(b)(6)or@va.gov>; Scher, Deborah L. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: SECVA - Governor Sununu CALL
Importance: High

1. Governor's cos has been apprised for awareness.
2. I will report back if 6 July @ 1pm viable.

(b)(6)
Director, State & Local Government Relations
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420
(b)(6) – Office
(b)(6) – Mobile

(b)(6); (b)(6)@va.gov
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 11:14 AM
To: Tucker, Brooks <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Scher, Deborah L. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Haverstock, Cathy <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6)@va.gov; (b)(6)@va.gov; (b)(6)@va.gov; Scott, Traci <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6); (b)(6) L.

(b)(6)@va.gov>

Subject: RE: Thank you call to Governor Sununu?

The Secretary has asked that this call be scheduled for Monday. His schedule is super hectic on the road this week.

(b)(6) can you help us schedule? Thank you.

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)@va.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 11:04 AM

To: Tucker, Brooks <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Scher, Deborah L. (b)(6)@va.gov>

Cc: Haverstock, Cathy (b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6)@va.gov>; Scott, Traci

(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6)

(b)(6)@va.gov>

Subject: RE: Thank you call to Governor Sununu?

Adding the travel team with the Secretary. Has this call been made? Thank you.

From: Tucker, Brooks <(b)(6)@va.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 11:00 AM

To: Scher, Deborah L. (b)(6)@va.gov>

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)@va.gov>; Haverstock, Cathy <(b)(6)@va.gov>;

(b)(6)@va.gov>

Subject: RE: Thank you call to Governor Sununu?

+ (b)(6) and Cathy, plus IGA and (b)(6)

From: Scher, Deborah L. (b)(6)@va.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 10:59 AM

To: Tucker, Brooks (b)(6)@va.gov>

Subject: RE: Thank you call to Governor Sununu?

Good Morning Brooks:

It would be helpful if you might please let me know when this call has taken place. The first delivery date has now been moved to early next week

Thank you in advance for your assistance,
Deborah

From: Tucker, Brooks <(b)(6)@va.gov>

Sent: Sunday, June 28, 2020 12:43 PM

To: Powers, Pamela (b)(6)@va.gov>; Scher, Deborah L. (b)(6)@va.gov>

Subject: Re: Thank you call to Governor Sununu?

On it.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Powers, Pamela <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Sunday, June 28, 2020 12:38:56 PM
To: Scher, Deborah L. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Tucker, Brooks <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: Re: Thank you call to Governor Sununu?

Of course. Brooks, let's see if the boss will give the Governor a call again. I believe they spoke in the past but it would be good to call and thank him again.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Scher, Deborah L. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Sunday, June 28, 2020 7:19:48 AM
To: Powers, Pamela <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: Thank you call to Governor Sununu?

Good morning Pam:

I hope you are having a nice weekend and getting some time away from work.

As you will see from the note below, we are continuing to work with Governor Sununu's team and (b)(6) organization to bring in scarce PPE for the VA. Through their contacts, we have been able to secure the quality and quantity of PPE the VA needs in a timeframe that other traditional vendors have been unable to meet. (b)(6) continues to personally pay manufacturers in China upfront for these materials and the Governor's team continues to spend time supporting our contracting process and providing the NH National Guard to help with plane deliveries.

Would it be possible for you or Secretary Wilkie to reach out to thank Governor Sununu for his generosity in providing this ongoing support? He has approved supporting VA's 7 back to back plane loads of PPE scheduled to arrive in New Hampshire starting on Thursday, delivering a total of 16 million gloves and 3 million gowns for the VA. We have offered the State of New Hampshire to take (purchase at VA's cost) some supply from each plane load which they will be doing, but it is small quantities, both because they have what they need and because the virus has been quiet in New Hampshire.

Given the surge of Covid in multiple regions we serve and the ongoing scarcity of PPE, VA procurement would like to continue securing PPE through New Hampshire beyond these seven plane loads if possible. However, we do not want to impose on the generosity of the Governor and his staff or wear out VA's welcome. A call from you or the Secretary would demonstrate our deep appreciation for his ongoing support and assess their willingness, or not, to continue this arrangement.

Pam, thank you in advance for considering this. I am happy to provide any further information that would be helpful.

Deborah
Deborah Lafer Scher
Executive Advisor to the Secretary
Secretary's Center for Strategic Partnerships
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
www.va.gov/scsp

From: Scher, Deborah L. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2020 10:34 AM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: DEKA charter flight schedule and logistics updated July 2020

Good Morning (b)(6)

Below is the plane arrival schedule (b)(6) shared with me. If it works for you, here is an outline of the process we propose to follow as each plane arrives:

1. The NH National Guard will unload the plane. Material that the State of NH is keeping would be loaded onto Fedex trucks and taken to the NH warehouse.
2. VA staff will conduct their inspection upon arrival at the airport, counting the boxes and opening a sample to confirm the inventory matches what was ordered.
3. Material that the VA is purchasing will be loaded by the NH National Guard directly at the airport onto VA arranged trucks.
4. The VA will immediately authorize payment to the State of NH. The funds transfer will occur that day or no later than within 24hours.

As it relates to the inventory, the July 2nd delivery will be for 17.5 million gloves. The State of NH will purchase 1.5 million and VA will purchase 16 million. The subsequent 6 planes will each contain 590,000 gowns. We are proposing the State of NH will purchase 90,000 gowns from each delivery and VA will purchase 500,000.

(b)(6) please let me know if these arrangements will work for you and your staff or if you have a different suggestion. Thank you as always for going out of your way to support VA's purchase of this mission critical PPE. We are most appreciative.

Happy to speak at your convenience to finalize any outstanding issues.

Warm regards,

Deborah
Deborah Lafer Scher
Executive Advisor to the Secretary
Secretary's Center for Strategic Partnerships
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
www.va.gov/scsp/

From: (b)(6)@dekaresearch.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 6:03 PM
To: Scher, Deborah L. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: DEKA charters July 2020

Deborah-

Please see the note from FedEx below... We can talk tomorrow about this:

Fritz – This is the current charter schedule and MHT arrival in EDT.

Thu July 2 9:20 am FX 9730 ex BKK
Fri July 3 8:35 am FX 9732 ex PVG
Tue July 7 ???? FX 9736 ex PVG
Thu July 9 8:35 am FX 9738 ex PVG
Fri July 10 8:35 am FX 9739 ex PVG
Tue July 14 8:35 am FX 9733 ex PVG
Thu July 16 8:35 am FX 9735 ex PVG

The arrival time on July 3 is OK for (b)(6) and his MHT team, so no need to change to July 5.

If any of these change to BWI we can address that at the time.

We will need to coordinate trucks and delivery when you have that info.

This e-mail and the information, including any attachments it contains, are intended to be a confidential communication only to the person or entity to whom it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please immediately notify the sender and destroy the original message. Thank you. Please consider the environment before printing this email.

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(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information

Page 07 of 10

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(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information

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of the Freedom of Information

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Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information

Page 10 of 10

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(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information

From: RLW
Sent: Fri, 19 Jun 2020 12:20:07 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: FaceTime Interview w/ WTAJ-CBS, Altoona, PA
Attachments: Quad_Evan Hinkley_WTAJ Radio_Altoona_June2020.pptx

Page 2 of 2

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of the Freedom of Information

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 3 Jun 2020 14:39:52 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: FaceTime Interview w/Sara VerHague, Spectrum News, Buffalo, NY
Attachments: Quad_Spectrum_News_Buffalo_NY_Ryan_Whelan_06082020.pptx

Page 2 of 2

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(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 12:07:37 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Media Prep / Avail

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 11 Jun 2020 16:37:11 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: PREVENTS EVENT
Attachments: 06 17 Wilkie remarks PREVENTS release.docx, 6.17.2020 - PREVENTS Task Force Roadmap - Event Memo.DOCX, 20.06.17_PREVENTS Talking Points.docx, PREVENTS_1-page_Fact Sheet.docx

We are tracking this will be at 2:00 PM on Wednesday, June 17, 2020.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) @va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 6:52 PM
To: (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) @who.eop.gov>; Tucker, Brooks (b)(6) @va.gov>; Syrek, Christopher D. (Chris) (b)(6) @va.gov>; (b)(6) (b)(6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: 06/16: Announcement of the PREVENTS Task Force Roadmap

Copy. Thank you.

From: (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) @who.eop.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 6:24 PM
To: (b)(6) @va.gov>; Tucker, Brooks (b)(6) @va.gov>; Syrek, Christopher D. (Chris) (b)(6) @va.gov> (b)(6) @va.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: 06/16: Announcement of the PREVENTS Task Force Roadmap

Apologies, this has shifted to Wednesday, June 17, 2020. Timing is still TBD.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) @va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 12:41 PM
To: (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) @who.eop.gov>; Tucker, Brooks (b)(6) @va.gov>; Syrek, Christopher D. (Chris) (b)(6) @va.gov> (b)(6) (b)(6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: 06/16: Announcement of the PREVENTS Task Force Roadmap

YES – He is. We will await timing. Thank you,

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) @who.eop.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 12:34 PM

To: Tucker, Brooks <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Syrek, Christopher D. (Chris) <(b)(6)@va.gov>;
(b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; L. (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 06/16: Announcement of the PREVENTS Task Force Roadmap

Hi all,

We are currently holding for an Announcement of the PREVENTS Task Force Roadmap on **Tuesday, June 16, 2020**, timing TBD. Is the Secretary available that day to attend?

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director
Office of Cabinet Affairs
The White House

O: (b)(6) C: (b)(6)

I can't help but think of what my father would say if he were here today.

He was a decorated combat soldier who was wounded three times in Vietnam. In his day, one didn't talk about suicide or feelings of distress with members of the military. It was anathema to his generation and many generations before his.

That attitude reflected our national attitude.

Thoughts of suicide was a problem that an individual was left to resolve on his or her own, and unfortunately, many couldn't.

In the 1890s, President Benjamin Harrison's administration started compiling statistics on Veteran suicide.

And in the 130 years since, what little was done at the federal level to coordinate a response to this national tragedy barely moved the needle.

We've seen an average of about 20 Veterans, Guardsmen and Reservists take their lives each day, for as long as any of us can remember.

Over the last few decades, what was once seen as a problem for Veterans is now a problem for all Americans. Suicide in the U.S. increased 30 percent from 2001 to 2016, and it is now a top 10 cause of death in this country.

I want to thank President Trump for making this a nationwide priority, a step that should have been taken many years ago considering how much suicide has taken away from us.

I also want to thank the president for having the vision to identify the only real solution to this problem.

That solution is – each one of us.

Each one of us can help end the stigma that has prevented us from talking about the importance of mental health.

Each one of us can work to end the culture that made it acceptable to ignore warning signs in ourselves, our family members, friends and co-workers.

Each one of us can learn to identify those among us who are at risk, and help them find the resources they need to get help, whether we're at work, in a place of worship, at a school or in a non-profit organization.

The White House PREVENTS Office is already building partnerships with these groups and others – a first-ever nationwide network to prevent suicide.

Under this roadmap, Veterans will lead the way.

One important way they'll lead is in how suicide is researched. Under this roadmap, we will work with our research partners to gather and analyze data on suicide risk factors and treatment of Veterans so we can deliver the most effective treatment options to Veterans.

Using that information, we'll create approaches that take into account the unique experiences of our Veterans, and ensure they're finally getting the best possible treatment they can.

There is nothing about this initiative that will be easy or automatic, and the decades of culture

that brought us here cannot be overwritten with the stroke of a pen.

But this is the beginning of one of the most important national discussions this nation has seen. It is an effort to find a solution to a problem that does not discriminate among its victims – it takes men and women, the rich and the poor, and people of all races and creeds.

I'm so pleased to have played a role in this important initiative, and I thank President Trump for launching an effort that I believe will have a lasting impact on the mental health of all Americans for generations to come.

Thank you.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE PREVENTS TASK FORCE ROADMAP

WHEN: Wednesday, June 17, 2020
2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

LOCATION: The White House, Rose Garden

FORMAT: Remarks

ROLE: The President will give remarks on the PREVENTS Task Force Roadmap

PRESS PLAN: Press Pool

ATTIRE: Business

PROJECT OFFICERS: Brooke Rollins
Assistant to the President
Director of the Domestic Policy Council

Tim Pataki
Deputy Assistant to the President
Director of the Office of Public Liaison

EXTERNAL PARTICIPANTS:

(b)(6) joined the U.S. Marine Corps as a mortarman in 2000 and was a part of the initial invasion into Iraq three years later. The combat at that time was intense. On March 23, 2003, 18 marines were killed in Nasiriyah. After a 6-month deployment to Afghanistan in 2004, (b)(6) service came to an end. But survivor's guilt weighed heavily on his heart. In an attempt to make things better, he joined the Coast Guard thinking the camaraderie and the service-focused mission would help him through his darkest times. He was wrong. In 2005, while at his Coast Guard station in Michigan, (b)(6) attempted suicide. Eventually, (b)(6) wife convinced him to open himself up to faith, and things slowly started to improve. "I told people I felt like I was in a boat, in the middle of the ocean, with God," says (b)(6) "And he was just telling me, 'don't worry about paddling. I'm going to take you where you need to go.'" His wife also convinced him to call Wounded Warrior Project. In 2015, (b)(6) attended his first Project Odyssey event with WWP and had an epiphany. At the end of the multiple-day mental health workshop, the instructor presented (b)(6) with a gift for being a positive influence on the group's healing. That gift was a paddle. That was a sign that I'm supposed to dedicate myself to helping other veterans.

Since he learned of his new purpose, (b)(6) hasn't looked back. He's mentored veterans, encouraged warriors to get into fitness to improve their physical and mental well-beings, and shared his powerful story to help others realize there is still hope; they just have to find their new path.

Veteran and Military Service Organization Leaders

(b)(6) *Disabled American Veterans*
(b)(6) *The Independence Fund*
(b)(6) *AMVETS*
(b)(6) *Wounded Warrior Project*
(b)(6) *Paralyzed Veterans of America*
(b)(6) *Veterans of Foreign Wars*
(b)(6) *Student Veterans of America*
(b)(6) *Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors*
(b)(6) *The Retired Enlisted Association*
(b)(6) *Soldier Strong*
(b)(6) *The American Legion*
(b)(6) *Wounded Warrior Project*
(b)(6) *Air Force Sergeants Association*
(b)(6) *The Independence Fund*

Faith Based Veteran Leaders

(b)(6) *Veteran Advocate*
(b)(6) *Mighty Oaks Program*
(b)(6) *International Conference of Evangelical Chaplains Endorsers*
(b)(6) *Mighty Oaks Programs*

ADMINISTRATION PARTICIPANTS:

Secretary Robert Wilke, *Department of Veterans Affairs*
Secretary Eugene Scalia, *Department of Labor*
Secretary Alex Azar, *Department of Health and Human Services*
Secretary Ben Carson, *Department of Housing and Urban Development*
Secretary Betsy DeVos, *Department of Education*
Dr. Jerome Adams, *Surgeon General of the United States*
Ken Cuccinelli, *Acting Deputy Secretary, Department of Homeland Security*
Pamela Powers, *Acting Deputy Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs*
Matthew Donovan, *Under Secretary of Defense and for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense*
Paul Dabbar, *Under Secretary for Science, Department of Energy*
Dr. Elinore McCance-Katz, *Assistant Secretary for Mental Health, Department of Health and Human Services*
Tara Sweeney, *Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior*
Brooks Tucker, *Acting Chief of Staff, Department of Veterans Affairs*
Richard Stone, M.D., *Executive in Charge, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs*
Dr. Lynda Davis, *Chief Veterans Experience Officer, Department of Veterans Affairs*

Dr. Barbara Van Dahlen, *PREVENTS Executive Director*

(b)(6) *PREVENTS Deputy Director*

(b)(6), *PREVENTS Senior Communications Advisor*

(b)(6) *MSO/VSO Liaison, Department of Veterans Affairs*

Chaplain (b)(6) *National Director of Chaplain Service, Department of Veterans Affairs*

Cheryl Mason, *Chairman of the Board of Veterans' Appeals, Department of Veterans Affairs*

(b)(6), *Director of Faith and Opportunity Initiatives, Department of Veterans Affairs*

INTERNAL PARTICIPANTS:

The Vice President

The Second Lady

Russell Vought, *Acting Director of the Office of Management and Budget*

Dr. Kelvin Droegemeier, *Director of Office of Science and Technology Policy*

Brooke Rollins, *Assistant to the President and Acting Director of the Domestic Policy Council*

Tim Pataki, *Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Public Liaison*

Mark Vandroff, *Deputy Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Defense Policy*

EVENT BACKGROUND:

This event will be the public announcement of the President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide (PREVENTS), developed under Executive Order 13861, signed on March 5, 2019. This Executive Order created an interagency task force to develop the PREVENTS Roadmap. The event will also unveil a public health campaign on veteran suicide prevention.

Veterans die by suicide at rates higher than those of the general population of the United States. At the same time, suicide generally is on the rise, with rates that increased by 43.6% from 2005 to 2017. More than 6,000 veterans took their lives in 2017, approximately 20 a day.

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS:

2:01 p.m.	The President enters The Rose Garden
2:02 p.m.	The President gives remarks
2:15 p.m.	The President invites Secretary Wilkie to give remarks
2:16 p.m.	Secretary Wilkie gives remarks
2:19 p.m.	The President invites (b)(6) to give remarks
2:20 p.m.	(b)(6) gives remarks on how PREVENTS will benefit veterans and help decrease suicide
2:25 p.m.	The President gives closing remarks
2:30 p.m.	The President departs The Rose Garden

PREVENTS TALKING POINTS

June 17, 2020

- The President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide (PREVENTS) is an historic, nationwide plan to raise awareness about mental health, connect Veterans and others at risk of suicide to federal and local resources, and facilitate focused and coordinated research into suicide.
- The roadmap is the result of an Executive Order signed by President Trump signed on March 5, 2019, which called on Departments of Veterans Affairs, Defense, Health and Human Services and several others to develop a comprehensive strategy for ending the national tragedy of suicide.
- The Roadmap released today was developed by the PREVENTS Office, co-chaired by White House Domestic Policy Council Director Brooke Rollins and Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie, calls for several steps to be taken to further this critical national goal, many of which are already underway:

National Suicide Prevention Activation Campaign

This summer, the PREVENTS Office will launch a nationwide public health campaign aimed at educating Americans that suicide is preventable, creating awareness of mental health and suicide prevention best practices with a call to action for ALL Americans to take the PREVENTS Pledge to Prevent Suicide.

A primary goal of the campaign is to change the culture surrounding issues related to suicide and mental health. The campaign will stress that everyone has a role to play in the well-being of family members, friends and coworkers. It will create awareness about risk and protective factors and encourage people to reach out to those who may be struggling.

The campaign will rely on coordinated messaging from all levels of government and non-government partners, as well as national digital, radio and television public service announcements. Efforts will intentionally focus on dissemination in states with a high concentration of Veterans. It will also rely on high-profile ambassadors who will help amplify these messages, including Second Lady Karen Pence, and U.S. Surgeon General Jerome Adams.

Improving Suicide Prevention Research

Too often, we have focused on a one-size-fits-all approach to suicide prevention that fails to take into account an individual's specific risk factors. As a key element of the Roadmap, PREVENTS will launch the National Research Strategy to accelerate the development and implementation of effective solutions to help prevent Veteran suicide.

A critical first step toward this goal is the optimization of the current research ecosystem, which will accelerate the impact of Veteran suicide research by enhancing interagency collaboration, evaluating the role of open science practices, leveraging team science, and enhancing data resources and analysis. The PREVENTS Office will have an initial assessment of the current research landscape by the end of 2020 and will simultaneously work with Task Force agencies and non-governmental partners to begin moving toward this exciting goal.

The development of the National Research Strategy will result in an increase in focus on the isolation of risk factors and an identification of the most effective treatment practices and interventions for

Veterans. This all of government and all of nation approach will lead to a dramatic shift in our ability to prevent suicide for our Veterans and all Americans.

Building Partnerships

The PREVENTS Office has built relationships with dozens of organizations across the country, including faith-based groups, universities, non-profits, corporations, small businesses as well as state and local governments. The Office will continue to expand these relationships in order to share best practices for promoting mental health, ensure awareness of and access to federal, state, local and tribal resources, and coordinate to implement the public awareness campaign across sectors. The Office will encourage all 50 states, the U.S. Territories and the District of Columbia to sign the PREVENTS proclamation affirming their commitment to preventing suicide among Veterans and all of their citizens.

The PREVENTS Office's has already connected with over 150 known community boards, 27 statewide suicide prevention teams, and Building Healthy Military Communities, a pilot initiative with seven partnering states. The Office has also completed an initial analysis of funding that will be available for suicide prevention efforts. Over the next several months, PREVENTS will be implementing a plan to improve coordination among these grants and develop a strategy to fill gaps through additional funding as well as additional public-private partnerships.

The PREVENTS Office is working with communities and stakeholders to develop and further efforts focused on coordinated systems of care. Government and non-government entities alike have a critical role to play in ensuring a comprehensive system of support.

More information about the PREVENTS Office and its ongoing work implementing President Trump's roadmap can be **found here** [INSERT LINK TO FINAL].

###

PREVENTS

The President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans
and End a National Tragedy of Suicide



VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

PREVENTS Fact Sheet

Background

On March 5, 2019, President Donald J. Trump signed Executive Order (EO) 13861: The President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide (PREVENTS), with a call to action to amplify and accelerate the progress in addressing Veteran suicide in the United States. EO 13861 is a Cabinet-level, interagency effort to develop the first Federally coordinated national public health strategy to address Veteran suicide. Building on previous work, PREVENTS elevates and amplifies existing suicide prevention efforts and addresses identified gaps observed within the existing environment of suicide prevention.

Ten recommendations have been created to guide the direction of the action plan. To ensure effective execution and coordination among and between Federal agencies, each of the Roadmap recommendations falls into four priority focus areas: programs, research, policies, and communication strategies.

PREVENTS Recommendations

1. Create and implement a national public health campaign focused on suicide prevention for Veterans and all Americans.
2. Identify and prioritize suicide surveillance and research that focuses on a Veteran's unique combination of individual, relationship, community, and societal factors to deliver the most effective intervention(s) tailored to meet their needs and circumstances.
3. Promote foundational changes to the way research is conducted — including improving the speed and accuracy with which research is translated into practice, improving efficiency through data sharing and data curation practices, and using innovative funding techniques to drive team science and reproducibility.
4. Develop effective partnerships across government agencies and nongovernment entities and organizations to increase capacity and impact of programs and research to empower Veterans and prevent suicide.
5. Encourage employers and academic institutions to provide and integrate comprehensive mental health and wellness practices and policies into their culture and systems.
6. Provide and promote comprehensive suicide prevention trainings across professions.
7. Identify, evaluate, and promote community-based models that are effectively implementing evidence-informed mental health and suicide prevention programs across the country. In doing so, they should leverage relationships with community-based efforts, non-profit organizations, faith-based communities, VSOs, and MSOs focused on saving the lives of Veterans.
8. Increase implementation of programs focused on lethal means safety (e.g., voluntary reduction of access to lethal means by individuals in crisis, free/inexpensive and easy/safe storage options).
9. Develop a coordinated, interagency Federal funding mechanism to support, provide resources for, and facilitate the implementation of successful evidence-informed mental health and suicide prevention programs focused on Veterans and their communities at the State and local levels.
10. Streamline access to innovative suicide prevention programs and interventions by expanding the network of qualified healthcare providers.

PREVENTS

The President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans
and End a National Tragedy of Suicide



VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Major Milestones

Since July 22, 2019, when Dr. Barbara Van Dahlen was appointed as Executive Director of the PREVENTS Office, the Office has marked a number of critical milestones. To date, the Office has:

- Established committed working groups of more than 150 stakeholders across more than 11 federal agencies to create the PREVENTS Roadmap
- Held state visits, including townhall events and meetings with state and local government officials, local community collaboratives, state and VA Suicide Prevention Coordinators, first responders, and Veteran Centers in Texas, Arizona, Tennessee, Florida, and California to elevate and amplify PREVENTS work, and garner buy-in for the initiative
- Completed the PREVENTS Roadmap, as well as Supplemental Materials for the Roadmap, outlining a comprehensive, national strategy for changing how the United States treats mental health and understands suicide prevention. The Office adjudicated over 2,374 comments from 11 federal agencies who reviewed and provided input on the Roadmap
- Established PREVENTS Facebook and Twitter accounts, which have garnered 106,635 impressions on Facebook (with an average of 792 impressions per post) and 1,118,685 impressions on Twitter (with an average of 5,850 per tweet) since their inception
- Created and launched the PREVENTS website: www.va.gov/prevents/
- Launched the More Than Ever Before (MTEB) public awareness campaign to support the mental health of Veterans and all Americans during COVID-19
- Begun to identify, engage, and leverage a community of influential PREVENTS Ambassadors to bring awareness to suicide prevention. So far, the Office has secured 18 Ambassadors, including the Second Lady and the U.S. Surgeon General

Next Steps

Upon the release of the Roadmap, the PREVENTS Office will kick off a formal Launch Week, which will include the launch of the PREVENTS National Public Health Campaign as well as cross-sector engagement through events with faith leaders, corporations, survivors of suicide, and more. In the coming months, the PREVENTS Office will also take the following action to advance PREVENTS 2020 Priorities:

- Convene interagency action teams to advance PREVENTS 2020 priorities
- Launch a suicide prevention survey to provide insight related to Veterans' experiences accessing services and resources
- Build a resource map that will pinpoint suicide prevention resources offered at the state, local, and national levels
- Work with state governors to encourage states to formally declare their full support for the implementation of the PREVENTS Roadmap
- Expand the national and state cohort of PREVENTS Ambassadors championing PREVENTS messaging at events and through other relevant opportunities
- Kick off the joint PREVENTS Office and VA Innovation Center Prevention Grand Challenge Competition aimed at developing a technology-based platform that will serve as a resource of evidence-based mental health and suicide prevention solutions
- Work with partners to assess existing professional credentialing and certification requirements related to suicide prevention and mental health, and develop a plan to meet any gaps

From: RLW
Sent: Fri, 19 Jun 2020 12:24:08 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: FaceTime Interview w/ KIVI - ABC, Boise, ID
Attachments: 2020-6 Boise Hot Topics.docx, Steve Dent - QUAD - KIVI CH. 6 (ABC) - Interview on 14 AUG 2019.pptx

Key Boise Issues – 6-2020

of Veterans enrolled in Boise VA HealthCare System: About 36,000

of Veterans in Boise VAHCS catchment area: Approx. 120,000

COVID by the numbers (as of 6/22/2020):

8 active cases

23 convalescent cases

1 known death

COVID-19:

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

- Idaho State Veterans Home credits Boise VAMC for testing all residents and employees to allow access to family visitors
- The facility was one of 20 facilities to reopen to non Covid-19 related care as of May 18
- Mountain Home Air Force Base and Idaho Air National Guard conducted flyovers as a show of appreciation to healthcare workers
- Feature on a disabled Veteran occupying himself during quarantine and still receiving care through telehealth
- March 20 – 3 employees confirmed positive
- Enacting screening practices to control entry to VAMC

NOTE: Idaho opened first National Cemetery March/April 2020

Access to Care/Telehealth:

In the past, the Choice Program is a large topic of conversation among veterans in Idaho and Eastern Oregon, due to the number of Veterans living in rural areas. The facility has tried to increase outreach and strengthen initiatives to reach far-reaching veterans such as Telehealth.

- The Boise VAMC has taken major steps to introduce telehealth throughout the state. They have programs where patients can be seen by doctors via video or imaging either from a local VA clinic or partner, or the Veteran's own home.
 - Local negative media coverage about the "Military Widows' Tax."
- In 2016, Dr. Shulkin announced that Boise will become one of the new tele-mental health hubs and will focus on the most severe and complex mental health issues.

MISSION Act:

Due to Idaho's ruralness, there are a great number of veterans who take advantage of the MISSION Act's expanded benefits.

- Boise VA has been heavily promoting the urgent care benefit of the MISSION Act, which has been well-received in the media.
- With the implementation of the MISSION Act, veterans and their families will now be able to receive care in their community instead of enduring long travel times and/or or travel costs.

Veteran Homelessness:

The homeless outreach program is very active. Veteran homelessness in Idaho faces similar challenges that many other cities face, particularly finding landlords to accept HUD/VASH vouchers.

- There are available vouchers for homeless veterans, but there is a shortage of suitable housing in the area and VA is working hard to get veterans placed.
- A new affordable housing project just broke ground in July that will provide 26 homes for homeless veterans in Boise. Support services from the Boise VA will be offered onsite at Valor Pointe.
 - More than \$5 million was awarded for the project from federal grants and the City of Boise.
- The VAMC has a strong partnership with state, local and community agencies/organizations, such as the Boise Public Library, who work in tandem to address the issue.
 - A VA outreach specialist visits the Boise Library once a week to hold a meeting with homeless veterans to enroll them for services and provide information on benefits they are eligible for. So far, the program has been successful in connecting veterans to VA services.
- The medical center also teams up with community partners to hold veteran stand downs a few times a year.

Suicide Prevention/Mental Health:

Boise VAMC has a very active suicide prevention program that does a lot of collaborative work with state of Idaho. Idaho has the 5th highest suicide rate in the country.

- In 2017, nearly 400 people died by suicide in state; it is estimated that 20% of that number were veterans.
- The VAMC currently has 48 different programs/support groups to help veterans battle against suicide including mental health programs, substance abuse programs, therapy groups, and PTSD programs.
- The Boise VA continues to investigate and evaluate suicide prevention programming. Earlier this month, the VAMC held a Mental Health Summit in Caldwell where much of the discussion revolved around taking a holistic approach to recovery.
 - Positive media coverage of a veteran who turned to the Boise VA for help where she was able to address her mental health issues and addiction through the VA's holistic approach to recovery.
- The medical center is also part of a group of 40 stakeholders in Idaho that provide more resources for people all across the state. The five-year action plan that the VA and other partners developed is estimated to reduce suicide rates by 20% by 2025.
 - Idaho Governor Brad Little came out in support of budgeting an extra \$1M/year to help curb suicides.
 - Other lawmakers would like to see if the money already allocated towards suicide prevention could be used to get the action plan off the ground.
 - Currently 60% of the allocated funds go towards staffing the 24/7 crisis hot lines in Idaho.

Veteran Outreach:

The Boise VAHCS is very active in the community and works with community partners to provide outreach and resources to veterans.

- The medical center works with the VBA Regional Office in Boise to host regular town hall and claims clinics. Only hot topic claims in the area are Blue Water related claims.
- Boise VAMC hosts a free veterans' legal clinic as well as a "Wills Clinic" through the Idaho Military Legal Alliance.
 - The "Wills Clinic" is frequently requested by veterans and fills up quickly.
 - The legal clinic is offered one Friday every month, where veterans can get assistance from lawyers in preparing legal documents such as living wills, power of attorney for healthcare and other estate planning documents. This outreach service was recently featured in a [story](#) on Boise State NPR.

Women's Health:

In 2015, Boise VAMC opened a stand-alone women's clinic with 2,255 unique women veterans seen by the clinic in FY18. The clinic is well regarded and adequately resourced. The building is relatively new and is designed in the state-of-the-art PACT (Patient Aligned Care Team) model.

Vet Center:

The Boise Vet Center celebrated its 40 year anniversary to helping veterans this year. Media covered the event and it was positive.

NCA:

- In 2016, NCA announced it had purchased 8.11 acres from a private owner in Buhl, Idaho for \$51,250, to establish a new VA National Cemetery. The cemetery is under construction and is expected to open in Fall 2019. This would make it the only VA National Cemetery in the state.
 - There has been some controversy over the naming of the cemetery that has made it into media coverage.
 - The cemetery was created in support of NCA's "Rural Initiative." The initiative's primary goal is to build small national cemeteries in states without an open national cemetery.
 - The Cemetery will have about 1,000 grave sites, 5,000 casket sites, 250 in-ground cremains sites and 250 columbarium niches to serve approx. 14,000 veterans in the area.
- Last year, VA provided the Idaho Division of Veterans Services with a \$7.4 million grant to build a local State Veterans Cemetery in Blackfoot, Idaho. The project should break ground this summer, on 40 acres of farm land adjacent to State Hospital South in Blackfoot.

Page 5 of 5

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From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 3 Jun 2020 15:06:11 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: RAH
Attachments: June 4 2020 w RAH.docx

DAILY BRIEFING BOOK

Thursday, June 4, 2020

SECRETARY ROBERT L. WILKIE

7:45 – 8:15 am	Daily Sync Mtg	SECVA Residence	
9:00 – 10:00 am	Weekly Call w/ VSOs 1-877-446-3914 Code: (b)(6)	SECVA Residence	Tab 1 Pages 3-5
10:00 – 10:30 am	FaceTime Interview w/Cody Adams, WTVQ-TV, Lexington, KY (ABC affiliate)	SECVA Residence	Tab 2 Pages 7-13
11:00 – 11:30 am	Prep for WH Task Force Meeting 1-877-446-3914 Code: (b)(6)	SECVA Residence	
1:00 – 1:30 pm	Phone Call w/ (b)(6) ** he will call your work cell	SECVA Residence	
TBD	(T) WH Task Force Meeting	SECVA Residence	
3:30 – 5:00 pm	VHA COVID-19 Update 1-844-376-0278 Code: (b)(6) #	SECVA Residence	

TAB 1

**SecVA's Weekly Brief to VSOs for VAs COVID-19 Response
Agenda**

**CHANGE OF DATE & TIME to: Thursday, June 4, 2020
9:00am to 10:00am**

Background: A continuation of the weekly briefings to VSOs. Last week's phone call was attended by 83 attendees.

List of WH & VA Participants:

1. White House: (b)(6) White House
2. VA: Ms. Powers, Mr. Tucker, Dr. Lawrence, Dr. Stone, Mr. Reeves, Ms. Mason, Mr. Hutton, Mr. Syrek, Mr. Hudson, Mr. Sitterly, Dr. Davis, and others.

VSO Participants: 165 invitations emailed to VSOs for this meeting.

Talking Points: See VSO Questions, starting on page 2.

The Call: 8:50am: Participants are invited to begin dialing in to the call.

- **Call Instructions:** Listed below are the codes and instructions: Please remember all speakers (minus the Secretary and the VSO Liaison) will use be in participant mode.
Dial in number: 877-446-3914
Participant code: (b)(6) #
- The participants will hear music until the Moderator joins.
- Participants will unmute by using the unmute code *6
- The Moderator will mute and Unmute participants throughout the call.

- **9:00am:** VSO Liaison initiates phone call and introduces the Secretary, who then gives greetings and opening comments on general points
- Secretary invites VSO Liaison to ask questions. VSO Liaison will call on the VSOs to ask the selected questions. The Secretary or other leaders discuss as appropriate.
- VSO Liaison repeats for additional questions until complete (with deference to the Secretary's time)
- Secretary closes comments, passes back to VSO Liaison who closes the call.

Deputy Secretary EHRM Briefing and VSO Questions for 6/04:

Deputy Secretary Powers: Update and briefing on the status of EHRM.

- 1. Frank Yoakum (EANGUS):** EANGUS is thankful that VA has devoted more time to look into any potential problems at selected colleges and universities and appreciates your due diligence to make sure no veteran student loses out on a quality program. What can we do to reassure our members that are enrolled at these schools and are afraid they will lose their benefits, or veteran students who were in the process of enrolling in these online programs during COVID-19?

Response: *On May 26, 2020, the Regional Processing Office Directors sent letters to American InterContinental University, Bellevue University, Colorado Technical University, and Temple University containing revised guidance on corrective actions and providing an additional 30 days to provide information on any such actions taken (until June 25). The proposed action that VA is considering against the five schools, if sufficient corrective actions have not been taken, would only impact new students. Currently enrolled students would continue to receive benefits as long as they remain continuously enrolled. The decisions for each of the schools will be made individually based on the information provided and facts found.*

For additional assistance, students may contact the Education Call Center at 1-888-442-4551 between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. Central Time, Monday through Friday, or submit their questions to: <https://gibill.custhelp.va.gov/>

- 2. Candace Wheeler (TAPS):** Secretary Wilkie, we greatly appreciate working with your team; Dr. Lynda Davis, RADM Ann Duff, and Mr. Randy Reeves to support our Veterans' surviving families. You often quote the Lincoln quote about our obligation to widows and their children and I want to thank you for that. Can you tell me what your top 3 specific priorities are for survivors moving forward so we can help to amplify your message and work with your team to advocate for them?

Response:

- 1. Ensure Veterans and their families are kept informed so they can plan ahead for their survivors.*
- 2. Deliver the major outreach initiative coordinated with VEO that will assist Veterans with their knowledge about what benefits may be available for their survivors.*
- 3. Establish governance such as The Veterans' Family, Caregiver, and Survivor Advisory committee – to coordinate various programs, represent issues and concerns from Veterans' families and survivors, develop recommendations on a federal program inventory, centralized policies/programs, collaboration with non-profits, strategies on service delivery, data gathering, training, health record modernization, stipends, clinical appeals, and the catastrophically wounded.*

Veteran Experience Office provides the following:

1. VA released the VA Survivor Quick Start Guide in September 2019
2. VA uses #VetResources newsletter to share information that includes Veterans, families, caregivers and survivors reaching 11 million subscribers each week using VA's customers emails
3. The Veterans' Family, Caregiver, and Survivor Advisory committee represents issues and concerns from Veterans' families and survivors to include recommendations on a federal program inventory, centralized policies/programs, collaboration with non-profits, strategies on service delivery, data gathering, training, health record modernization, stipends, clinical appeals, and the catastrophically wounded.
4. On May 20, 2020, VA hosted a virtual event called Survivors Together with NCA, Survivor Assistance, and seven community partners to answer comments and questions from Veterans and their families on memorial and survivor benefits on RallyPoint. The event engaged 392,000 viewers and over 482 comments/questions were addressed.
5. On May 28, 2020, VA hosted a virtual lunch n learn focused on survivor benefits, Veterans Legacy Memorial, and spiritual support with Chaplain Service reaching over 208 Veterans and community partners during the live event.
6. VEO supports partnership activities to include those with TAPS to conduct outreach, sharing information, and support Veteran survivors.

Office of Survivor Assistance submits the following:

1. The biggest challenge OSA recommends working on is getting the word out to veterans so they can plan ahead for their survivors. We are coordinating with VEO on a major outreach initiative that will assist veterans with their knowledge about what benefits may be available for their survivors.
2. There are also a couple of other items that I hesitate to mention prior to a cost analysis and budgeting plans, that would include lowering the remarriage penalty age to 55 (vice 57), bringing DIC up to 55% of what 100% disabled veterans are receiving (increase of about \$300/month) and deleting the "hold themselves out to be married" clause in from 38 USC, Section 101, paragraph 3.

TAB 2

Page 07 of 14

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Page 08 of 14

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(b)(6) was born Sept. 18, 1945 in Nashville, Tenn. He entered the Army Jan. 20, 1969, serving two tours of duty in Vietnam between 1969 and 1972 and earning the rank of sergeant (E-5).

After receiving an Honorable discharge, Mr. (b)(6) moved to Lexington, Ky and worked construction throughout the area. He helped build many of the area's local landmarks, including the Richmond Bridge, Rupp Arena and the downtown Jail. He also worked as a cross country truck driver.

Mr. (b)(6) has four children, three grandchildren, and three great-grand-children. He is retired and currently resides in Lexington, Ky.

(b)(6) began receiving medical care at the Lexington VAHCS in 1973, shortly after his discharge from service.



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Lexington VA Health Care System

News Advisory

Office of Public Affairs

VHALEX.PAO@va.gov
(859) 233-4511

Lexington VAHCS Discharges COVID-19 Patient After 50+ Days

What: The Lexington VA Health Care System discharges (b)(6) Army Veteran, after a more than 50-day hospitalization for COVID-19.

When: Tuesday, June 2nd at 3 p.m. EST

Where: Lexington VA Health Care System- Bowling Campus
1101 Veterans Dr, Lexington, KY 40502
Bowling Campus Main Lobby

Background: Mr. (b)(6) was hospitalized in early April 2020 at the Lexington VAHCS after a positive rapid COVID-19 test in the facility's ER. He was admitted to LVAHCS's COVID-19 ward, where he stayed in ICU level of care for more than 50 days. Mr. (b)(6) will be discharged to a rehabilitation facility today. Employees are expected to line the hallways to see Mr. (b)(6) off and wish him well.

RSVP: **Media must RSVP to attend** as visitation is currently restricted. Media will be screened prior to entering the facility and must wear masks at all times. To RSVP please email: vhalex.pao@va.gov. For additional information call Catherine Trombley, Public Affairs Officer at the Lexington VAHCS at (b)(6) (b)(6)

Talking Points for SECVA
Interview with Cody Adams, Channel 36, ABC
Lexington, KY

June 2, 2020

Three Points

- The Lexington VA Health Care System consistently ranks as **one of VA's best facilities**. Veterans report their trust in the level of care they receive at the Lexington VA at 91.7 percent (as of 5/29/2020).
- The Lexington VA HCS did tremendous work to ensure it's 38,000 Veterans continue to receive care throughout the pandemic.
 - The Lexington VA moved quickly to ensure it had enough beds, converting more than 35 beds to negative pressure for a total of 55 negative pressure beds to ensure Veterans and staff had every available precaution.
 - The Lexington VA was the first medical facility in Lexington to screen anyone coming into its facilities. It took significant precautions to prevent spread among staff and veterans with measures such as multiple screenings, masks, isolation, and rapid testing for anyone admitted.
 - .09 % employee positive rate (7 positive tests/71 PUI tests)
 - None of the employees who did tested positive are believed to have contracted COVID-19 while at work
 - .009% of Veterans tested for COVID-19 at the Lexington VA have tested positive (14 positive tests/1462 PUI tests)
 - In March, the Lexington VA was one of eight VA's to begin analyzing COVID-19 swabs in house through the use of an existing machine.
 - With the University of Kentucky's assistance, Lexington VA was the first VA to validate the process and currently has the capability to analyze up to 800 tests a day.
 - The Lexington VA has analyzed more than 7,347 tests for VA's throughout the nation, including hotspots like New York City, New Orleans, and Houston.
 - By mid-April, the Lexington VA had more telephone appointments than canceled appointments, speaking volumes of both VA's and our Veterans' ability to adapt quickly amidst an ever-changing crisis.
 - The Lexington VA HCS Mental Health team lead VA in turning individual and group therapy sessions to telehealth. The team was able to do it so quickly that they shared their best practices across VA, so Veterans throughout the country could benefit from Lexington's success.
 - The Lexington VA, together with its sister facility in Louisville, honored VA's Fourth Mission by donating more than 1000 cloth face masks for both Veterans and staff at Kentucky's state Veterans homes.

- The Lexington VA is a strong partner of Central and Eastern Kentucky. It has a robust affiliation with the University of Kentucky (Go Wildcats) and trains more than 1000 students a year across multiple disciplines.
 - The Veteran Community and Veterans Service Organization write me often to tell me how great the care is they receive at Lexington and the staff at the Lexington VA have excellent working relationships with Kentucky's congressional offices, local government, and the state Veterans Affairs department.
 - The staff is genuinely committed to Veterans, All Employee Surveys, and Best Places to Work Surveys, continue to improve. A vast majority of Lexington VA employees (72%) recommend VA as a great place to work.
 - On Tuesday, the staff discharged one of its Veterans who had spent more than 50 days in its COVID-19 unit. When he was discharged, the staff lined the hallways and clapped and cheered for him as he made his way from his room to the lobby. That's the passion our Lexington staff has for our Veterans.

Other Localized Points Based on Recent SECVA Interviews

PPE:

- The Lexington VA HCS has had adequate PPE supplies -- masks, gloves, gowns for the entire duration of the pandemic and continues to be in excellent shape. (The only supply concern Lexington VA has is with hospital-grade bleach wipes. They are on backorder, but the hospital has an adequate supply of them.)

Hiring

- The Lexington VA HCS has hired 35 personnel in such specialties as nursing, respiratory therapy, physician assistants, occupational therapy, radiology, and housekeeping.

Rural Care

- Providing virtual care to our Veterans in highly rural areas, like central and eastern Kentucky, where high internet speeds to support telemedicine are not as readily available continues to be a significant concern for us. In those areas, we continue to seek partnerships with local retail and libraries to offer virtual living rooms where our Veterans can receive care.

Moving Forward

- All clinics at Lexington VAHCS, except for Mental Health, started expanding face-to-face appointments on May 26. Looking ten days out, primary and specialty providers make individualized care plans for Veterans to determine the most appropriate type of appointment is needed; face-to-face, telephone, or video.

- Mental Health will continue using video and phone appointments for the foreseeable future.
- LVAHCS increased face-to-face visits by 25 percent to ensure Veterans' and staff's safety and will evaluate how it continues to move forward safely and efficiently.

June 3, 2020

Fisher House:

- The Lexington VA HCS is partnered with Friends of Lexington Fisher House board to build a Fisher House at the Lexington VA Health Care System Soursley Campus. ABC36 Lead Anchor Tom Kenny is President of that board. Recent restrictions because of COVID-19 have pushed back the construction until Spring 2021.

Healthier Kidneys through your Kitchen

- As part of its commitment to Whole Health, Lexington VAHCS developed Healthier Kidneys through your kitchen, a program to empower Veterans with stage 3 chronic kidney disease to make lifestyle nutritional changes to slow the progression of their disease. This program has been so successful that we are spreading it to 12 other VA facilities.

Partnership with Goodwill

- Lexington VA Health Care system and Goodwill Industries of Kentucky formed a partnership to provide resources to better serve Veterans in Central and Eastern Kentucky. The partnership combines the efforts, resources and ideas of both organizations to further assist Veterans. Goodwill has committed to providing vouchers in \$10 increments, totaling \$30,000 a year to the Lexington VA. Social workers at both main campuses and the community-based clinics will identify Veterans in need of vouchers.

Women Veteran Issues

- To highlight Women Veterans and their service, Lexington VA Health Care System took part in the I Am Not Invisible Photography project. Over 30 Women Veterans participated locally. The visual information specialist from Lexington VA assisted several other facilities, including Cincinnati VA Medical Center, and James Quillen VA Medical Center in Mountain Home, TN.
- Lexington VAHCS works with community partners, Veterans of Central and Eastern Kentucky and Ladies Veterans Connect in order reach and serve Women Veterans. Outreach events have been postponed due to restrictions because of COVID-19, however they will resume as soon as it is safe. We appreciate our community partners assistance in the care of our Veterans.

Actual Comments from Veterans on Care at Lexington VA HCS

4.2 out of 5 stars on Facebook based on 141 recommendations

- “I’ve always felt that I have gotten very good care through the Lexington VA Health Care System. The employees are great to deal with through their understanding and compassion. I give them five stars without hesitation.”
 - (b)(6) Facebook recommendation, March 9
- “Care I've received has been excellent.”
 - (b)(6) Facebook recommendation, April 17
- “I have been seeing this VA center for several years and I cannot say enough about how marvelous all staff have treated me through the years. I have a choice to use my private insurance and go out of my way to go to Cooper for my care. You guys are the greatest.”
 - (b)(6) Facebook recommendation, March 9
- “They took such good care of my husband throughout his cancer treatments and provided compassionate end of life care.”
 - (b)(6) Facebook recommendation, March 8

NOTE: Lexington HCS COVID-19 positive patient, Mr. (b)(6) who was in the ICU more than 50 days will likely transfer to a rehab facility this week (no longer COVID+). Lexington VA PAO has received word that this will likely occur June 2 or 3. The PAO has a signed waiver waiving HIPPA and use of his likeness. Lexington VA is planning a of celebration of him as he leaves the facility – potential for positive media.

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 12:08:55 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT/Arrive at Office of AZ Gov. Ducey

From: (b)(6) (b)(6) R. EOP/OVP
Sent: Thu, 11 Jun 2020 16:58:44 +0000
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) R. EOP/OVP (b)(6) @HHS.GOV; (b)(6) @treasury.gov (b)(6)
Larry A.
EOP/WHO (b)(6) @cdc.gov (b)(6) @niaid.nih.gov (b)(6) @hhs.gov (b)(6) @fda.hhs.gov; (b)(6)
(b)(6) EOP/NSC (b)(6) @cms.hhs.gov; RLW; (b)(6) EOP/OVP (b)(6) EOP/OVP; (b)(6)
(b)(6) OP/NSC (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6) @sd.mil (b)(6) @fema.dhs.gov (b)(6) @hhs.gov (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6)
EOP/OVP (b)(6) @dol.gov (b)(6) @hrsa.gov (b)(6) @usda.gov (b)(6) @od.nih.gov (b)(6) @
hhs.gov (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6)
(b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) EOP/OVP (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) CDR
USN WHMO/WHMU; (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) EOP/OVP; (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6) EOP/OVP (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) EOP/OVP; DL OVP
NSA EXECSEC (b)(6) @mail.mil (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6) @treasury.gov (b)(6) @treasury.gov (b)(6) @hud.gov (b)(6)
(b)(6) @hud.gov (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6) @cdc.gov; (b)(6) @niaid.nih.gov (b)(6) @nih.gov (b)(6) @hhs.gov (b)(6),
(b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6) @fda.hhs.gov (b)(6) @fda.hhs.gov; (b)(6) @fda.hhs.gov; (b)(6)
(b)(6) @CMS.HHS.GOV (b)(6) @cms.hhs.gov (b)(6) @cms.hhs.gov; Powers,
Pamela (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @hhs.gov (b)(6) @hhs.gov (b)(6)
(b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) @sd.mil (b)(6)
EOP/OVP; (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) @sd.mil (b)(6) @sd.mil (b)(6)
(b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) EOP/OVP; (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6) @hhs.gov; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; DL WHO COMMS
Speechwriters; (b)(6) @hhs.gov (b)(6) @fema.dhs.gov; (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6) @hhs.gov (b)(6) @fema.dhs.gov (b)(6)
EOP/OVP (b)(6) @mail.mil (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6) @hrsa.gov; (b)(6) @dol.gov (b)(6) @nih.gov; (b)(6) @od.nih.g
ov (b)(6) @usda.gov; (b)(6) @usda.gov; (b)(6) EOP/OVP; (b)(6)
P. EOP/WHO
Cc: (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) EOP/OVP (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6) EOP/OVP
Subject: [EXTERNAL] White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting
Attachments: (b)(5)
(b)(5)

All -

There will be a **White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting** on **Thursday, June 11th** at **2:30pm** in the White House (b)(6) Materials attached.

Thank you,

(b)(6) (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: Wed, 3 Jun 2020 17:04:05 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Phone Call w/Senator J. Ernst - she will call your cell
Attachments: Sen Ernst SECVA EBS.docx, Ernst bio.docx



EXECUTIVE BRIEFING SUMMARY

Sen. Joni Ernst
June 5, 2020
9:00 A.M. Call

June 5, 2020 9:00 A.M

OCLA POC: (b)(6)

Driver: SECVA

Subject: Catch Up/General Mtg

Participants: Sen. Ernst VA: SECVA

Phone Number: Sen. Ernst will call SECVA at 9:00am Friday on the following number (b)(6)

PURPOSE OF EVENT/MEETING:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decisional | <input type="checkbox"/> Informational | <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Remarks | <input type="checkbox"/> Other | X Courtesy Call |

OVERVIEW OF EVENT:

Teleconference with Member to Catch Up/discuss the Department's response to COVID-19.

Recent Casework Letters:

- We have had 5 casework letters from SEN Ernst since 1 April, various topics:
- 2794132 – Eye glasses
- 2807755 – Access to care
- 2815470 – Copy of military treatment records (resolved w/o going into VIEWS) – Hospice care
- 2700439 – Copy of military treatment records
- There does not appear to be a trending theme of issues here.

VBA future event in Iowa:

- VBA is hosting a Tele-Townhall for #Veterans in Illinois, 6/18 at 5pmET/4pmCDT. Invites to the entire IL delegation will be sent out soon.
- The call will be focused on COVID19 response and Under Secretary Lawrence will give an update on VBA programs: Solid Start, Blue Water Navy and the COVID response.
- Call-in: (b)(6)

CONTINGENCY PLANNING TALKING POINTS:

- VA has contingency plans in place to address the needs of the Veteran enrollee population and has been activating our 4th mission as the civilian health care system needed assistance. VA has been modeling the COVID-19 spread in across the nation in order to prepare for outbreaks and to reinforce areas 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.
- 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. Our collective occupancy rate is 47%.

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 35 ongoing mission assignments. We are providing care to a total of 45 states and territories at this time.
- VA is caring for approximately 250 civilians in our facilities.

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 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/face covering vs an N95 respirator given the demand on the 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 also testing all patients and employees in our Community Living Centers and Spinal Cord Injury Units to protect our most vulnerable populations.
- 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.
- We have received results on over 150,000 tests.
- 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.

- We are now conducting over 30,000 video telehealth sessions per day, an increase of over 900%
- 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 53% since March.

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 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.
- VA will be issuing further guidance with more granularity about when which type of PPE is required, and by whom. That said, experts are nearly unanimous in indicating that not everyone in a hospital needs an N95 mask. A face covering more than sufficient for those not in direct contact with a COVID-19 patient.
- Our supply chain is currently forecasting sufficient PPE, at the burn rate we are currently sustaining, for the next few months. Obviously, much of that could change as the global supply chain continues to respond to increased demand from all corners.

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From: RLW
Sent: Fri, 19 Jun 2020 12:25:49 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: FaceTime Interview w/ Benita Zahn, WNYT - ABC, Albany, NY
Attachments: Quad_WNYT_NBC_Albany_NY_Benita_Zahn_06242020.pptx

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From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 12:09:18 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Meeting w/Gov. Ducey

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 11 Jun 2020 19:43:20 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: En Route to (b)(6)

From: RLW
Sent: Fri, 19 Jun 2020 12:28:54 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: FaceTime Interview w/Cole Johnson, KCEN - NBC, Waco, TX
Attachments: 200625 - KCEN, Temple, TX - Cole Johnson.pptx

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From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 12:09:37 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT/Arrive at The Camby Hotel

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 4 Jun 2020 15:06:40 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Video Tapings: - current situation in Nation & Wheelchair Games
Attachments: script draft -- Bind our Wounds-jeh.docx, 2020 07 12-4 NVWG VIDEO
SCRIPT.docx

SCRIPT – SECRETARY WILKIE

I want to acknowledge the very difficult time we find ourselves in as a nation. Today I want to express my profound love for America and the Veterans that fought in uniform to fulfill the promises of our founders for every person.

In the meantime, please pray that America's strength and resolve can be found in her everyday leaders like those that have honorably served and we can once again in Lincoln's words, 'Bind Up The Nation's Wounds' together.

Our Veterans well know that in the military we work together toward the common goals to accomplish the defense needs of the nation. We must listen to one another, genuinely care for one another, and recognize that our dreams are tightly woven together.

Just as Lincoln saw the need to take care of our Veterans as a nation, we understand that our fate as a people is a shared one. We need each other in ways too numerous to enumerate. We will enjoy the fruits of the liberty that our Veterans fought so bravely to gain and preserve only if we strive as a people who sincerely believe in the rights of all men and women.

VA will continue on the path of genuine concern and caring for our Veterans and their families. The nation can look to VA as a beacon of hope that has no other reason for existing but to serve those who served so willingly to preserve and protect the rights of our fellow citizens.

Respect and dignity are the rights of all men and women without regard to background, social standing, or beliefs. I know our great and noble employees who have proven themselves as courageous and dedicated throughout the pandemic understand this better than anyone.

Let us determine to stand together, work together, and care for one another to heal our wounds and realize the dream of a more perfect union.

SCRIPT DRAFT 4
NAT'L VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES
210 words ~ 2 minutes

Hello, I'm Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie.

Welcome, everyone, to the 2020 National Veterans Wheelchair Games' At Home Challenge.

Since the days of World War II when Veterans played wheelchair basketball at VA hospitals, sports have been a critical element in rehabilitation and recreation therapy.

Those Veterans pioneered wheelchair sports.

And they understood what you know from personal experience—the great power of adaptive sports.

For more than three decades with the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, VA and our partners at Paralyzed Veterans of America have helped Veterans with disabilities overcome daily challenges and be healthier, more active, and more independent.

This year, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we can't meet in Portland.

So in the spirit of adaption, we redesigned the 2020 games to focus on what you can do at home.

And like those first wheelchair athletes so many years back, you're breaking new ground and overcoming new challenges by pioneering our first ever at-home competition.

Some things will never change.

Your strength and courage confronting the challenges of your injury will always be inspiring to all of us.

So give it all you've got.

Not just this week, but every single day.

Thank you, God bless, and thank you for your dedication and sacrifice to this nation.

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 11 Jun 2020 19:43:52 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: En Route to VACO

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 12:09:55 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Media Prep/Avail

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 4 Jun 2020 17:31:40 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Phone Call w/SEN Cotton
Attachments: Sen. Cotton, Tom (R-AR).docx, EBS-SecVA and SEN Cotton June 2020.docx

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EXECUTIVE BRIEFING SUMMARY

Call with Senator Tom Cotton
June 8, 2020; 3:30pm
Telecon (Cotton will call SECVA at 202-461-4809)

POINT OF CONTACT: (b)(6) OCLA (b)(6) (cell)

PURPOSE OF EVENT/MEETING: (check one)

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decisional | <input type="checkbox"/> Informational | <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Remarks | <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Courtesy Call |

OVERVIEW OF EVENT: *A proactive telecon with the Senator.*

SECVA ROLE: *Secretary Wilkie will participate in a telecon with the Senator to discuss his priorities for the Department since their last meeting (recap below).*

RECAP OF PREVIOUS MEETING (June 24, 2019):

- *The Secretary and Sen. Cotton discussed a variety of topics, including MISSION Act, opioid use, possible legislation on marijuana use, smoking bans, bibles in VA chapels, and VA Arkansas facilities in general, including market assessments and asset infrastructure assessments that are currently underway.*
- *The Senator asked about the Yellow Ribbon Program, which does not fall under VA, and the Secretary suggested he contact DoD for a response.*
- *The Secretary promised to send Cotton a copy of a book mentioned in the meeting.*

ATTENDEES:

- *Robert Wilkie, Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs*
- *Senator Tom Cotton (R-ARK)*

OBJECTIVE:

- *Continue a successful relationship with the Senator.*

- *Address any of the Senator's concerns on Veteran's issues, both in Arkansas and nationally*

BACKGROUND:

- *Senator Cotton is an Army veteran who led a platoon from the 101st Airborne on combat patrols in Iraq, and also served in Afghanistan.*

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 11 Jun 2020 21:09:50 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Lunch

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 12:15:40 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT/Arrive at Southern AZ VAMC

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 4 Jun 2020 17:47:15 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: RAH
Attachments: June 5 2020.docx

DAILY BRIEFING BOOK

Friday, June 5, 2020

SECRETARY ROBERT L. WILKIE

9:00 – 9:30 am	Phone Call w/Senator Joni Ernst ** she will call SECVA cell phone	SECVA Residence	Tab 1
3:30 – 5:00 pm	VHA COVID-19 Update 1-844-376-0278 Code: (b)(6) #	SECVA Residence	



EXECUTIVE BRIEFING SUMMARY

Sen. Joni Ernst
June 5, 2020
9:00 A.M. Call

June 5, 2020 9:00 A.M

OCLA POC: (b)(6)

Driver: SECVA

Subject: Catch Up/General Mtg

Participants: Sen. Ernst VA: SECVA

Phone Number: Sen. Ernst will call SECVA at 9:00am Friday on the following number:

(b)(6)

PURPOSE OF EVENT/MEETING:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decisional | <input type="checkbox"/> Informational | <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Remarks | <input type="checkbox"/> Other | X Courtesy Call |

OVERVIEW OF EVENT:

Teleconference with Member to Catch Up/discuss the Department's response to COVID-19.

Recent Casework Letters:

- We have had 5 casework letters from SEN Ernst since 1 April, various topics:
- 2794132 – Eye glasses
- 2807755 – Access to care
- 2815470 – Copy of military treatment records (resolved w/o going into VIEWS) – Hospice care
- 2700439 – Copy of military treatment records
- There does not appear to be a trending theme of issues here.

VBA future event in Iowa:

- VBA is hosting a Tele-Townhall for #Veterans in Illinois, 6/18 at 5pmET/4pmCDT. Invites to the entire IL delegation will be sent out soon.
- The call will be focused on COVID19 response and Under Secretary Lawrence will give an update on VBA programs: Solid Start, Blue Water Navy and the COVID response.
- Call-in: (b)(6)

CONTINGENCY PLANNING TALKING POINTS:

- VA has contingency plans in place to address the needs of the Veteran enrollee population and has been activating our 4th mission as the civilian health care system needed assistance. VA has been modeling the COVID-19 spread in across the nation in order to prepare for outbreaks and to reinforce areas 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.
- 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. Our collective occupancy rate is 47%.

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 35 ongoing mission assignments. We are providing care to a total of 45 states and territories at this time.
- VA is caring for approximately 250 civilians in our facilities.

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 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/face covering vs an N95 respirator given the demand on the 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 also testing all patients and employees in our Community Living Centers and Spinal Cord Injury Units to protect our most vulnerable populations.
- 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.
- We have received results on over 150,000 tests.
- 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.
- We are now conducting over 30,000 video telehealth sessions per day, an increase of over 900%

- 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 53% since March.

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 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.
- VA will be issuing further guidance with more granularity about when which type of PPE is required, and by whom. That said, experts are nearly unanimous in indicating that not everyone in a hospital needs an N95 mask. A face covering more than sufficient for those not in direct contact with a COVID-19 patient.
- Our supply chain is currently forecasting sufficient PPE, at the burn rate we are currently sustaining, for the next few months. Obviously, much of that could change as the global supply chain continues to respond to increased demand from all corners.



Residence: Red Oak

Born: July 1, 1970; Red Oak, Iowa

Religion: Lutheran

Family: Husband, Gail Ernst; three children

Education: Iowa State U., B.A. 1992 (psychology); Columbus College, M.P.A. 1995

Military: U.S. Army Reserve 1992-2001; Iowa National Guard 2001-present

Career: County emergency management office director; homemaker; job training program coordinator; human resources assistant

Political Highlights: Montgomery County auditor, 2005-11; Iowa Senate, 2011-2014

First Elected: 2014 (1st term)

Last Elected: 2014 (52.1%)

Committee and Subcommittee Assignments

- Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry (5th of 11 Republicans)
- Senate Armed Services (6th of 14 Republicans)
 - Emerging Threats and Capabilities (Chair)
 - Readiness and Management Support
 - Seapower
- Senate Environment and Public Works (11th of 11 Republicans)
 - Clean Air and Nuclear Safety
 - Superfund, Waste Management and Regulatory Oversight
- Senate Judiciary (9th of 12 Republicans)
 - Border Security and Immigration
 - Crime And Terrorism
 - Oversight, Agency Action, Federal Rights
- Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship (5th of 10 Republicans)

Leadership Positions and Party Committee Assignments

- Vice Chairman, Senate Republican Conference

Selected Caucus and Special Organization Membership

- Congressional Veterans Caucus

Interests

- The first woman elected to Congress from Iowa and the first female combat veteran in the Senate.
- Retired as a Lt. Colonel in the Iowa Army National Guard on November 30, 2015
- Joined the ROTC program in Iowa State University
- Served as company commander in Kuwait and Iraq, leading 150 Iowa Army National Guardsmen during Operation Iraqi Freedom
- Served as the Montgomery County Auditor where she worked to eliminate wasteful government spending and protect taxpayers' hard earned dollars
- Worked to grow jobs and the economy, cut taxes, improve education, and reduce the role of government in Iowans' lives

VA-Related Issues

VBA Issues: No major or recent inquiries to report

NCA Issues:

- No major or recent inquiries to report

VHA Issues:

- No major or recent inquiries to report

VA-Related Legislation (Sponsored)

116th Congress

S.123 - Ensuring Quality Care for Our Veterans Act: To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into a contract or other agreement with a third party to review appointees in the Veterans Health Administration who had a license terminated for cause by a State licensing board for care or services rendered at a non-Veterans Health Administration facility and to provide individuals treated by such an appointee with notice if it is determined that an episode of care or services to which they received was below the standard of care, and for other purposes. **Latest Action:** Senate - 05/22/2019 Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held.

S.143 - Department of Energy Veterans' Health Initiative Act: This bill directs the Department of Energy (DOE) to establish a research program in artificial intelligence and high-performance computing that is focused on the development of tools to (1) solve big data challenges associated with veterans' health care, and (2) support the Department of Veterans Affairs in identifying potential health risks and challenges. **Latest Action:** Senate - 08/16/2019 Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 172.

15th Congress

S.2112: Military SAVE Act - This bill amends the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 to make eligible for treatment in a non-Department of Veterans Affairs entity any veteran who was the victim of a sexual trauma which occurred while the veteran was serving on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training. **Latest Action:** Senate - 11/09/2017 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S.925: VETS Act of 2017 - This bill allows a licensed health care professional of the Department of Veterans Affairs to practice his or her profession using telemedicine at any location in any state, regardless of where the professional or patient is located. **Latest Action:** House - 01/05/2018 Held at the desk.

S.1881: Prioritizing Veterans Access to Mental Health Care Act of 2017 - This bill amends the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 to make a veteran seeking mental health care in a non-Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) entity eligible for such care if the veteran provides a written statement (which may be sent electronically or made in person or by fax) that the veteran seeks mental health care from the VA and has not received timely and adequate mental health care through a VA

facility or health care provider. **Latest Action:** Senate - 09/28/2017 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S.3501: Ensuring Quality Care for our Veterans Act – To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into a contract or other agreement with a third party to review appointees in the Veterans Health Administration who had a license terminated for cause by a State licensing board for care or services rendered at a non-Veterans Health Administration facility and providing individuals treated by such an appointee with notice if it is determined that an episode of care or services to which they received was below the standard of care, and for other purposes. **Latest Action:** Senate - 09/26/2018 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S.2534: CERTIFY Heroes Act - To amend title 10, United States Code, to permit individuals who are eligible for assistance under a Department of Defense educational assistance program or authority to use such tuition assistance for licensing and certification programs offered by entities other than an institution of higher education. **Latest Action:** Senate - 03/12/2018 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

TAB 2

From: RLW
Sent: Fri, 12 Jun 2020 13:55:28 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: RAH
Attachments: June 15 2020.docx

DAILY BRIEFING BOOK
Monday, June 15, 2020
SECRETARY ROBERT L. WILKIE

7:45 – 8:15 am	Daily Sync Mtg	SECVA Suite	
8:15 – 9:00 am	ERT Quantico National Cemetery		
9:00 – 11:00 am	Visit to Quantico National Cemetery		<u>See Itinerary</u>
11:00am – Noon	ERT VACO		
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Lunch	SECVA Suite	
2:00 – 2:30 pm	ERT (b)(6)		
2:30- 3:15 pm	POTUS Roundtable on America’s Seniors – Elder Justice	Roosevelt Room	<u>Attached TPs</u>
3:30 – 4:00 pm	ERT VACO		
3:30 – 5:00 pm	VHA COVID-19 Update 1-844-376-0278 Code (b)(6) #	Rm 1070	

**THE HONORABLE ROBERT L. WILKIE
SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
TRAVEL ITINERARY
QUANTICO, VA
JUNE 15, 2020**

TRAVELING PARTY:

The Honorable Robert Wilkie
Michael Meador, Special Assistant to the Secretary
(b)(6)
Traci Scott, Senior Advisor for Strategic Communications

(b)(6)

EXECUTIVE PROTECTION:

(b)(6); [redacted] DL
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6); [redacted] Special Agent (Adv-Tr)
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Driver, Special Agent
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Special Agent
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

EVENT / SITE POCs:

(b)(6) Executive Assistant
(b)(6)
(b)(6) Cemetery Director
(b)(6)

SCHEDULING POCs:

(b)(6), Special Assistant, OSVA
(b)(6)

Monday, June 15, 2020	Attire:
Business	
Weather:	Washington, DC H-75°; L-60° - Partly Cloudy Quantico, VA H-74°; L-61° - Partly CLoudy

0815-0915 **DEPART / ARRIVE QUANTICO NATIONAL CEMETERY** (1 hour)
18424 Joplin Rd, Triangle, VA 22172 *Administration Building
Drive time: 1 hour / 35 miles
Greeted by: Mr. (b)(6) Cemetery Director
 Mr. [redacted] Assistant Director
 Ms. Gina Farris, Special Advisor to Under Secretary Randy

Reeves
**No Screening
**Masks Required
** Mr. Martin Wright, Photographer will be present at arrival

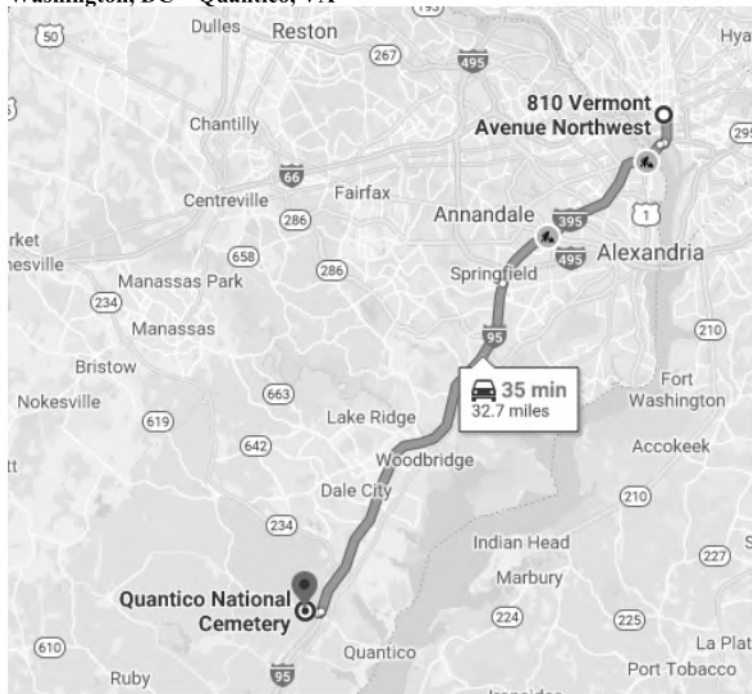
- 0920-0940 VEHICLE TOUR (20 min)**
Tour Led By: Mr. (b)(6) Cemetery Director
Highlighted areas:
- Memorial Wall
- 0945-0955 MEET & GREET W/ (b)(6), NEXT OF KIN (10 min)**
Location: 20 feet away from Committal Shelter, Informal Meet & Greet
- *Ms (b)(6) is the Next of Kin descendant of Raymond Davis, USMC, Vietnam Era Veteran (1957-1977); Bronze Star Recipient
- 0955-1015 OBSERVE COMMITMENT SERVICE (20 min)**
Location: 20 ft away from Committal Shelter
- 1020-1050 RESUMING COMMITMENT SERVICES KICKOFF EVENT (30 min)**
Location: Contracting Building *outside area for appropriate social distancing requirements
- Run of Show:
- 1020-1030** Welcoming of the staff and NCA Leadership (10 min)
- SECVA will address 25 staff members as a group
 - Masks required
- 1030-1050** SECVA Remarks and Q&A (20 min)
- 1055-1155 ERT / ARRIVE VA CENTRAL OFFICE (1 hour)**
810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420
Drive time: 1 hour / 35 miles

MC

TOTAL TIME BY LOCATION:

Quantico National Cemetery 2 hr 0 min

Washington, DC – Quantico, VA



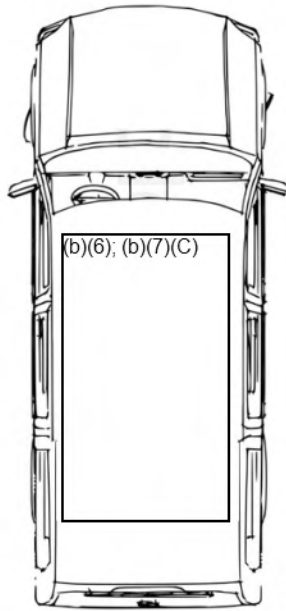
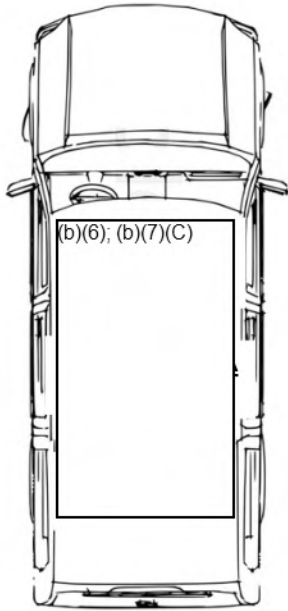
<u>LOCATION(S)</u>	<u>DRIVE TIME</u>
<u>MILES</u>	
VA Central Office – Quantico National Cemetery 32.7 miles	1 hr 0 min
Quantico National Cemetery – VA Central Office 32.7 miles	1 hr 0 min

**MOTORCADE LOAD PLAN
MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2020**

MOVEMENT #1-2: ALL MOVEMENTS

LIMO:

CHASE:





Tribute

Raymond Scott "Jeff" Davis, Jr., 85, of Stafford County passed away on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25, 2020 at his home.

Raymond was a retired Major in the U.S. Marine Corps, where he was awarded a Bronze Star for his service in Vietnam. He was on the vestry for Aquia Episcopal Church. Raymond was an active member of the Stafford Rotary Club and an Assistant Scoutmaster for his sons' Boy Scout troops in North Carolina and Virginia. He earned his undergraduate degree at Gettysburg College in 1957, followed by a master's degree at Georgia State University.

Survivors include his wife, (b)(6) children (b)(6)

(b)(6)

He was preceded in death by his parents, Raymond S. and Lizzie Gary Craddock Davis; and his brother, Donald Kent Davis.

A private service will be held at Covenant Funeral Service Chapel, Fredericksburg. Interment will follow at Quantico National Cemetery on a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Aquia Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 275, Stafford, VA 22555.

Page 08 of 15

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information

Page 09 of 15

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information

Page 10 of 15

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information

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Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information

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of the Freedom of Information

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Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information

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Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information

Page 15 of 15

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information

From: RLW
Sent: Fri, 19 Jun 2020 18:12:35 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: TRAVEL - Jonesboro, Maine - Cemetery Dedication
Attachments: Invite for SECVA for Acadia NC Dedication - 0908a.pdf, Invite for SECVA for Acadia NC Dedication - 0908b.pdf

SECVA CALENDAR WORKSHEET

TO: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SECRETARY <input type="checkbox"/> DEPUTY SECRETARY <input type="checkbox"/> CHIEF OF STAFF		TYPE <input type="checkbox"/> BRIEFING <input type="checkbox"/> OFFICE CALL <input type="checkbox"/> DECISION <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION		LOCATION <input type="checkbox"/> OFFICE <input type="checkbox"/> CONFERENCE ROOM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (<i>Specify</i>) Jonesboro, ME	
REQUESTED DATE(S) August 22, 2020		LENGTH 1 hour	PRINCIPAL ATTENDEES USMA, Public, Veterans, VSOs, Media		
BRIEFING POINT OF CONTACT Tom Howard		PHONE NUMBER <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">(b)(6)</div>			
OTHER ATTENDEES Congressional invitees, military officials, local officials.					
PURPOSE The National Cemetery Administration requests that the Secretary attend and deliver keynote remarks at the dedication ceremony for the new Acadia National Cemetery. This cemetery is part of NCA's Rural Initiative to provide access to VA burial benefits to more than 23,599 Veterans who reside within a 75-mile radius of nearby Machias.					
VA INTEREST This dedication will demonstrate VA's commitment to our Veterans and our continued efforts to ensure we provide all Veterans and their families with the benefits they have earned and deserve. The event will inspire support for the new national cemetery. We will continue to monitor local guidance on social distancing and limitations on the size of gatherings, currently 50, as we plan for the dedication.					
EXPECTED OUTCOME Respectfully request the Secretary speak at the dedication to help amplify the importance of this new cemetery and VA's support for our Veterans.					
OSVA STAFF COORDINATION					
PREBRIEF REQUIRED <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		READ AHEAD DUE DATE			
COMMENTS					
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT					
COMMENTS					
ACTION <input type="checkbox"/> APPROVED <input type="checkbox"/> DISAPPROVED				SCHEDULED FOR	
				DATE	TIME

SECVA EVENT WORKSHEET

1. TO: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SECRETARY <input type="checkbox"/> DEPUTY SECRETARY <input type="checkbox"/> CHIEF OF STAFF	2. TYPE OF EVENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CEREMONY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (<i>Specify</i>)	3. FROM Randy Reeves Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs National Cemetery Administration
--	--	--

4. POINT OF CONTACT Tom Howard	5. PHONE NUMBER (b)(6)	6. DATE OF EVENT 08/22/2020	7. TIME TBD
--	----------------------------------	---------------------------------------	-----------------------

8. CONFLICT <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO COMMENTS	10. VENUE LOCATION Acadia National Cemetery, Jonesboro, Maine
---	--

9. NAME OF EVENT Acadia National Cemetery Dedication
--

11. TYPE OF SPEECH Announcement/Dedication	13. MEDIA EXPECTED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
--	--

12. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES (<i>Please include event issues and VA position</i>) This dedication helps demonstrate VA's commitment to Veterans and our continued improvements and efforts to ensure we provide all Veterans and their families with the benefits they have earned and deserved. The Acadia National Cemetery will serve the burial needs of more than 23,599 Veterans and eligible family members.	14. TYPE OF AUDIENCE <i>(Military, Veterans, Service Organization, VA employees, etc.)</i> Public, VSO, Media, Congressional
	15. EXPECTED NUMBER OF ATTENDEES TBD; Based on local guidance
	16. DRESS ATTIRE <input type="checkbox"/> FORMAL <input type="checkbox"/> BUSINESS CASUAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUSINESS <input type="checkbox"/> CASUAL
	17. SPOUSE INVITED <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

18. COORDINATION				
(X)	OFFICE	RECOMMENDATION		COMMENTS
		YES	NO	
<input type="checkbox"/>	OGC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	OCLA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	OPIA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	STR COMMS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	VHA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	VBA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NCA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	VSO	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

<input type="checkbox"/> ACCEPT <input type="checkbox"/> REGRET <input type="checkbox"/> IF DESIRED <input type="checkbox"/> REFER TO <i>(Specify below)</i>	19. COSVA COMMENTS
--	------------------------------

<input type="checkbox"/> ACCEPT <input type="checkbox"/> REGRET <input type="checkbox"/> REFER TO (<i>Specify below</i>)	20. SECVA/DEPSECVA DECISION COMMENTS
---	--

<input type="checkbox"/> ACCEPT <input type="checkbox"/> REGRET LETTER <input type="checkbox"/> REFER TO (<i>Specify below</i>)	21. SCHEDULING COMMENTS
--	-----------------------------------

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 12:16:05 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Screening

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 4 Jun 2020 19:49:20 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: TRAVEL - Detroit, Michigan
Attachments: Final 2 - Detroit, Battle Creek, Ann Arbor, MI 13-14 July 2020.pdf

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY – DO NOT DISTRIBUTE
FINAL 2

THE HONORABLE ROBERT L. WILKIE
SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
DETROIT, BATTLE CREEK & ANN ARBOR, MI
JULY 13-14, 2020

TRAVELING PARTY:

The Honorable Robert Wilkie
Michael Meador, Special Assistant to the Secretary
Traci Scott, Senior Advisor for Strategic Communications

(b)(6)

EXECUTIVE PROTECTION:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Special Agent (DL)
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Special Agent (Adv)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

EVENT / SITE POCs:

(b)(6) Health System Specialist (Dingell (Detroit) VAMC)
(b)(6) Acting Associate Director (Battle Creek VAMC)
(b)(6) EA to the Director (VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System)

(b)(6)

SCHEDULING POCs:

Albert Guerrero, Special Assistant, OSVA
(b)(6) Travel Coordinator, OSVA

(b)(6)

Monday, July 13, 2020

Attire: Business

Weather:	Washington, DC	H-89°; L-70° - Isolated Thunderstorms
	Detroit, MI	H-80°; L-62° - PM Showers
	Battle Creek, MI	H-80°; L-58° - Partly Sunny

0645-0700 ERT / ARRIVE RONALD REAGAN WASHINGTON NATIONAL AIRPORT (DCA)

(15 min)
1 Aviation Circle, Washington, DC 20001
Drive time: 15 min / 16.7 miles

0800 WHEELS UP TO DETROIT METROPOLITAN WAYNE COUNTY AIRPORT (DTW)

United Airlines 3486 DCA-EWR 0800-0912 1 hr 12 min
Layover 1 hr 33 min
United Airlines 3414 EWR-DCA 1045-1237 1 hr 52 min
Total travel: 4 hr 37 min

1237 WHEELS DOWN DETROIT METROPOLITAN WAYNE COUNTY AIRPORT (DTW)

Detroit, MI 48242

1250-1320 LUNCH (EN ROUTE) (30 min)

Location: TBD

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FINAL 2**

1320-1345 ERT / ARRIVE JOHN D. DINGELL VA MEDICAL CENTER (DETROIT) (25 min)

4646 John R St, Detroit, MI 48201

Drive Time: 25 min / 19.3 miles

Greeted By:

- Dr. Pamela Reeves, Executive Director Detroit VAHCS
- Rima Nelson, Network Director, VISN 10

1350-1400 INTRODUCTION TO COVID-19 ENTRANCE SCREENING AREA (10 min)

Health questionnaire; temperature checks; masks

1405-1505 LEADERSHIP BRIEFING (1 hr)

Location: Director's Conference Room

Topics:

- Facility Overview
- COVID-19 Response

Attendees: (13)

- The Honorable Robert L. Wilkie, Secretary of Veterans Affairs
- Mr. Michael Meador, Special Assistant to the Secretary
- Ms. Traci Scott, Senior Advisor for Strategic Communications
- Mr. Albert Guerrero, Special Assistant, OSVA
- Dr. Pamela Reeves, Executive Director, Detroit VAHCS
- Rima Nelson, Network Director, VISN 10
- Dr. Mitch Kennedy, CMO, VISN 10
- Michelle Werner, Associate Director, Detroit VAHCS
- Dr. Scott Gruber, COS, Detroit VAHCS
- Belinda Brown-Tezera, ADPCS, Detroit VAHCS
- Dr. Raghu Matta, Deputy COS, Detroit VAHCS
- (b)(6) Assistant Director
- (b)(6) Administrative Officer to the Director, Detroit VAHCS

1510-1520 COIN RECOGNITION (10 min)

Location: Director's Conference Room

Recipients: (5)

- Executive Director Dr. Reeves and her leadership team: Michelle Werner-Associate Director; Dr. Gruber-Chief of Staff; Belinda Brown-Tezera – Associate Director for Patient Care Services; (b)(6) Assistant Director; Dr. Matta-Deputy Chief of Staff; and (b)(6) -Administrative Officer to the Director
- (b)(6) Chief, Veterans Experience Officer
- (b)(6) – Director of Suicide Prevention & Substance Use Disorders
- Dr. (b)(6) – Chief of Social Work
- (b)(6) – Chief of Business Practice

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FINAL 2**

1520-1525 EXECUTIVE TIME

1525-1610 FACILITY TOUR (45 min)

Tour Led By:

- Dr. Pamela Reeves, Executive Director, Detroit VAHCS
- Michelle Werner, Associate Director, Detroit VAHCS
- Dr. Scott Gruber, COS, Detroit VAHCS
- Belinda Brown-Tezera, ADPCS, Detroit VAHCS
- (b)(6) Administrative Officer to the Director, Detroit VAHCS

Highlighted Areas:

- Fitness Center
- Primary Care
- Emergency Department

1615-1620 MEDIA PREP (5 min)

Location: Social Work Conference Room

1620-1645 MEDIA AVAILABILITY (25 min)

Location: Multipurpose Room (indoors)

1650-1835 ERT / ARRIVE COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT BATTLE CREEK (1 hr 45 min)

12891 Harper Village Dr, Battle Creek, MI 49014

(269) 979-2900

Drive Time: 1 hr 45 min / 117 miles

RON

Tuesday, July 14, 2020

Attire: Business

Weather:	Battle Creek, MI	H-85°; L-66° - Partly Cloudy
	Ann Arbor, MI	H-84°; L-63° - Partly Cloudy
	Washington, DC	H-90°; L-71° - Mostly Sunny

0806-0820 RADIO INTERVIEW (AT HOTEL)

0920-0940 ERT / ARRIVE BATTLE CREEK VA MEDICAL CENTER (20 min)

5500 Armstrong Rd, Battle Creek, MI 49037

Drive Time: 20 min / 9.7 miles

Greeted By:

- Michelle Martin, Acting Medical Center Director
- Stephen Dotts, Acting Associate Director

0945-0955 INTRODUCTION TO COVID-19 ENTRANCE SCREENING AREA (10 min)

Main entrance on Urban Drive, in-vehicle checkpoint; health questionnaire, masks available

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1000-1100 LEADERSHIP BRIEFING (1 hr)

Location: Building 7 Conference Room

Topics:

- Mental Health Programs
- Specialty Service
- COVID Response

Attendees: (14)

- The Honorable Robert L. Wilkie, Secretary of Veterans Affairs
- Mr. Michael Meador, Special Assistant to the Secretary
- Ms. Traci Scott, Senior Advisor for Strategic Communications
- Mr. Albert Guerrero, Special Assistant, OSVA
- Ms. RimaAnn O. Nelson, Network Director, VISN 10
- Michelle Martin, Acting Medical Center Director
- Dr. Ketan Shah, Chief of Staff
- Natasha Watson, Acting Associate Director for Patient Care Services
- (b)(6) Acting Associate Director
- Dr. (b)(6) Associate Chief of Staff, Mental Health
- Dr. (b)(6) M.D., Chief of Psychiatry Service
- Dr. (b)(6) Chief, Specialty Care
- Brian Pegouske, Public Affairs Officer
- Dr. G. Mitchell Kennedy, Chief Medical Officer, VISN 10

1100-1105 EXECUTIVE TIME

1105-1150 FACILITY TOUR (45 min)

Tour Led By: (5)

- Michelle Martin, Acting Medical Center Director
- Dr. Ketan Shah, Chief of Staff
- Natasha Watson, Acting Associate Director for Patient Care Service
- (b)(6) Acting Associate Director
- Brian Pegouske, Public Affairs Officer

Highlighted Areas:

- Inpatient Mental Health (Building 39)
- Low Vision Clinic/Optomety (Building 3)
- Mental Health Residential Treatment Program
- PTSD unit (Building 14)

1155-1200 MEDIA PREP (5 min)

Location: Building 7, Room 115

1200-1225 MEDIA AVAILABILITY (25 min)

Location: Building 7, Room 204-204a

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FINAL 2**

1230-1340 ERT / ARRIVE LUNCH (EN ROUTE) (1 hr 10 min)

Drive Time: 1 hr 10 min / 74.9 miles

1340-1410 LUNCH (30 min)

Location: TBD

1410--1435 ERT / ARRIVE VA ANN ARBOR HEALTHCARE SYSTEM (25 min)

2215 Fuller Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Drive Time: 25 min / 17.4 miles

Greeted By: (Use Emergency Department Entrance)

- Dr. Ginny Creasman, Pharm.D., FACHE, Medical Center Director
- RimaAnn O. Nelson, Network Director

1440-1450 INTRODUCTION TO COVID-19 ENTRANCE SCREENING AREA (10 min)

At Emergency Department entrance: health questionnaire, masks required.

1455-1555 LEADERSHIP BRIEFING (1 hr)

Location: Executive Conference Room (A917)

Topics:

- VAAAHS successes and challenges (Focused on COVID-19)
- VA Video Connect (VVC) technical issues
- Virtual care scheduling issues
- Additional topics (as time permits)

Attendees: (14)

- The Honorable Robert L. Wilkie, Secretary of Veterans Affairs
- Mr. Michael Meador, Special Assistant to the Secretary
- Ms. Traci Scott, Senior Advisor for Strategic Communications
- Mr. Albert Guerrero, Special Assistant, OSVA
- Dr. Ginny Creasman, Pharm.D., FACHE, VAAAHS Medical Center Director
- Chris Cauley, FACHE, VAAAHS Associate Medical Center Director
- Mark S. Hausman, Jr., MD, VAAAHS Chief of Staff
- Stacey Breedveld, MSN, RN, CENP, VAAAHS Associate Director for Patient Care Services
- Zana Bouda, MHA, VAAAHS Assistant Director
- James Hines, MD, Aleda E. Lutz (Saginaw) VA Medical Center Chief of Staff
- (b)(6) VAAAHS Chief Supply Chain Officer
- RimaAnn O. Nelson, VISN 10 Network Director
- G. Mitchell Kennedy, MD, VISN 10 Chief Medical Officer
- (b)(6) VAAAHS RN Manager, Intensive Care Unit (ICU)

1555-1600 EXECUTIVE TIME

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- 1600-1700 FACILITY TOUR (1 hr)**
Tour Led By: Eric Deters, VAAAHS Chief Strategy Officer
Highlighted Areas:
- 7th Floor Mental Health Suite
 - 5th Floor New ICU
 - 2nd Floor New Dental Clinic
 - Prostate Cancer Center of Excellence
 - Precision Oncology
 - 1st Floor Welcome Center
- 1705-1710 MEDIA PREP (5 min)**
Location: VSO Office (private)
- 1710-1730 MEDIA AVAILABILITY (25 min)**
Location: VSO Office (private) or TBD
- Telephone interview
- 1735-1835 DINNER (1 hr)**
Location: TBD
- 1835-1905 ERT / ARRIVE DETROIT MET. WAYNE COUNTY AIRPORT (DTW) (30 min)**
4646 John R St, Detroit, MI 48201
Drive Time: 30 min / 24.9 miles
- 1905-1950 EXECUTIVE TIME (45 min)**
- 1950-2030 GATE TRANSITION / AIRCRAFT BOARDING (40 min)**
- 2030 WHEELS UP TO RONALD REAGAN WASHINGTON NATIONAL AIRPORT (DCA)**
Delta Airlines 2630 DTW-DCA 2030-2151 1 hr 21 min
Total travel time: 1 hr 21 min
- 2151 WHEELS DOWN RONALD REAGAN WASHINGTON NATIONAL AIRPORT (DCA)**
1 Aviation Circle, Washington, DC 20001
- 2205-2220 ERT / ARRIVE RESIDENCE (15 min)**
- MC**

From: RLW
Sent: Fri, 19 Jun 2020 20:18:22 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Medical Testing

From: RLW
Sent: Fri, 12 Jun 2020 17:03:15 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Senior Leader Offsite
Attachments: OSVA Guest Information Veterans Affairs.xlsx, VA Secretary Senior Leader Offsite Attendees July 2020 FINAL.pdf, Attachment 1 - SECVA COVID-19 Lessons Learned Offsite Traveler Instructions July 2020.pdf, Attachment 2 - SECVA COVID In-Action Offsite Agenda July 2020.pdf, Attachment 3 - VA COVID-19 In-Action Consolidated Report July 2020.pdf

SECVA selected 7/10. Will inform WH. This senior leader offsite will clear his calendar for the day I expect. Once I get final WH ok, will inform all concerned.

From: Tucker, Brooks
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 1:04 PM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)@va.gov; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)@va.gov
Cc: Syrek, Christopher D. (Chris) (b)(6)@va.gov; Powers, Pamela (b)(6)@va.gov
Subject: RE: SECVA Calendar on July 9 and 10

Ok, adding deputy for overall awareness. Will ask SECVA his preference.

Thank you

Brooks D. Tucker
Acting Chief of Staff
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue NW
Washington DC 20420

(b)(6) and (b)(6) The WH is looking to schedule an offsite outside of the city for the SECVA and his senior leaders and the dates WH has available are either 7/9 or 7/10. Please advise soonest whether either one of those days has a major scheduling issue that is unmovable/unchangeable. If we have to “break a tie”, SECVA can weigh in.

Brooks D. Tucker
Acting Chief of Staff
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue NW
Washington DC 20420

Camp David Guest Information

	Title or Designation	Guest Name	DATES	Vehicle Make / Model	Car Notes (driver, departing, carpet, security detail)	Food Allergies / Food Concerns
1	Secretary of the Dept. of Veterans Affairs	Robert Wilkie	10-Jul-20	Chevrolet Suburban		None
2	Acting Deputy Secretary	Pamela Powers	10-Jul-20	Chevrolet Suburban		None
14	Chief of Staff	Brooks Tucker	10-Jul-20	Honda Accord		None
15	Deputy Chief of Staff	Chris Syrek	10-Jul-20	Volkswagon Jetta		None
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**VA Secretary Senior Leader Offsite
Attendee List**

July 10, 2020

Location: Camp David

Current Confirmed Attendees:

	Office	Title	Name
1	OSVA	Secretary	Robert Wilkie
2	OSVA	Acting Deputy Secretary	Pam Powers
3	OSVA	Acting Chief of Staff	Brooks Tucker
4	OSVA	Senior Advisor	John Mashburn
5	OSVA	Strategic Comm. Dir.	Traci Scott
6	VHA	Executive in Charge	Rich Stone
7	VBA	USB	Paul Lawrence
8	NCA	USMA	Randy Reeves
9	BVA	Chairman	Cheryl Mason
10	HRA/OSP	Assistant Secretary	Daniel Sitterly
11	OAWP	Assistant Secretary	Tamara Bonzanto
12	OALC and OEI	Principal Executive Director/Acting Assistant Secretary	Karen Brazell
13	OCLA	Special Assistant, Performing Limited Duties of Assistant Secretary	Cathy Haverstock
14	OM	Assistant Secretary	John Rychalski
15	OIT	Assistant Secretary	Jim Gfrerer
16	OPIA	Assistant Secretary	James Hutton
17	VEO	Chief Veterans Experience Officer	Lynda Davis
18	OGC	Acting General Council	Bill Hudson
19	OEI	Chief of Staff	(b)(6)



**SECVA Offsite
July 10, 2020
Instructions to the Traveler (ITT)
(Updated 7-8-2020)**

Event Title	SECVA COVID Operational Lessons Learned Offsite
Event Description	Secretary Wilkie has invited VA Senior Leaders for a one day offsite to Camp David on Friday, July 10th. This will be an opportunity to discuss top strategic operational lessons learned from COVID, including any consequential reforms or transformative actions required to adjust to the demands of the pandemic.
Target Audience	VA Assistant Secretaries, Under Secretaries and Key Leadership
Program Date	July 10, 2020
High Level Day Agenda	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">(b)(7)(E)</div> <p>8:30 AM -12:00 PM – Morning Session 12:00 - 1:00 PM – Lunch 1:30 - 2:30 PM – Afternoon Activities 2:30 Adjourn</p> <p>NOTE: There will be a group photo opportunity mid-morning.</p>
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	Everyone will be responsible to provide their own PPE, including masks. Measures have been taken to promote advised social distancing practices to the greatest extent possible
Travel Instructions & Funding	<p><u>Meals:</u> Breakfast and lunch will be provided.</p> <p><u>Travel Mileage:</u> Individuals whose POV mileage from their residence is within 50 miles one-way to/from the off-site are limited to reimbursement of POV mileage more than their normal daily commute expense.</p> <p>Individuals whose POV mileage from their residence is greater than 50 miles one-way to/from the offsite location are entitled to be reimbursed the total amount of POV mileage. All travel costs will be the responsibility of your respective offices. You are required to submit your final travel costs in Concur/CGE Solutions within 5 days of your return to your station.</p>
Location	<p>Camp David</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">(b)(7)(E)</div> <p>Driving Directions (see below):</p>

	(b)(7)(E)
Transportation	(b)(7)(E)
Dress Code	<p>Dress is "Camp/business" casual – recommend you wear shoes suitable for light hiking. It is also recommended that you dress in layers and bring an umbrella.</p> <p>Due to social distancing restrictions, we not have the opportunity to participate in most of the indoor/outdoor entertainment on site. Weather pending, you will have the opportunity to take a walking tour of the Camp and will have access to the souvenir shop, arcade, pool and ping pong tables.</p>
Access/Contraband	<p>(b)(7)(E)</p> <p>In case of an emergency, you will be able to be reached at: (b)(6) or (b)(6)</p> <p>(b)(6)</p>
Program/Logistical Questions	<p>(b)(6)</p> <p>Office of Enterprise Integration Department of Veterans Affairs</p> <p>(b)(6) (Day of Event)</p>



**SECVA Offsite Draft Agenda
July 10, 2020**

OFFSITE OBJECTIVE: Conduct an in-action review to identify best practices and lessons learned and apply these insights in a tighter timescale to improve the outcome of our ongoing COVID response

AGENDA	
8:00 am	Arrival and (b)(7)(E)
8:30 am	Networking Breakfast
8:45 am	Welcome and Overview of the Day <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commanding Officer Greeting• Acting Chief of Staff's Greeting - Review the agenda, objectives, logistics
9:00 am	Secretary's Opening Remarks
9:15 am	Presentations/Q&A <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct in-action review in large group<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 5-minute principal overview○ 10-minute Q&A, risk review and mitigation strategies
10:15 am	Photo and Break
11:00 am	Presentations/Q&A Continued
12:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm	Presentations/Q&A Continued/Next Steps/Closing Remarks
2:00 pm	Tour and Shangri-La Lounge (Optional)
2:30 pm	Adjourn

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From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 12:16:32 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Leadership briefing

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 30 Jun 2020 14:01:16 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Interview w/ Jennifer Franco, OAN
Attachments: Quad - Jennifer Franco.pptx

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From: RLW
Sent: Fri, 5 Jun 2020 10:41:12 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Korean War 70th Anniversary Commemoration Program w/Ambassador Soo Hyuck Lee
Attachments: Letter from the Ambassador.pdf, BIO_The Honorable Robert Wilkie.docx, EBS_SECVA_70th_Commemoration Korean War_Ceremony_25_June_2020.docx, BERA_70th Anniversary Korean War_Resolution.pdf

Please see attached letter from the Embassy of Republic of South Korea. Please advise how to proceed.

(b)(6)

Director, State & Local Government Relations
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

(b)(6) – Office
(b)(6) – Mobile

From: (b)(6)@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2020 3:11 PM
To: (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: Letter from the Ambassador

Good Afternoon Sir,

The Ambassador of the Republic of Korea requests the Secretary's support and dedication for the ROK-US alliance. Please accept the attached letter and deliver the softcopy to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Please confirm upon receipt of this e-mail.

Thank you.

Very respectfully,

ROK Defense Attaché Office
2450 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. Washington D.C.
Office: (b)(6)



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE AMBASSADOR
SOO HYUCK LEE

The Honorable Robert Wilkie
United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs
United States Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20420

June 2, 2020

Dear Secretary Wilkie:

It is my honor and pleasure to invite you to join us in commemorating the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War. While large-scale events are limited due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we plan on holding a ceremony to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice and to reaffirm the long-standing alliance between Korea and the United States.

The commemoration will be held on June 25th, 2020 at the Korean War Veterans Memorial between 9:30 and 10:00 am and I would be honored if you would be able to join me at the event.

As part of the commemorations, we would also like to request that you prepare a short video message, of less than five minutes, that can be shared with the Korean War veterans and their families online. Your message will be a testimony of your continued support for Korean War veterans and their families. Additional messages from the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs, Ministry of National Defense, and President Moon Jae-In will also be collected and shared.

Thank you for your continued service for US Veterans and for your strong support for the ROK-US Alliance. I hope you and your family are staying healthy and well at this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Soo Hyuck Lee
Ambassador to the United States

The Honorable Robert Wilkie Secretary



The Honorable Robert Wilkie was nominated by President Trump to serve as the tenth Secretary of Veterans Affairs. He was confirmed by the United States Senate on July 23, 2018 and sworn in on July 30, 2018. Mr. Wilkie previously served as the acting Secretary of VA from March 28 to May 29, 2018.

Before confirmation as VA Secretary, Mr. Wilkie served Secretary James Mattis as his Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness—the principal advisor to the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense for Total Force Management as it relates to readiness, National Guard and Reserve component affairs, health affairs, training, and personnel requirements and management, including equal opportunity, morale, welfare, recreation, and the quality of life for military families. The son of an Army artillery commander, Mr. Wilkie spent his youth at Fort Bragg. Today, he is a colonel in the United States Air Force Reserve assigned to the Office of the Chief of Staff. Before joining the Air Force, he served in the United States Navy Reserve with the Joint Forces Intelligence Command, Naval Special Warfare Group Two, and the Office of Naval Intelligence.

Mr. Wilkie has more than 20 years of federal service at the national and international levels. During the George W. Bush Administration, Mr. Wilkie served both Donald Rumsfeld and Robert Gates as Assistant Secretary of Defense from 2005–2009, and he was the youngest senior leader in the Department. Mr. Wilkie was Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs and a senior director of the National Security Council under Dr. Condoleezza Rice. He also has extensive experience in the United States Congress, including recent service as Senior Advisor to Senator Thom Tillis and service as Counsel and Advisor on International Security Affairs to the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Honorable Trent Lott. Mr. Wilkie shepherded the Senate confirmation process for James Mattis, Robert Gates, and Admiral Mike Mullen (CJCS), and he was responsible for the preparation of General David Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker for their multiple appearances before the Congress in defense of the Iraqi Surge.

Mr. Wilkie was Vice President for Strategic Programs for CH2M HILL, one of the world's largest engineering and program management firms, where for five years he held program management and advisory assignments as diverse as the London 2012 Summer Olympics and the reform and reorganization of the United Kingdom Ministry of Defense Supply and Logistics System (DE&S).

Mr. Wilkie holds an Honors degree from Wake Forest University, a Juris Doctor from Loyola University College of Law in New Orleans, a Master of Laws in International and Comparative Law from Georgetown University, and a master's in strategic studies from the United States Army War College.

EXECUTIVE BRIEFING SUMMARY

Joint Wreath Laying
Commemorating 70th Anniversary of Korean War

Thursday, June 25, 2020

9:20am – 10:00am

Korean War Memorial
900 Ohio Dr. SW, Washington, DC 20024

Principal Only Event
No Reserved Parking

POINTS OF CONTACT:

Mr. Thayer Verschoor
Executive Director
Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, OPIA

(b)(6) – Direct
(b)(6)@va.gov

Lt. Col. (b)(6)
Assistant Defense Attaché
Embassy of the Republic of South Korea

(b)(6) – Direct
(b)(6) – Mobile
(b)(6)@korea.kr

PURPOSE OF EVENT:

- Joint Wreath Laying

SECVA ROLE:

1. Participants making **NO** official remarks
2. Secretary Wreath Placement – See diagram page 4
3. Embassy Republic of South Korea requested SECVA video message:
<https://shared-assets.adobe.com/link/644a3a22-183f-45f0-54fe-2030531e3f36>

BACKGROUND:

1. Secretary's support and dedication for the ROK-US alliance.
2. United States & Embassy of the Republic of Korea to post video messages from both countries' leadership. Dignities providing words that honoring those who made ultimate sacrifice and reaffirming the long-standing ROK-US alliance are recommended to be included in the video.

3. There will be no podium and microphone.
4. Eight wreaths will be staged on grass area – **Distanced 6ft**
5. The guests will be able to visit before and after the ceremony.



THE AMBASSADOR
SOO HYUCK LEE

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Honorable Robert Wilkie
United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs
United States Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20420

June 2, 2020

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Thank you for your continued service for US Veterans and for your strong support for the ROK-US Alliance. I hope you and your family are staying healthy and well at this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Soo Hyuck Lee
Ambassador to the United States

ATTENDEES:

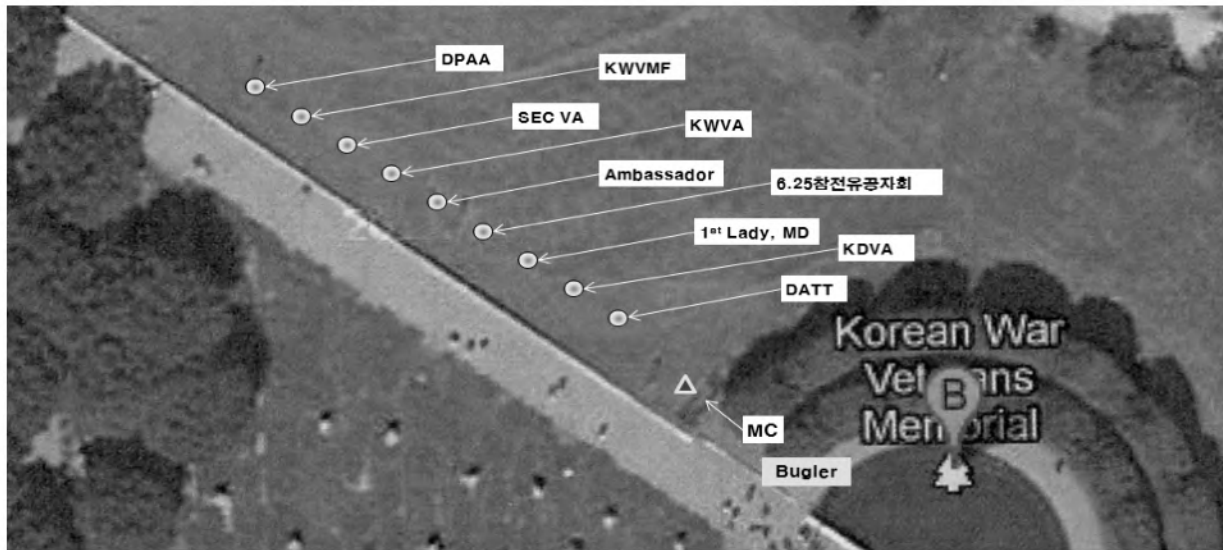
COUNTRY (NUMBER OF ATTENDEES)	ORGANIZATION	ATTENDEE(S) / WREATH LAYER(S)
Republic of Korea 4 Representatives	Embassy Republic of Korea	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Honorable Lee, Soo Hyuck – Ambassador 2. MG (b)(6) – Defense Attaché 3. Lt. Col. (b)(6) – Assistant Defense Attaché
	Korean American Korean War Veterans Association	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. (b)(6) – President
United States of America 6 Representatives	USDVA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. The Honorable Robert Wilkie – Secretary
	Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Mr. (b)(6) – Director
	Korean War Veterans Association	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Dr. Paul H. Cunningham – President
	Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Gen(R) John H. Tilelli Jr. – Chairman
	Korea Defense Veterans Association	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Gen(R) Walter L. Sharp – President
	State of Maryland	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Mrs. Yumi Hogan – First Lady of Maryland

AGENDA:

9:20 – 9:30AM	Arrival	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Greeted by Defense Attaché @ Drop-Off Location 2. Standby Until Arrival – Ambassador of the Republic of Korea – Adjacent Grass Area 3. Attendees Proceed to the Grass Area
9:30 – 9:35AM	Wreath Laying Moment of Silence	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Wreath Layers Proceed Respective Designated Area – Pursuant Diagram/Markings 5. Greetings / Wreath Layer Introductions 6. Wreath-laying <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proceed Pursuant Instruction of the Emcee • Wreath Layer Takes <u>THREE</u> Steps Forward Towards the Wreath • Affix Ribbon • Return to Location

		7. Moment of Silence (Taps) 8. CONCLUSION
9:35 – 9:40AM	Photo session (Twice)	9. Photoshoot, Placing Each Wreath on the <u>Right Side</u> of the Wreath Layer 10. Photoshoot in the Center – In-Front of the Wreaths
9:40AM	Departure	

Site Logistics:



ATTACHMENTS:

1. The Honorable Lee, Soo Hyuck – Ambassador
See bio below
2. MG (b)(6) – Defense Attaché
See bio below
3. Lt. Col. (b)(6) – Assistant Defense Attaché
No bio
4. (b)(6) – President
No bio
5. Mr. (b)(6) – Director
See bio below
6. Gen(R) Walter L. Sharp – President
See bio below
7. General (R) John H. Tilelli Jr. – Chairman
See bio below
8. Mrs. Yumi Hogan – First Lady of Maryland
See bio below

9. Dr. (b)(6) – President
See bio below

(b)(6)

Page 09 of 19

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(6)

of the Freedom of Information

Page 10 of 19

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(6)

of the Freedom of Information

General (Ret) Walter “Skip” Sharp Korea Defense Veterans Association



General Walter “Skip” Sharp was born in Morgantown, West Virginia while his father was fighting in the Korean War. General Sharp graduated from West Point in 1974 and was commissioned as an armor officer. He earned an M.S. in operations research and system analysis from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and is a graduate of the Army War College.

General Sharp commanded the United Nations Command, Republic of Korea-United States Combined Forces Command and United States Forces Korea from 2008 to 2011. He also commanded troops in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti and the Multinational Division (North) of the NATO-led Stabilization Force in Bosnia.

General Sharp had four assignments at the Pentagon on the Joint Staff. He was the deputy director, J5 for Western Hemisphere/Global Transnational Issues; vice director, J8 for Force Structure, Resources, and Assessment; director for strategic plans and policy, J5; and the director of the Joint Staff.

General (Ret) and Mrs. Sharp live in the Washington, D.C. area. He is consulting for and on the BODs of several U.S. companies. General Sharp is also the Chairman and President of the Korea Defense Veterans Association and on the BODs of The Korea Society and the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). He is involved in Northeast Asia and especially Korea strategy and policy discussions at several Washington, D.C. area Think Tanks.

John H. Tilelli, Jr. – General, US Army (Ret) Chairman Emeritus – Cypress International Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation



General Tilelli has been a member of Cypress International since 2002. In January 2000, he retired from the United States Army after over 30 years of service. He then became the President and CEO of USO Worldwide Operations. General Tilelli’s last active duty assignment was Commander-in-Chief of the United Nations Command, Republic of Korea/United States Combined Forces Command/United States Forces Korea.

Key assignments include:

- Commanded largest standing joint and coalition force in the world comprising over 650,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines.
- Led the theater’s campaign strategy and revitalized Korea’s automated command and control and equipment modernization.
- Served as Vice Chief of Staff of the Army and the Army’s Deputy Chief of Operations. Led the Army’s vision of the Army of the 21st Century and implemented reforms in acquisition and procurement.
- Commander of the 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. Trained, deployed and fought with the Division in Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

First Lady Yumi Hogan State of Maryland



Maryland's First Lady, Yumi Hogan, is the first Korean American First Lady in the United States. Mrs. Hogan is a first-generation Korean American, an accomplished artist, and an adjunct professor at Maryland Institute College of Art.

Mrs. Hogan grew up on a farm in the South Korean countryside as the youngest of eight children. She immigrated to the United States over 30 years ago, and raised her three daughters, Kim, Jaymi, and Julie, in Howard County. In 2016, Mrs. Hogan received the Inspirational Leader Award from the International Leadership Foundation, which recognized her as a trailblazing political and community leader and a role model to the Asian-Pacific American community and all Americans.

Among other reputable recognition, Mrs. Hogan is the recipient of the 2017 Ellis Island Medal of Honor, a highly-prestigious, nationally-recognized award by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations, which recognizes her accomplishments in leadership and inspired service to the state and nation; all while maintaining the traditions of their ethnic heritage as they uphold the ideals and spirit of America.

Her artwork, created on traditional Hanji paper with Sumi ink and mixed media, has been featured in art shows and museums in Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia, South Korea and more, including an exhibit at the National Museum of Women in the Arts.

In addition to her work as an artist, Mrs. Hogan has juried numerous art exhibitions, including statewide and national competitions by the Maryland Federation of Art. In 2016, she served as jury chair for the new Concourse D Gallery at the BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport where artists from Maryland and Washington D.C. were selected to feature their work.

As First Lady, Mrs. Hogan has made it a priority to share her love of the arts with Marylanders of all ages through arts education. Since November 2015, Mrs. Hogan has served as the Honorary Chair of the Council for Arts and Culture at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, working with the University and Baltimore City to promote the arts.

Following Governor Hogan's diagnosis with Stage 3 non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma in 2015 and their family's battle with the disease, Mrs. Hogan has become a vocal advocate for cancer awareness and devoted much of her time to visiting Marylanders battling cancer, especially children, and their families. In 2016, Mrs. Hogan was recognized for her role as a caregiver and her work raising awareness with the Pheo Para Alliance's Dr. Cyrus Katzen Humanitarian Award.

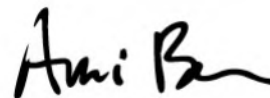
Through her work teaching art classes to patients with cancer and people with disabilities, Mrs. Hogan has become a strong proponent of art therapy and the positive impact it can have on health and wellbeing. She plans to continue to support the arts community and work to bring the joy of art to all Marylanders.

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Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(6)

of the Freedom of Information



.....
(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. _____

Recognizing the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean war and the transformation of the United States-Korea alliance into a mutually beneficial, global partnership.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. BERA submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean war and the transformation of the United States-Korea alliance into a mutually beneficial, global partnership.

Whereas June 25, 2020, marks the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of Korean war when the Armed Forces of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) attacked the Republic of Korea (South Korea) on June 25, 1950;

Whereas the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 83 on June 27, 1950, recommending "Members of the United Nations furnish assistance to the Republic of

Korea” and Resolution 84 on July 7, 1950, recommending members make military forces and other assistance available “to a unified command under the United States of America”;

Whereas on July 27, 1953, an Armistice Agreement was signed by United States Army Lieutenant General William Harrison, Jr. representing the United Nations Command with the Korean People’s Army and the Chinese People’s Volunteer Army to “ensure a complete cessation of hostilities and of all acts of armed force in Korea until a final peaceful settlement is achieved”;

Whereas the Armistice Agreement remains in force today and that by its terms has neither formally ended the Korean war nor constituted a permanent settlement of peace on the Korean Peninsula;

Whereas on October 1, 1953, the Mutual Defense Treaty Between the United States and the Republic of Korea (5 UST 2368) was signed in Washington with ratification advised by the Senate on January 26, 1954, and remains in force today “to strengthen their efforts for collective defense for the preservation of peace and security”;

Whereas during the Korean war, 1,789,000 United States soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines served in theater, 36,574 paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives in defense of freedom in the Republic of Korea, and over 7,500 United States servicemembers remain classified by the Department of Defense as missing in action;

Whereas on October 7, 2016, H.R. 1475, entitled the “Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance Act”, was introduced in Congress by Representative Sam Johnson of Texas and became Public Law 114–230;

Whereas according the House Report 114–433 to accompany H.R. 1475, H.R. 1475 authorizes a Wall of Remembrance to be added to the Korean War Veterans Memorial with the names of those that died in theater, are listed as missing, or prisoners of war, and would also list the number of members of the Korean Augmentation to the United States Army (KATUSA) that were killed in action, wounded in action, prisoners of war, or are listed as missing in action;

Whereas the Korean war is no longer “The Forgotten War” but “The Forgotten Victory” and June 25, 1950, is considered the symbolic start of the ironclad United States-Korea alliance that was forged in blood;

Whereas in the 70 years since the outbreak of the Korean conflict, the United States-Korea alliance has transformed itself from a security relationship into a comprehensive global partnership;

Whereas the Republic of Korea is considered one of the greatest success stories in the post-World War II era and constitutes one of the lynchpins of United States foreign policy in Northeast Asia;

Whereas the United States and the Republic of Korea have stood shoulder to shoulder in all four major conflicts the United States has faced since the Korean war while maintaining peace on the Korean Peninsula;

Whereas this partnership has contributed to regional and global prosperity through the shared values of democracy, free market economy, human rights, and the rule of law;

Whereas it is in the national interest of the United States to maintain its forward deployed presence in the Republic of Korea through United States Forces Korea (USFK), a

premier Joint Force that is “well led, disciplined, trained and ready to Fight Tonight and win”;

Whereas the 70-year transformation of the United States-Korea alliance into a mutually beneficial partnership has recently led to important coordination and cooperation in confronting global pandemics including H1N1 in 2009, and COVID-19 in 2020;

Whereas the Republic of Korea has made significant contributions to the global community in combating and containing COVID-19, including the manufacture and export of Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) test kits to the United States Government and various States;

Whereas on May 8, 2020, the Republic of Korea donated 500,000 masks to be distributed to Korean war veterans throughout the United States, including the Navajo Nation, in a gesture of gratitude and in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean war; and

Whereas on May 10, 2020, the Republic of Korea donated 2,000,000 masks to the United States to help fill shortages in hospitals most impacted by COVID-19: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) commemorates the 70th anniversary of the
3 start of the Korean war and the beginning of the
4 United States-Republic of Korea alliance;

5 (2) honors the men and women of both the
6 United States and Republic of Korea who have com-
7 mitted and sometimes sacrificed their lives for the

1 alliance during the Korean war and in subsequent
2 conflicts;

3 (3) reaffirms the role the alliance plays in en-
4 suring peace and stability in Asia and the world;

5 (4) celebrates the close and continuing ties be-
6 tween the people and governments of the two na-
7 tions;

8 (5) commends the lifesaving cooperation be-
9 tween the Republic of Korea and the United States
10 during the COVID-19 pandemic at each country's
11 moment of need; and

12 (6) recommits the United States to ensuring
13 the relationship between the United States and Re-
14 public of Korea continues to grow and thrive into
15 the foreseeable future.

</resolution>

From: RLW
Sent: Fri, 19 Jun 2020 20:21:46 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: En Route to DC VAMC

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 15 Jun 2020 13:39:26 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: RADIO Interview - Larry O'Connor Show - we call (b)(6)
Attachments: Larry O'Connor Bio-contact-info-15-june-20.docx

See attached for phone number.

James

James Hutton
Assistant Secretary
Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20420
Office: (b)(6)
Email: (b)(6)@va.gov
Twitter: @jehutton
VA on [Facebook](#) . [Twitter](#) . [YouTube](#) . [Flickr](#) . [Blog](#)

From: Hutton, James
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 9:32 AM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Cashour, Curtis <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Eason, William J. (b)(6)@va.gov (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Re: Possible interview TODAY with VA Secretary --Larry O'Conner Show

Please lock-in 5:00 p.m. today for a telephonic radio interview with the Larry O'Connor Show.

I'll get the phone number soon.

James

James Hutton
Assistant Secretary
Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20420
Office: (b)(6)
Email: (b)(6)@va.gov
Twitter: @jehutton
VA on [Facebook](#) . [Twitter](#) . [YouTube](#) . [Flickr](#) . [Blog](#)

From: Hutton, James
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 9:21 AM
To: Larry O'Connor <(b)(6)>@gmail.com>
Cc: Cashour, Curtis <(b)(6)>@va.gov> <(b)(6)>@va.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Possible interview TODAY with VA Secretary --Larry O'Conner Show

Great. Let's lock it in. Can you send me the call-in number?

James

James Hutton
Assistant Secretary
Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20420
Office: <(b)(6)>
Email: <(b)(6)>@va.gov
Twitter: @jehutton
VA on [Facebook](#) . [Twitter](#) . [YouTube](#) . [Flickr](#) . [Blog](#)

From: Larry O'Connor <(b)(6)>@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 9:09 AM
To: Hutton, James <(b)(6)>@va.gov>
Cc: Cashour, Curtis <(b)(6)>@va.gov> <(b)(6)>@va.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Possible interview TODAY with VA Secretary --Larry O'Conner Show

Yes, I would.

5pm would be ideal.

On Mon, Jun 15, 2020, 8:46 AM Hutton, James <(b)(6)>@va.gov> wrote:
Larry,

Would you be interested in interviewing by phone Secretary Wilkie today? He will be participating in today's presidential roundtable focused on Fighting for America's Seniors and would be glad to speak with you afterwards.

He can be available between 4-6 p.m. today? Please let me know if you're interested.

James

James Hutton
Assistant Secretary
Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20420

Office (b)(6)

Email: [redacted]@va.gov

Twitter: @jehutton

VA on [Facebook](#) . [Twitter](#) . [YouTube](#) . [Flickr](#) . [Blog](#)

Larry O'Connor Contact Information and Biography

Call in time on June 15, 5:00 p.m. (Eastern)

KABC HOTLINE (b)(6)

Larry O'Connor is a radio talk show host on Washington DC's WMAL where he hosts the afternoon drive time program "The Larry O'Connor Show." He is also the Online Editor for The Weekly Standard. He is a regular guest on Fox News and has also been seen on ABC News, The PBS Newshour and MSNBC. He has been a frequent guest host for nationally-syndicated hosts Dennis Miller and Hugh Hewitt.

Before The Weekly Standard, he served as the Editor-at-large for HotAir.com and before that was with the ground-breaking social media site IJReview.com. While at IJR O'Connor was part of the content team that helped grow the start-up into one of the top social media performers on the Internet with Facebook interaction rivaling major sites like USA Today, Huffington Post and Yahoo. When IJR co-sponsored the Republican Presidential debate in New Hampshire with ABC News, O'Connor was selected to represent the organization with a question for the candidates.

In 2010, he has hired by Internet trailblazer Andrew Breitbart to be Editor-in-Chief of Breitbart.tv. During his tenure at Breitbart, the site he was responsible for (Breitbart.tv) was consistently the highest trafficked page within the Breitbart family, out-performing Big Government, Big Hollywood and Big Journalism. In 2012 he was involved in the transition to a completely new, redeveloped multi-vertical website known now as Breitbart News Network. He became Editor-at-large and provided oversight and strategic coordination for the development of the site as it exists today.

While at Breitbart, O'Connor became a trailblazer himself by creating one of the first, live, daily Internet radio programs/podcast which quickly attracted a large and loyal following and led to his high-profile guest-hosting appearances and, eventually, his current job on WMAL in Washington DC. He became one of the few on-line radio hosts to successfully transition to a major-market radio career. After a five-year tenure, O'Connor left Breitbart News, shortly after the founder's death.

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 12:17:02 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Facility tour

From: RLW
Sent: Fri, 5 Jun 2020 10:41:31 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: En Route to Korean War Memorial

From: RLW
Sent: Fri, 19 Jun 2020 20:21:56 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: En Route to VACO

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 12:19:04 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Lunch

From: RLW
Sent: Fri, 5 Jun 2020 10:41:38 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: En Route to VACO

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 22 Jun 2020 12:00:55 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Phone Call w/ Senator Susan Collins
Attachments: EBS for SecVA telecon with Senator Collins- (ME) - 24 June 2020.docx



EXECUTIVE BRIEFING SUMMARY

Senator Susan Collins (R-ME)

Wednesday, June 24, 2020, 9:30-9:45AM

The Senator will call the Secretary

at this number: (b)(6)

June 24, 2020 Personal Call w/ Senator Collins

OCLA POC: (b)(6)

Driver: Secretary requested a call

Subject: (unsure of the topic or driver)

Participants: Senator Collins **VA:** SECVA

PURPOSE OF EVENT/MEETING:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decisional | <input type="checkbox"/> Informational | <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Remarks | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> Courtesy Call |

OVERVIEW OF EVENT:

The Senator will call the Secretary at 9:30 at this number: (b)(6)

BACKGROUND:

- The Secretary is long acquainted with the Senator. A trip was planned for April 1-3 to visit VA facilities in Maine but was cancelled due to COVID-19 safety precautions. The trip anticipated visiting the Aroostock County CBOC, a Vet Center, and Veterans cemetery in Caribou; then the VA Maine Healthcare System– Togus campus, to include a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Fisher House.
- June 11- Brief call w/ USB Lawrence prior to his tele-townhall with Maine Veterans. The Senator highlighted that Maine has 2nd largest Veteran population per capita; also emphasized the rurality of Maine. Was appreciative that USB Lawrence was doing the tele-townhall with Maine Veterans, and shared the information about the TTH on her social media.
- May 11—Co-signed letter to Secretary regarding telehealth. Response is final and being prepped for Secretary signature as of June 22.
- April 28—Co-signed letter to Secretary regarding PPE and testing kits. Response signed out on June 16.
- April 3—Co-signed letter to Secretary regarding Economic Impact Payments (EIP). Response signed out June 16.
- March 5—Delegation letter to the Secretary (this one led by Rep Jared Golden, but signed by all 4 MOCs from Maine) regarding a request for a Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (RRTP) at Togus. The

delegation has been advocating for this; VISN 1 submitted an out-of-cycle request for a capital project--is being reviewed in VA's SCIP process. Response letter has been slow/delayed but is now final and expect signature soon.

- November 19, 2019—Delegation letter to Secretary regarding Maine State Veterans Homes; resulted in equitable relief for some Veterans where VA incorrectly paid per diem for domiciliary care. There are continuing concerns associated with Maine SVHs due to the unique organizational structure—they are not owned/operated by the state as is typical, and state has provided little/no funding in the past.

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 15 Jun 2020 14:00:33 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT WH Roosevelt Room

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 12:19:31 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT/Arrive at Phoenix Airport

From: RLW
Sent: Fri, 5 Jun 2020 12:16:59 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: RAH
Attachments: June 8 2020.docx

DAILY BRIEFING BOOK

Monday, June 8, 2020

SECRETARY ROBERT L. WILKIE

7:45 – 8:15 am	Daily Sync Mtg	SECVA Residence	
10:00 – 10:30 am	FaceTime Interview w/ Royale Da, KOAT-TV, Albuquerque (ABC affiliate)	SECVA Residence	Tab 1
10:30 – 11:00 am	FaceTime Interview w/ Sara VerHaugue, Spectrum News, Buffalo, NY	SECVA Residence	Tab 2
11:00 – 11:30 am	Prep for WH Task Force Mtg 1-877-446-3914 Code: (b)(6)	SECVA Residence	
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Lunch	SECVA Residence	
TBD	(T) WH Task Force Meeting	SECVA Residence	
3:30 – 4:00 pm	Phone Call w/ Senator Cotton ** He will call SECVA Cell	SECVA Residence	Tab 3
3:30 – 5:00 pm	VHA COVID-19 Update 1-844-376-0278 Code: (b)(6)	SECVA Residence	

TAB 1

Page 04 of 11

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information

TAB 2

Page 06 of 11

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information

TAB 3



EXECUTIVE BRIEFING SUMMARY

Call with Senator Tom Cotton

June 8, 2020; 3:30pm

Telecon (Cotton will call SECVA at (b)(6))

POINT OF CONTACT: (b)(6) OCLA, (b)(6) (cell)

PURPOSE OF EVENT/MEETING: (check one)

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decisional | <input type="checkbox"/> Informational | <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Remarks | <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Courtesy Call |

OVERVIEW OF EVENT: *A proactive telecon with the Senator.*

SECVA ROLE: *Secretary Wilkie will participate in a telecon with the Senator to discuss his priorities for the Department since their last meeting (recap below).*

RECAP OF PREVIOUS MEETING (June 24, 2019):

- *The Secretary and Sen. Cotton discussed a variety of topics, including MISSION Act, opioid use, possible legislation on marijuana use, smoking bans, bibles in VA chapels, and VA Arkansas facilities in general, including market assessments and asset infrastructure assessments that are currently underway.*
- *The Senator asked about the Yellow Ribbon Program, which does not fall under VA, and the Secretary suggested he contact DoD for a response.*
- *The Secretary promised to send Cotton a copy of a book mentioned in the meeting.*

ATTENDEES:

- *Robert Wilkie, Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs*
- *Senator Tom Cotton (R-ARK)*

OBJECTIVE:

- *Continue a successful relationship with the Senator.*
- *Address any of the Senator's concerns on Veteran's issues, both in Arkansas and nationally*

BACKGROUND:

- *Senator Cotton is an Army veteran who led a platoon from the 101st Airborne on combat patrols in Iraq, and also served in Afghanistan.*

Sen. Tom Cotton (R-ARK)

Junior Senator

Last Updated: June 4, 2020



Residence: Dardanelle

Born: May 13, 1977; Dardanelle, Ark.

Religion: Methodist

Family: Wife, Anna Cotton; two children

Education: Harvard U., A.B., 1998 (government); Claremont Graduate U., attended, 1998-99; Harvard U., J.D., 2002

Military Service: U.S. Army, 2004-09

Career: Management consultant; lawyer

Political Highlights: U.S. House of Representatives, 2013-15

First Elected: 2014 (1st term)

Last Elected: 2014 (56.5%)

Committee and Subcommittee Assignments

- **Senate Armed Services** (4th of 14 Republicans)
 - AirLand - Chairman
 - Seapower
 - Strategic Forces
- **Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs** (6th of 13 Republicans)
 - Economic Policy - chairman
 - Housing, Transportation, and Community Development
 - Securities, Insurance, and Investment
- **Senate Select Intelligence** (6th of 8 Republicans)
- **Joint Economic** (2nd of 10 Republicans)

Leadership Positions and Party Committee Assignments

- None

Selected Caucus and Special Organization Memberships

- Congressional Veterans Caucus
- Assisted Caregivers Today Caucus

Interest

- An Army veteran who led a platoon from the 101st Airborne on combat patrols in Iraq, and also served in Afghanistan.

VA Issues

VHA Issues

- Inquired about the site selection and status of the Fort Smith CBOC (11/14/19)
- Inquired into the status of a former VA pathologist at the Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks, who was under both a healthcare investigation and criminal investigation for allegations of working while impaired (8/18/19)

VBA Issues

- Interest in Veteran Home Loan Program and refinancing (9/18/19)

NCA Issues

- Inquired about VA's casket reimbursement for unclaimed veterans (10/8/19)

VA-Related Legislation (Sponsored)

116th Congress:

- **S.2475** - To modify the effective date for inclusion of certain members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty in the Yellow Ribbon G.I. Education Enhancement Program, and for other purposes. *Latest Action: Senate - 09/12/2019: Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.*
- **S.646: Full Military Honors Act of 2019** - To amend title 10, United States Code, to require a full military honors ceremony for certain deceased veterans, and for other purposes. *Latest Action: Senate - 03/05/2019: Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.*
- **S.857: A bill to amend title 38**, United States Code, to increase the amount of special pension for Medal of Honor recipients, and for the other purposes. *Latest Action: Senate - 05/22/2019: Full committee hearing held by the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee.*

115th Congress:

- **S.1435: Veterans' Heritage Firearms Act of 2017** - This bill provides a 90-day amnesty period during which veterans and their family members can register in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record any firearm acquired before October 31, 1968, by a veteran while a member of the Armed Forces stationed outside the continental United States. *Last Action: Senate - 06/26/2017: Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.*
- **S.1936: A bill to amend title 38**, United States Code, to provide for the designation of State approving agencies for multi-State apprenticeship programs for purposes of the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes. *Last Action: Senate - 10/05/2017: Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.*
- **S.3523: Full Military Honors Act of 2018** - This bill provides full military honors for the funeral of an eligible veteran who:
 - is first interred or inurned in Arlington National Cemetery on or after enactment of this bill,

- was awarded the medal of honor or the prisoner-of-war medal, and
- is not entitled to full military honors because of such veteran's grade.

Last Action: Senate - 12/19/2018: Measure passed in the Senate by unanimous consent.

VHA leadership will continue to host the Coronavirus preparation call **every Tuesday and Friday** at 3:30pm Eastern.

Please remember to mute your phones when you are not speaking. The entire audience may be muted; if you are dialing in, you must press *6 to unmute yourself. If you are able to, using the Skype integrated audio through your computer may provide a better meeting experience

Join Skype Meeting

Trouble Joining? [Try Skype Web App](#)

Join by phone

844-376-0278,	(b)(6)	(East)	English (United States)
844-815-1331,		(East)	English (United States)
844-770-5400,		(East)	English (United States)

[Find a local number](#)

Conference ID: (b)(6)

[Forgot your dial-in PIN?](#) | [Help](#)



From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 15 Jun 2020 14:20:58 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: 1:00pm Wheels up from DCA to Dallas/Ft. Worth

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 12:19:54 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Exec time

From: RLW
Sent: Fri, 5 Jun 2020 12:39:14 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: TRAVEL- Pennsylvania

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 15 Jun 2020 14:21:36 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Layover in DFW

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 12:20:18 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Gate Transition

From: RLW
Sent: Fri, 5 Jun 2020 12:42:29 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: TRAVEL - Hampton, Virginia & Butner, North Carolina
Attachments: Final 1 - Hampton VA, Butner NC - Jul 30 - Aug 1 2020.pdf

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FINAL 1

THE HONORABLE ROBERT L. WILKIE
SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
HAMPTON, VA & BUTNER, NC
JULY 30 – AUGUST 2, 2020

TRAVEL PARTY:

The Honorable Robert Wilkie
Brooks Tucker, Acting Chief of Staff
Michael Meador, Special Assistant to the Secretary
Traci Scott, Senior Advisor for Strategic Communications
John Mashburn, Senior Advisor (NC only)

(b)(6)

EXECUTIVE PROTECTION:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Special Agent, Detail Lead
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Special Agent (Adv-Hampton)
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Special Agent, (Adv-Butner)
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Special Agent, Chase Driver
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Special Agent, Shift Lead
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Special Agent, Limo Driver

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6)

EVENT / SITE POCS:

(b)(6) EA to the Director, Hampton VAMC
(b)(6) EA to the Director, Hampton VAMC
John Rogers, Public Affairs Officer, Hampton VAMC
Angela Schulze, Director of Scheduling, Office of Senator Tillis

(b)(6)

SCHEDULING POCS:

Albert Guerrero, Special Assistant, OSVA (Adv-Hampton)
Edward “Ted” Diaz, Staff Assistant, OSVA (Adv-Butner)
(b)(6) Travel Coordinator, OSVA

(b)(6)

Thursday, July 30, 2020	Attire: Business
Weather: Washington, DC H-°; L-° - Hampton, VA H-°; L-° -	

1330-1610 ERT / ARRIVE COURTYARD HAMPTON COLISEUM CENTRAL (2 hr 40 min)
1917 Coliseum Dr, Hampton, VA 23666
Drive time: 2 hr 40 min / 175 miles

RON

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Friday, July 31, 2020

Attire: Business

Weather:	Hampton, VA	H-°; L-° -
	Butner, NC	H-°; L-° -

0800-0815 ERT / ARRIVE HAMPTON VA MEDICAL CENTER (15 min)

100 Emancipation Dr, Hampton, VA 23667

Drive Time: 15 min / 4.9 miles

Greeted By:

- David C. Collins, Medical Center Director
- Dr. (b)(6) Chief of Staff

0820-0830 INTRODUCTION TO COVID-19 ENTRANCE SCREENING AREA (10 min)

Campus entry tent or main entrance port cochere (inclement weather)

(Health Questionnaire, Masks, Wrist-bans)

0835-0920 LEADERSHIP BRIEFING (45 min)

Location: Bldg 135 Room A102

Topics:

- COVID Responses
- Access
- Wait Times
- Suicide Prevention
- Tent Operations

Attendees:

- The Honorable Robert L. Wilkie, Secretary of Veterans Affairs
- The Honorable Brooks Tucker, Acting Chief of Staff
- Mr. Michael Meador, Special Assistant to the Secretary
- Ms. Traci Scott, Senior Advisor for Strategic Communications
- Mr. Albert Guerrero, Special Assistant, OSVA
- Mrs. Deanne Seekins-VISN 6 Network Director
- David C. Collins-Executive Director, Hampton VAMC
- Mrs. Lindaman-Associate Director Patient Care Services
- Dr. (b)(6) Chief of Staff
- Dr. (b)(6) Associate Director for Operations
- Dr. (b)(6) Infection Control (Physician)
- John Rogers-Public Affairs Officer

Via Skype:

- Dr. (b)(6) Infection Control
- Dr. (b)(6) Primary Care
- Dr. (b)(6) Singh, Mental Health
- (b)(6) Suicide Prevention

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0925-0935 COIN RECOGNITION (10 min)

Location: Historical Lobby

Recipients: (5)

- (b)(6) Nurse Practitioner/Intermediate Care Center
- Dr. (b)(6) Infection Control (Physician)
- Dr. (b)(6) Infection Control (Physician)
- (b)(6) Wound Care Nurse (Registered Nurse)
- (b)(6) Emergency Management Specialist

0935-0940 EXECUTIVE TIME (5 min)

0940-1025 FACILITY TOUR (45 min)

Tour Led By:

- David C. Collins, Medical Center Director
- Dr. (b)(6) Chief of Staff

Highlighted Areas:

- Medical Sub-Specialty Work Clinic
- Pharmacy
- Prime 1 & 2
- Prime 6

1030-1035 MEDIA PREP (5 min)

Location: Bldg110B (Prime 6 Group Room)

1035-1100 MEDIA AVAILABILITY (25 min)

Location: Historical Lobby

- WVEC-TV (ABC), interview with Mike Gooding

1105-1135 ERT / ARRIVE CHESAPEAKE VA CLINIC (30 min)

1987 S Military Hwy, Chesapeake, VA 23320

Drive Time: 30 min / 24.5 miles

Greeted By:

- Dr. (b)(6)

1140-1210 LEADERSHIP BRIEFING / FACILITY TOUR (30 min)

Tour Led By:

- Nurse Manager Ms. (b)(6)

Highlighted Areas:

- Clinic and expansion (PC, Telehealth, MH Services)

1215-1235 ERT / ARRIVE LUNCH (20 min)

1235-1305 LUNCH (30 min)

Last updated by
Mission Operations
7/29/2020 1711

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1305-1310 ERT / ARRIVE VIRGINIA BEACH VA CLINIC (5 min)

244 Clearfield Ave, Virginia Beach, VA 23462

Drive Time: 5 min / 1.6 miles

Greeted By:

- Dr. (b)(6)

1315-1345 FACILITY BRIEFING / FACILITY TOUR (30 min)

Tour Led By:

- Ms. (b)(6)

Highlighted Areas:

- Clinic and expansion (PC, Telehealth, MH Services)

1350-1705 ERT / ARRIVE EMBASSY SUITES RALEIGH (3 h 15 min)

4700 Creedmoor Rd., Raleigh, NC 27612

Drive Time: 3 h 15 min / 192 miles

- 1355-1420 - Telephone Interview from vehicle (25 min)
Daily Press of Hampton, telephone interview with Lisa Vernon Sparks
- 1440-1500 - Telephone Interview from vehicle (20 min)
The John Fredericks Radio Show, telephone interview with John Fredericks

RON

Saturday, August 1, 2020

Attire: Business

Weather:	Butner, NC	H-°; L-° -
	Washington, DC	H-°; L-° -

0910-0945 ERT / ARRIVE VETERANS LIFE CENTER (20 min)

1005 9th St, Butner, NC 27509

Drive Time: 35 min / 24.2 miles

Greeted By:

- Senator Thom Tillis
- Mrs. (b)(6)
- John Turner, Founder and Senior Advisor

1000–1115 VETERANS LIFE CENTER RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY (1 hr)

Run of show:

- 0955 – Col. David Hayden, Board Chair will instruct guests to take their seats and the program will begin shortly.
- 1000 – Welcome - Col. David Hayden
- 1002 – Recognition of Distinguished Guest

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- 1005 – Introduction of Butner Town Mayor, Terry Turner – Col. David Hayden
- 1006 - Pledge – Lead by Butner Town Mayor, Terry Turner
- 1007 – Introduction of Marilyn Avila, former NC State Senator (5 terms) and incoming VLC Board Chair – Col. David Hayden
- 1008 - Invocation - The Honorable Marilyn Avila (incoming board chair)
- 1010 – Introduction of NC Governor Roy Cooper or Representative – Col. David Hayden
- 1011 - Remarks from Governor Cooper or designated representative (5 minutes)
- 1017 – Introduction of Veterans Administration Secretary, Robert Wilkie – Col. David Hayden
- 1018 - Remarks from Secretary Wilkie - Veterans Administration (5 minutes)
- 1024 - Introduction of United States Senator Thom Tillis – Col. David Hayden
- 1025 - Remarks from US Senator Thom Tillis (5 minutes)
- 1031 - Remarks from John Turner - Founder of The Veterans Life Center (5 minutes)
- 1037 - SECU Check Presentation \$1 million dollar naming rights gift – Mike Lord – CEO and President will deliver brief remarks and Jama Campbell, SECU Foundation Executive Director will present check to John Turner (not sure who else should be on hand for this presentation)
- 1042 – Ribbon Cutting – John Turner with dignitaries standing on each side
- 1050 – Closing and thank you – Co. David Hayden
- 1055 – End; Transit to Press Event

Attendees:

- Senator Thom Tillis
- Representative Larry Yarborough NC House
- Representative Holly Grange NC House
- Carole Weiss North Carolina Daughters of the American Revolution State Regent
- Ambassador Jim Cain
- Robert Hosford USDA Rural Development State Director
- Victor R. Armstrong, Director of NC Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services
- State Employee Credit Union Foundation
- Dee Ann Seekins VISN 6
- (b)(6) CEO Colliers International
- North Carolina Housing Finance Agency (attendee not identified yet)

1100-1115 PRESS EVENT (15 min)

Location: TBD

1115-1200 LUNCH / TOUR (30 min)

Location: Courtyard

*Box Lunches to be provided

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1205-1215 EXECUTIVE TIME (10 min)

1215-1245 FIRESIDE CHAT WITH SENATOR TILLIS AND SECRETARY WILKIE (30 min)

Location: TBD

1300-1315 ERT / ARRIVE LUNCH (15 min)

1315-1400 LUNCH (45 min)

1400-1700 ERT / ARRIVE RESIDENCE (3 hr)

MC

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TOTAL TIME BY LOCATION:

Hampton VAMC	2 h 55 min
Chesapeake VA Clinic	40 min
Lunch	30 min
Virginia Beach VA Clinic	40 min
Veterans Life Center	3 h 15 min

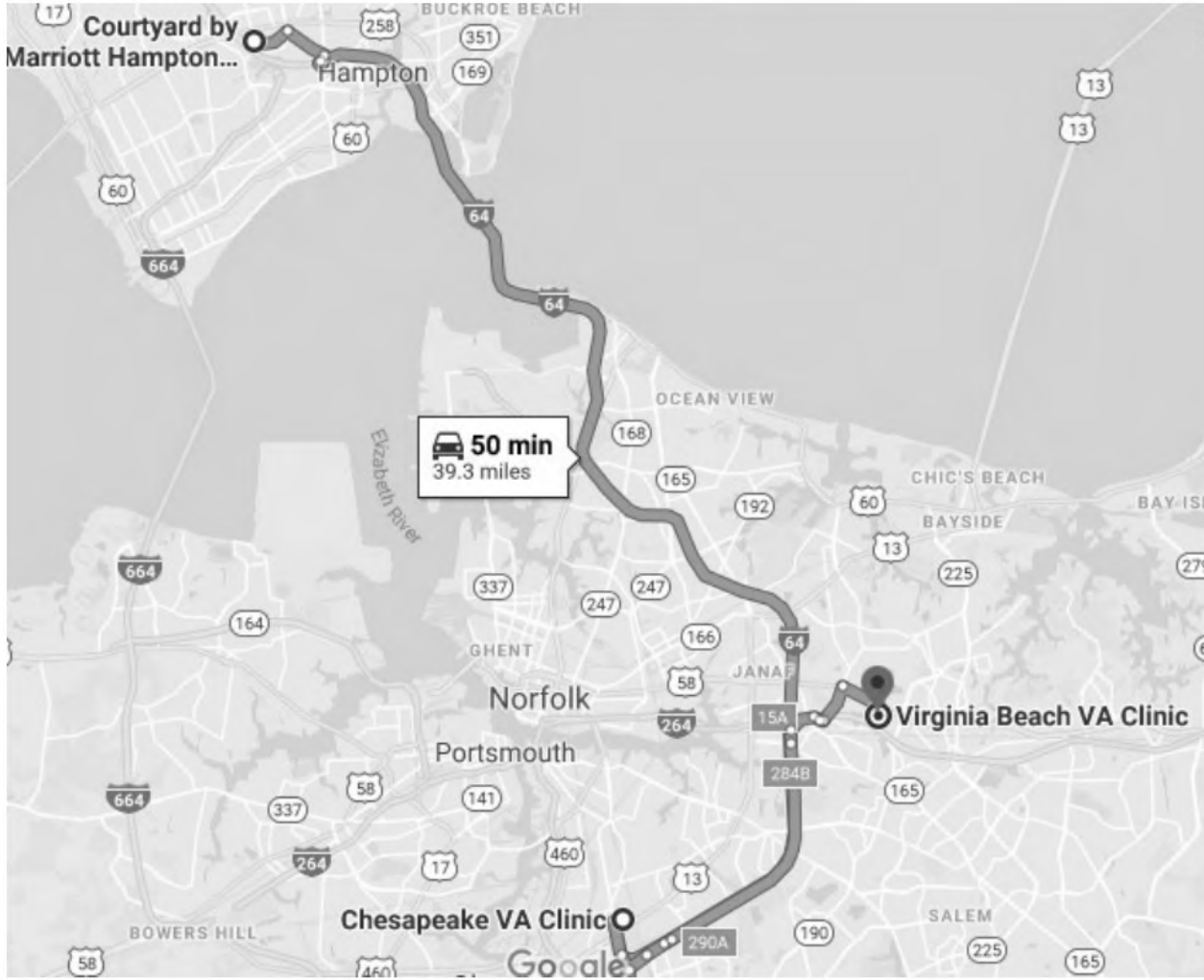
MAPS

Hampton, VA



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Hampton, VA - Chesapeake, VA – Virginia Beach, VA

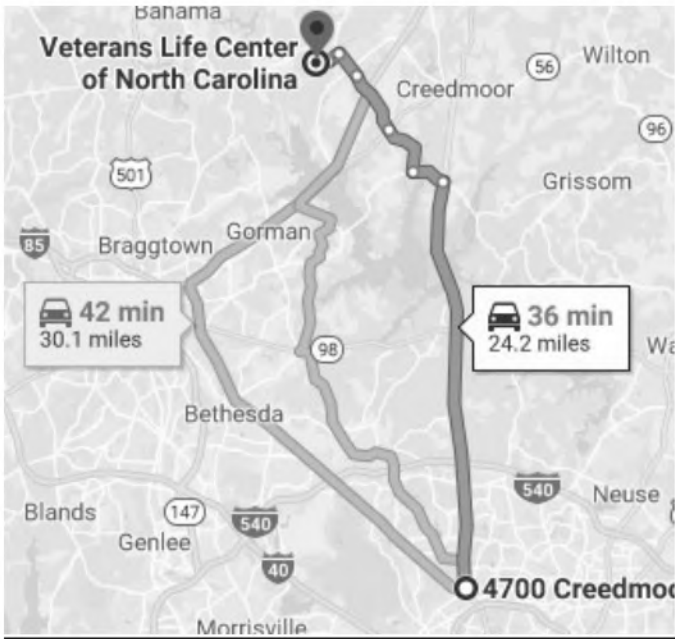


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Virginia Beach, VA – Raleigh, NC



Raleigh, NC – Butner



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Butner, NC – Washington, DC



<u>LOCATION(S)</u>	<u>DRIVE TIME</u>	<u>MILES</u>
VACO - RON Hotel	2 h 40 min	175 miles
RON Hotel - Hampton VAMC	15 min	4.9 miles
Hampton VAMC - Chesapeake VA Clinic	30 min	24.5 miles
Chesapeake VA Clinic - Lunch	20 min	12.9 miles
Lunch - Virginia Beach VA Clinic	5 min	1.6 miles
Virginia Beach VA Clinic – Embassy Suites Raleigh	3 h 10 min	192 miles
Embassy Suites Raleigh – Veterans Life Center	35 min	24.2 miles
Veterans Life Center – Residence	3 h 45 min	

HOTEL OPTIONS

Last updated by
Mission Operations
7/29/2020 1711

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Hampton, VA

1. Courtyard Hampton Coliseum Central
1917 Coliseum Dr, Hampton, VA 23666
(757) 838-3300
2. Embassy Suites Hampton Roads
1700 Coliseum Dr, Hampton, VA 23666
(757) 827-8200
3. Hyatt Place Hampton Convention Ctr
1905 Coliseum Dr, Hampton, VA 23666
(757) 788-8400

Raleigh, NC

*Distance to Veterans Life Center included

1. Embassy Suites Raleigh
4700 Creedmoor Rd., Raleigh, NC 27612
(919) 881-0000
35 min / 24.2 miles
2. DoubleTree Hotel Raleigh / Crabtree
4100 Glenwood Ave., Raleigh, NC 27612
(919) 782-8600
36 min / 24.9 miles
3. Candlewood Suites – Raleigh / Crabtree
4433 Lead Mine Rd., Raleigh, NC 27612
(919) 789-4840
37 min / 24.7 miles
4. Homewood Suites by Hilton
5400 Homewood Banks Dr., Raleigh, NC 27612
(919) 785-1131
37 min / 24.9miles
5. Hilton Garden Inn – Raleigh / Crabtree (SECVA stayed here last trip thru Raleigh 12/9/19)
3912 Arrow Dr., Raleigh, NC 27612
(919) 703-2525
39 min / 25.2 miles

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LUNCH OPTIONS

31 July 2020

1. Chick-Fil-A

4752 Virginia Beach Blvd, Virginia Beach, VA 23462

(20 mins from Chesapeake VA Clinic; 5 mins from Va Beach Clinic)

2. McDonald's

745 Newtown Rd, Norfolk, VA 23502

(25 mins from Chesapeake VA Clinic)

Flight Options (Raleigh-Durham)

Saturday, Aug 1, 2020

RDU-WAS

1. United Airlines 6130 RDU-IAD 1500-1609 *(1 h 9 min)*

2. American Airlines 4366 RDU-PHL 1605-1736 *(1 h 31 min)*
Layover – Philadelphia International Airport 1736 – 1825 *(49 min)*
American Airlines 5294 PHL-BWI 1825 – 1933 *(1 h 8 min)*

3. Delta Airlines 2622 RDU-ATL 1630-1754 *(1 h 24 min)*
Layover – Atlanta International Airport 1754 - 1913 *(1 h 19 min)*
Delta Airlines 0760 ATL-BWI 1913 – 2105 *(1 h 52 min)*

4. American Airlines 1794 RDU-CLT 1801-1911 *(1 h 10 min)*
Layover – Philadelphia International Airport 1736 – 1825 *(49 min)*
American Airlines 5294 PHL-BWI 1825 – 1933 *(1 h 8 min)*

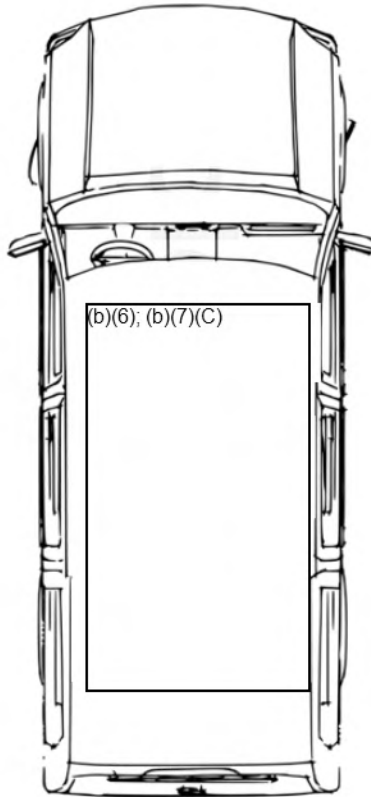
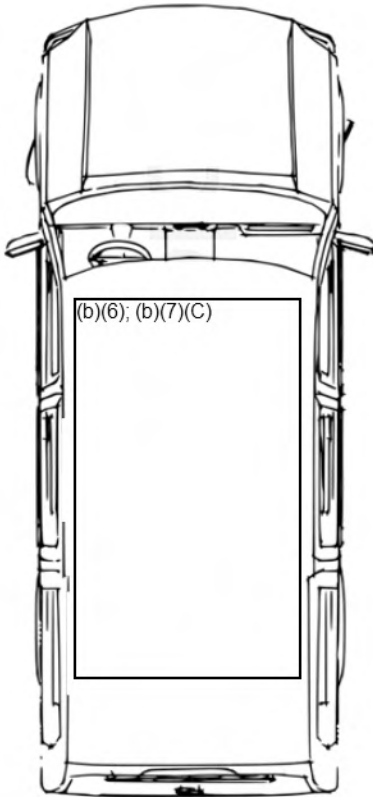
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MOTORCADE LOAD PLAN
June 30 – Aug 1, 2020

ALL MOVEMENTS:

LIMO:

CHASE:



From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 22 Jun 2020 12:48:59 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Phone Call w/ Bill Bennett

(b)(6)

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 15 Jun 2020 14:22:09 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: 5:00pm Wheels up from DFW to PHX

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 16:54:02 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Travel to Maine

From: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 12:41 PM
To: (b)(6) @va.gov>; (b)(6) @va.gov>;
(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: SECVA Invite for Acadia National Cemetery

YES – and remember we are HOLDING 8/26 for Illinois.

From: (b)(6) @va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 12:28 PM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @va.gov>; (b)(6) @va.gov>;
(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: SECVA Invite for Acadia National Cemetery

Out of curiosity, does his schedule allow for site visits on Friday Aug 28?

(b)(6)

Office of the Secretary
Director of Mission Operations
810 Vermont Ave. Washington, DC

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) @va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 10:46 AM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @va.gov>; SecVAinvites <SecVAinvites@va.gov>; OSVA Support
Ops <OSVASupportOps2@va.gov>
Cc: (b)(6) @va.gov>; Howard, Tom (NCA) <(b)(6) @va.gov>; (b)(6)
(b)(6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: SECVA Invite for Acadia National Cemetery

thanks

From: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 10:27 AM
To: SecVAinvites <SecVAinvites@va.gov>; OSVA Support Ops <OSVASupportOps2@va.gov>
Cc: (b)(6) @va.gov>; Howard, Tom (NCA) <(b)(6) @va.gov>; (b)(6)
(b)(6) @va.gov>
Subject: FW: SECVA Invite for Acadia National Cemetery

The Secretary has accepted the attached invitation in Jonesboro, Maine. Event will take place on 29 August (requested time is 11:00am). Remarks required. Thank you,

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 9:36 AM
To: (b)(6); (b)(6); (b)(6)@va.gov; (b)(6); (b)(6); (b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Howard, Tom (NCA) (b)(6)@va.gov; (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: SECVA Invite for Acadia National Cemetery

Good morning,
Invitation for SECVA to deliver keynote speech at the dedication ceremony, this was originally scheduled for July 11th. We are currently discussing how the event will look based on local guidance, we plan to invite dignitaries, congressional representatives, VSO's, medial, and other stakeholders but not sure if it will be safe to open to the general public. As more information becomes available we will pass along, let me know if you have any questions.

(b)(6)

National Cemetery Administration
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420
T: (b)(6) C: (b)(6)

From: RLW
Sent: Fri, 5 Jun 2020 18:53:44 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: TRAVEL - Cleveland, Dayton, Columbus, OH

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 22 Jun 2020 14:24:39 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: RAH
Attachments: June 23 2020.docx

DAILY BRIEFING BOOK

Tuesday, June 23, 2020

SECRETARY ROBERT L. WILKIE

7:45 – 8:15 am	Daily Sync Mtg	SECVA Suite	
9:00 – 9:30am	Bi-Weekly Call w/ Chairwoman Wasserman Schultz ** she will call (b)(6)	SECVA Suite	Tab 1
10:00 – 10:30 am	FaceTime Interview w/ Walt Kane, News 12 New Jersey (Altice, Edison, NJ)	SECVA Suite	Tab 2
10:30- 11:00 am	FaceTime Interview w/ WTAJ – CBS, Altoona, PA	SECVA Suite	Tab 3
11:00 – 11:30 am	Prep for WH Task Force Meeting 1-877-446-3914 Code: (b)(6)	SECVA Suite	
11:30am-12:30pm	Lunch	SECVA Suite	
12:30- 12:45 pm	Opening Remarks – Video Teleconference Women Veteran Roundtable	DEPSEC Suite	Tab 4
1:00 – 1:30 pm	Weekly Call w/ HVAC Takano & Roe 1-877-446-3914 Code: (b)(6)	SECVA Suite	Tab 5
3:30 – 5:00 pm	VHA COVID-19 Update 1-844-376-0278 Code: (b)(6) #	SECVA Suite	
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Senator Ernst Town Hall 1-877-229-8523 Code: (b)(6)	SECVA Residence	Tab 6

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 15 Jun 2020 14:23:02 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT/Arrive at The Camby Hotel

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 17:54:39 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: IT Folks to work on SecVA Cell Phone to update

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 8 Jun 2020 09:59:46 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: En Route to Residence

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 22 Jun 2020 14:54:55 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Executive Time

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 15 Jun 2020 14:23:59 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: 7:53am - Wheels up from PHX to DEN

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 18:22:04 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT/Arrive at DCA airport

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 8 Jun 2020 11:57:09 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: RAH
Attachments: June 9 2020.docx

DAILY BRIEFING BOOK

Tuesday, June 9, 2020

SECRETARY ROBERT L. WILKIE

7:45 – 8:15 am	Daily Sync Mtg	SECVA Residence	
8:30 – 9:00 am	Call w/ A/DEPSEC, A/COS, & DCOS 1-877-446-3914 Code: (b)(6)	SECVA Residence	
9:00 – 9:30 am	Phone Call w/ Chairwoman Wasserman Schultz 1-800-767-1750 Code: (b)(6)	SECVA Residence	<u>Tab 1</u>
10:30 – 11:00 am	FaceTime Interview w/ Crystal Britt, KFVS-TV, Cape Girardeau, MO (CBS affiliate)	SECVA Residence	<u>Tab 2</u>
11:00 – 11:30 am	Prep for WH Task Force Mtg 1-877-446-3914 Code: (b)(6)	SECVA Residence	
12:30 – 1:00 pm	Phone Call w/ (b)(6) re: Upcoming Trip *(b)(6) will call your cell	SECVA Residence	<u>Tab 3</u>
1:00 – 1:30 pm	Weekly Phone Call w/ Takano & Roe 1-877-446-3914 Code: (b)(6)	SECVA Residence	<u>Tab 4</u>
3:30 – 4:30 pm	WH Task Force Meeting (b)(6)	SECVA Residence	
3:30 – 5:00 pm	VHA COVID-19 Update 1-844-376-0278 Code: (b)(6) #	SECVA Residence	

TAB 1



EXECUTIVE BRIEFING SUMMARY
Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Tuesday, June 9, 2020
1:00PM Call

May 27, 2020 8:45AM

OM POC: Jon Rychalski, (b)(6)

Driver: Proactive Biweekly Updates

Subject: COVID 19 Response

Participants: Chairwoman Wasserman Schultz, (b)(6) HAC MilConVA

Majority Clerk **VA:** SECVA, Dr. Paul Lawrence, Jon Rychalski, Dr. (b)(6)

PURPOSE OF EVENT/MEETING:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decisional | <input type="checkbox"/> Informational | <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Remarks | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> Courtesy Call |

OVERVIEW OF EVENT:

(b)(5)

COVID19 Obligations

- \$2.322 billion obligated for COVID19 response through June 2nd.
- As of June 5, there were 1,299 active COVID-19 cases in VA.
- VA has tested 204,500 unique patients.

- Funding provided for medical care through supplemental appropriations appears to be sufficient for the immediate health care crisis. The estimates we provided to Congress were based on projections before the impacts of social distancing were seen and felt, but we did see some of those worst-case scenario level situations in parts of the country.
- There were also unanticipated increases to cost of equipment and supplies.
- We are also spending more on State Veteran Homes and nursing homes than anticipated.
- We don't yet know what the impacts of some areas of the country reopening will be on our system.

Does VA have additional funding requirements beyond what was provided in CARES?

(b)(5)

Attachments:

- Weekly COVID-19 obligations

Department of Veterans Affairs
Coronavirus Supplementals Appropriations, Obligations, and Paid Expenditures
 Data as of June 2, 2020
 (Amounts in Thousands)

VA Account	Appropriated	Allocated	Current Total Obligations	Paid Expenditures
CARES Act, P.L. 116-136				
Medical Services	\$ 14,432,000.00	\$ 14,432,000.00	\$ 1,437,395.45	\$ 712,302.61
Medical Community Care	2,100,000.00	2,100,000.00	11,664.93	11,664.93
Medical Support and Compliance	100,000.00	100,000.00	27,768.06	21,157.47
Medical Facilities	606,000.00	606,000.00	37,874.78	27,638.61
Medical Care	17,238,000.00	17,238,000.00	1,514,703.21	772,763.60
Information Technology	2,150,000.00	2,150,000.00	557,599.60	75,545.40
Veterans Benefits Administration	13,000.00	13,000.00	4,023.87	1,090.83
State Home Construction Grants	150,000.00	150,000.00	-	-
General Administration	6,000.00	6,000.00	161.61	116.94
Office of Inspector General	12,500.00	12,500.00	1,314.00	-
VA Total, CARES Act, P.L. 116-136	19,569,500.00	19,569,500.00	2,077,802.29	849,516.77

Families First Coronavirus Response Act, P.L. 116-127				
Medical Services	30,000.00	30,000.00	29,849.46	20,374.61
Medical Community Care	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00
VA Total, Families First Act, P.L. 116-127	60,000.00	60,000.00	59,849.46	50,374.61

Early COVID-19 response efforts may not have used the COVID-19 specific accounting codes. Adjustments are ongoing, and changes will continue to be reflected in future reports. Additionally, weekly reporting may vary from the final monthly SF-133 due to the date of reporting.

Base Funds, P.L. 116-94				
Medical Services			77,520.34	(28,992.92)
Medical Community Care			-	-
Medical Support and Compliance			28,172.37	19,874.52
Medical Facilities			71,710.44	41,447.42
James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center (JALFHCC)			4,404.51	2,887.85
Medical Care			181,807.67	35,216.87
Information Technology			1,217.24	0.00
Veterans Benefits Administration			-	-
National Cemetery Administration			1,141.67	340.34
State Home Construction Grants			-	-
General Administration			73.59	3.59
Office of Inspector General			-	-
VA Total, Base Funds, P.L. 116-94	-	-	184,240.17	35,560.79

Grand Total, All Funds	\$ 19,629,500.00	\$ 19,629,500.00	\$ 2,321,891.92	\$ 935,452.17
-------------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------	------------------------	----------------------

Additional Information on Obligations:

Veterans Health Administration:

As noted above, accounting adjustments will transfer previous obligation against base funding to the COVID-19 supplemental funding. Obligations of note include:

- \$201.54 million for grants to homelessness service providers for Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF) and \$6.577 million in per diem grants for care of Veterans in state homes.
- \$58.933 million for employee uniforms and protective clothing to include: cost of uniforms issued to operating personnel; and items purchased for use as protection against infection, contamination, or injury to a person.
- Of the supplemental funding received via the CARES Act for Medical Services, \$862.922 million has been spent on supplies and equipment through June 2nd. During the week prior, \$116.966 million in supplies and materials and \$120.725 million in equipment was obligated, which includes action taken to secure PPE, test kits, and other large purchases.

TAB 2

Page 08 of 21

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information

Page 09 of 21

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information

TAB 3

**THE HONORABLE ROBERT L. WILKIE
SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
TRAVEL ITINERARY
CHARLOTTE, NC - SALISBURY, NC
JUNE 10-11, 2020**

TRAVELING PARTY:

The Honorable Robert Wilkie
Michael Meador, Special Assistant to the Secretary

(b)(6)

Traci Scott, Senior Advisor for Strategic Communications

(b)(5)

EXECUTIVE PROTECTION:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Special Agent (DL)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

Special Agent (ADV)

EVENT / SITE POCs:

(b)(6) Executive Assistant to the Director, Salisbury VA Medical Center

(b)(6)

Chauncey McLeod, Charlotte Vet Center Director

(b)(6)

SCHEDULING POCs:

(b)(6) Special Assistant, OSVA

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Travel Coordinator, OSVA

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Wednesday, June 10, 2020

Attire:

Business

Weather: Washington, DC H-83°; L-67° - AM Showers
Charlotte, NC H-86°; L-70° - Scattered Thunderstorms

1033-1048 ERT / ARRIVE REAGAN NATIONAL AIRPORT (DCA) (15 min)
1 Aviation Circle, Washington, DC 20001
Drive time: 15 min / 3.6 miles

1148 WHEELS UP TO CHARLOTTE DOUGLAS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (CLT)

American Airlines 1922 DCA-CLT 1148-1313, 1 hr 25 min

1313 WHEELS DOWN TO CHARLOTTE DOUGLAS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (CLT)
5501 Josh Birmingham Parkway, Charlotte, NC 28208

1333-1428 ERT / ARRIVE W.G. (BILL) HEFNER VA MEDICAL CENTER (55 min)
1601 Brenner Avenue, Salisbury, NC 28144
Drive time: 55 min / 48.8 miles

Greeted by:

- Ms. DeAnne M. Seekins, MBA, VHA-CM, VA Mid-Atlantic Health Care Network Director, VISN 6
- Mr. Joseph P. Vaughn, MBA, FACHE, Salisbury VA Healthcare System Medical Center Director

1430-1440 INTRODUCTION TO COVID-19 ENTRANCE SCREENING AREA (10 min)

**Screening will take place in the vehicle upon entering campus*

1440-1540 LEADERSHIP BRIEFING (1 hr)

Location: Building 21, Second Floor, Oncology Conference Room, 2C129-21

Topics:

- Initial COVID Response & Challenges (Traffic Flow, Screening Processes, Scheduling both Employees and Veterans and Uniqueness of each location),
- Creating Reopening Plan & Managing Veterans' Expectations,
- State Veterans Home & North Carolina relationships with the State and Governor, and
- Link with Leadership (Webex Event) & Operation Stress Control.

Attendees:

- The Honorable Robert L. Wilkie, Secretary of Veterans Affairs
- Mr. Michael Meador, Special Assistant to the Secretary
- Ms. Traci Scott, Senior Advisor for Strategic Communications
- Ms. DeAnne M. Seekins, MBA, VHA-CM, VA Mid-Atlantic Health Care Network Director, VISN 6
- Mr. Joseph P. Vaughn, MBA, FACHE, Salisbury VA Healthcare System Medical Center Director
- Ms. Lily Haken MS, LMHC, FACHE, Associate Director
- Dr. James Plunkett MD, Interim Chief of Staff
- Ms. Elizabeth Stroup MSN, RN, NEA-BC, Associate Director for Patient Care Services/Nurse Executive
- Mr. Ronald Maurer Ed.D., Assistant Director
- Dr. (b)(6) MD, Associate Professor of Medicine and Infectious Diseases, Associate Chief of Staff for Medicine (SME)
- Mr. Dave Collins, Administrator, Charlotte HCC
- Ms. Lori Shoaf, Administrator, Kernersville HCC
- Mr. (b)(6) Executive Assistant to Medical Center Director

1540-1550 COVID-19 LINK WITH LEADERSHIP SECVA REMARKS (10 min)

Location: Building 21, Second Floor, Oncology Conference Room, 2C129-21

1550-1555 EXECUTIVE TIME (5 min)

1555-1640 FACILITY TOUR (45 min)

Tour Led By:

- Ms. DeAnne M. Seekins, MBA, VHA-CM, VA Mid-Atlantic Health Care Network Director, VISN 6
- Mr. Joseph P. Vaughn, MBA, FACHE, Salisbury VA Healthcare System Medical Center Director

Highlighted Areas:

- Building 2, ICU
- Building 8, Pathology & Laboratory Medicine Services
- Building 43, Hospice House

1645-1740 ERT / ARRIVE CHARLOTTE MARRIOTT CITY CENTER (55 min)

100 West Trade Street, Charlotte, NC 28202

Drive time: 55 min / 44.2 miles

RON

Thursday, June 11, 2020		Attire:
Business		
Weather:	Charlotte, NC Washington, DC	H-87°; L-68° - PM Thunderstorms H-81°; L-64° - AM Showers

0715-0730 ERT / ARRIVE CHARLOTTE HEALTH CARE CENTER (15 min)

3506 West Tyvola Road, Charlotte, NC 28208-7201

Drive time: 15 min / 5.4 miles

0735-0745 INTRODUCTION TO COVID-19 ENTRANCE SCREENING AREA (10 min)

0745-0830 FACILITY TOUR (45 min)

Tour Led By:

- Ms. DeAnne M. Seekins, MBA, VHA-CM, VA Mid-Atlantic Health Care Network Director, VISN 6
- Mr. Joseph P. Vaughn, MBA, FACHE, Salisbury VA Healthcare System Medical Center Director
- Mr. Charles “Dave” Collins, MHA, MHRM, ACHE, USAF (Retired), Health Care Center Administrator

Highlighted Areas:

- Immediate Access Clinic/OBIA – Dr. (b)(6), HCC Medical Director (10 Mins)
- Dialysis – Ms. (b)(6) Nurse Manager (5 Mins)
- Pharmacy – Dr. (b)(6) HCC Pharmacy Supervisor (10 Mins)

- Ambulatory Surgery Center – Ms. (b)(6) Ambulatory Surgery Center Nurse Manager & Mrs. (b)(6) Endoscopy Nurse Manager (10 Mins)

0830-0845 MEDIA PREP (15 min)

0845-0910 MEDIA INTERVIEW WITH WSOC (25 min)
Location: Front of facility

0915-0941 ERT / ARRIVE CHARLOTTE CBOC (26 min)
8601 University East Drive, Charlotte, NC 28213
Drive time: 26 min / 16.4 miles

0945-0950 INTRODUCTION TO COVID-19 ENTRANCE SCREENING AREA (5 min)

0950-1020 FACILITY TOUR (30 min)

1020-1032 ERT / ARRIVE CHARLOTTE VET CENTER (12 min)
2114 Ben Craig Drive Suite 300, Charlotte, NC 28262
Drive time: 12 min / 4.9 miles
Greeted by:

- Mr. Chauncey McLeod, Director, Charlotte Vet Center
- Ms. Colette Calhoun, Office Manager, Charlotte Vet Center

1035-1100 FACILITY TOUR (25 min)
Tour Led By:

- Mr. Chauncey McLeod, Director, Charlotte Vet Center
- Ms. Colette Calhoun, Office Manager, Charlotte Vet Center

1105-1126 ERT / ARRIVE CHARLOTTE DOUGLAS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (CLT) (21 min)
5501 Josh Birmingham Parkway, Charlotte, NC 28208
Drive time: 21 min / 14.7 miles

1130-1240 EXECUTIVE TIME (1 hr 10 min)

1240-1320 GATE TRANSITION / AIRCRAFT BOARDING (40 min)

1320 WHEELS UP TO REAGAN NATIONAL AIRPORT (DCA)
American Airlines 2834 CLT-DCA 1320-1443, 1 hr 26 min

1443 WHEELS DOWN TO REAGAN NATIONAL AIRPORT (DCA)
1 Aviation Circle, Washington, DC 20001

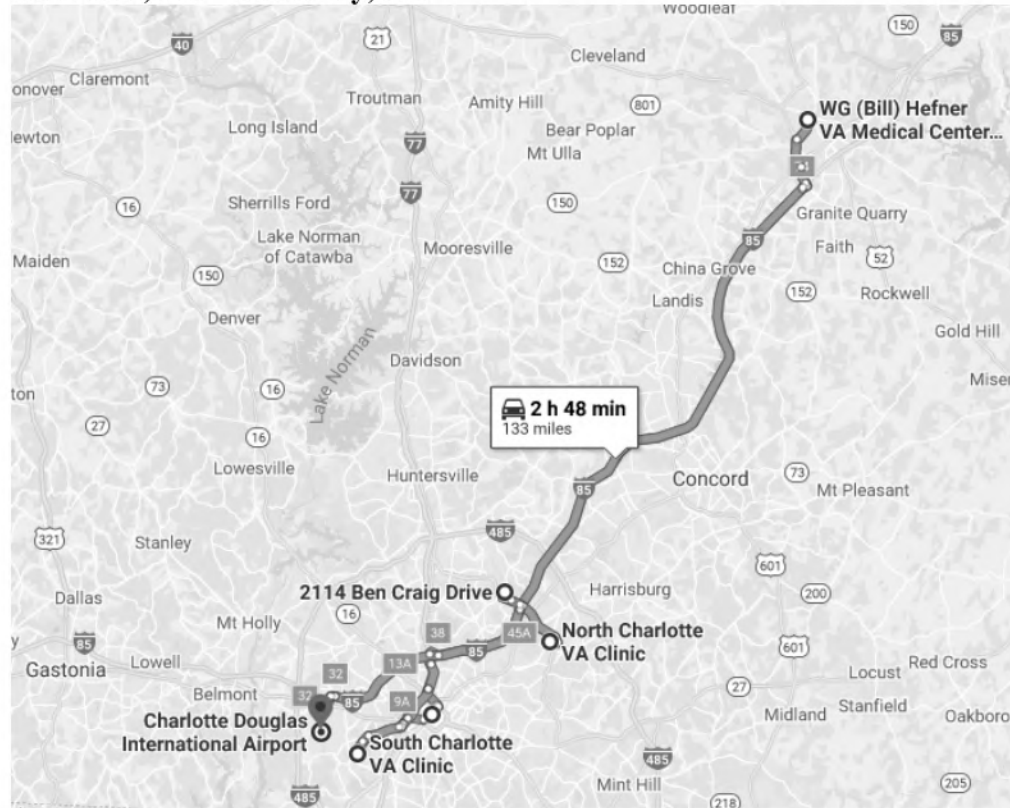
1503-1521 ERT / ARRIVE VA CENTRAL OFFICE (18 min)
810 Vermont Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20420
Drive time: 18 min / 4.6 miles

MC

TOTAL TIME BY LOCATION:

W.G. (Bill) Hefner VA Medical Center	2 hr 10 min
Charlotte Health Care Center	1 hr 35 min
Charlotte CBOC	35 min
Charlotte Vet Center	25 min

Charlotte, NC – Salisbury, NC

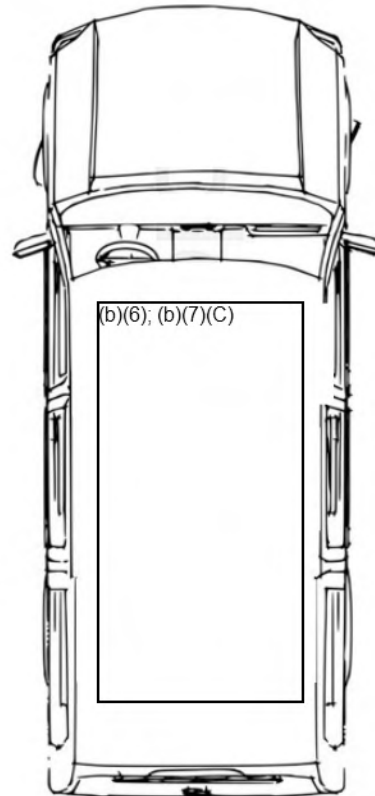
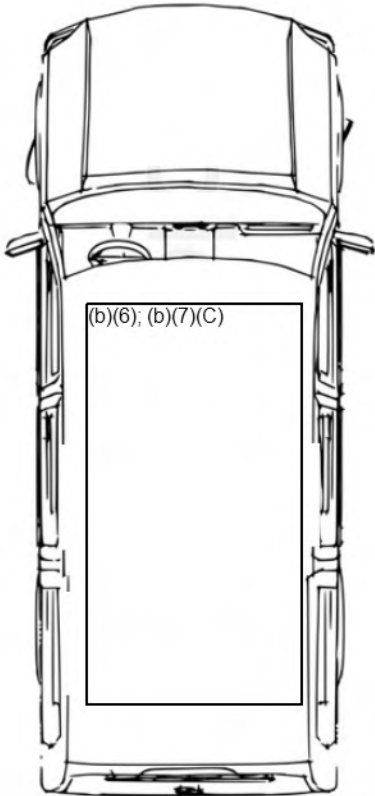


<u>LOCATION(S)</u>	<u>DRIVE TIME</u>
<u>MILES</u>	
Charlotte Douglas International Airport – W.G. (Bill) Hefner VA	55 min
48.8 miles	
W.G. (Bill) Hefner VA – Charlotte Marriott City Center	55 min
44.2 miles	
Charlotte Marriott City Center - Charlotte Health Care Center	15 min
5.4 miles	
Charlotte Health Care Center – Charlotte CBOC	26 min
16.4 miles	
Charlotte CBOC – Charlotte Vet Center	12 min
4.9 miles	
Charlotte Vet Center - Charlotte Douglas International	8 min
4.3 miles	

**MOTORCADE LOAD PLAN
JUNE 10-11, 2020**

**MOVEMENT #1-6: ALL MOVEMENTS
LIMO:**

CHASE:



TAB 4



EXECUTIVE BRIEFING SUMMARY
Chairman Takano/Ranking Member Roe
Tuesday June 9, 2020
1:00 P.M.
Call

June 9, 2020 1:00 P.M

OCLA POC: Cathy Haverstock

Driver: 4 Corners Request

Subject: COVID 19 Response

Participants: Chairman Takano/Ranking Member Roe **VA:** SECVA, Dr. Stone, Dr. Lawrence

PURPOSE OF EVENT/MEETING:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decisional | <input type="checkbox"/> Informational | <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Remarks | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> Courtesy Call |

OVERVIEW OF EVENT:

Two teleconferences with Members to discuss the Department's response to COVID-19.

CONTINGENCY PLANNING TALKING POINTS:

(b)(5)

Page 19 of 21

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information

Page 20 of 21

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information

Page 21 of 21

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information

Page 1 of 1

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 15 Jun 2020 15:06:58 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: RAH
Attachments: June 16 2020.docx

DAILY BRIEFING BOOK

Tuesday, June 16, 2020

SECRETARY ROBERT L. WILKIE

7:45 – 8:15 am	Daily Sync Mtg	SECVA Suite	
9:00 – 10:00 am	Prep for Takano/Roe Call ** 1-800-767-1750 / 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	Phone Call w/ HVAC Takano & Roe ** 1-877-446-3914 / code (b)(6)	SECVA Suite	Tab 1
TBD	White House Task Force Mtg	SECVA Suite	
3:30 – 5:00 pm	VHA COVID19 Update	Rm 1070	
5:00 – 5:30 pm	ERT N Capitol NW, 3rd Floor		
5:30- 6:15 pm	Interview w/ Fox Business “Final Edit”		Tab 2
6:315pm	ERT Residence		

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 18:25:02 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT/Arrive at The Camby hotel

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 8 Jun 2020 15:18:46 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Call w/Deputy, Cos, & DCoS - 1-877-446-3914 - Code - (b)(6)

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 22 Jun 2020 17:26:42 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: WH Korean War Memorial Event w/POTUS

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 18:28:55 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Layover in DEN

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 8 Jun 2020 17:22:15 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Phone Call w/Michael Meador re: Charlotte Trip Update - he will call SecVA cell
Attachments: SECVA Itinerary Draft 5 - Charlotte, NC - Salisbury, NC - June 10-11, 2020.docx

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DRAFT 5

THE HONORABLE ROBERT L. WILKIE
SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
TRAVEL ITINERARY
CHARLOTTE, NC - SALISBURY, NC
JUNE 10-11, 2020

TRAVELING PARTY:

The Honorable Robert Wilkie
Michael Meador, Special Assistant to the Secretary
Traci Scott, Senior Advisor for Strategic Communications

(b)(6)

EXECUTIVE PROTECTION:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C), Special Agent (DL)
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C), Special Agent (ADV)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

EVENT / SITE POCs:

(b)(6), Executive Assistant to the Director, Salisbury VA Medical Center
Chauncey McLeod, Charlotte Vet Center Director

(b)(6)

SCHEDULING POCs:

(b)(6), Special Assistant, OSVA
(b)(6), Travel Coordinator, OSVA

(b)(6)

Wednesday, June 10, 2020

Attire: Business

Weather: Washington, DC H-83°; L-67° - AM Showers
Charlotte, NC H-86°; L-70° - Scattered Thunderstorms

1033-1048 ERT / ARRIVE REAGAN NATIONAL AIRPORT (DCA) (15 min)
1 Aviation Circle, Washington, DC 20001
Drive time: 15 min / 3.6 miles

1148 WHEELS UP TO CHARLOTTE DOUGLAS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (CLT)
American Airlines 1922 DCA-CLT 1148-1313, 1 hr 25 min

1313 WHEELS DOWN TO CHARLOTTE DOUGLAS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (CLT)
5501 Josh Birmingham Parkway, Charlotte, NC 28208

1333-1428 ERT / ARRIVE W.G. (BILL) HEFNER VA MEDICAL CENTER (55 min)
1601 Brenner Avenue, Salisbury, NC 28144
Drive time: 55 min / 48.8 miles

Greeted by:

- Ms. DeAnne M. Seekins, MBA, VHA-CM, VA Mid-Atlantic Health Care Network Director, VISN 6
- Mr. Joseph P. Vaughn, MBA, FACHE, Salisbury VA Healthcare System Medical Center Director

Updated by: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
Mission Operations
6/8/2020 3:34 PM

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DRAFT 5**

1430-1440 INTRODUCTION TO COVID-19 ENTRANCE SCREENING AREA (10 min)

**Screening will take place in the vehicle upon entering campus*

1440-1540 LEADERSHIP BRIEFING (1 hr)

Location: Building 21, Second Floor, Oncology Conference Room, 2C129-21

Topics:

- Initial COVID Response & Challenges (Traffic Flow, Screening Processes, Scheduling both Employees and Veterans and Uniqueness of each location),
- Creating Reopening Plan & Managing Veterans' Expectations,
- State Veterans Home & North Carolina relationships with the State and Governor, and
- Link with Leadership (Webex Event) & Operation Stress Control.

Attendees:

- The Honorable Robert L. Wilkie, Secretary of Veterans Affairs
- Mr. Michael Meador, Special Assistant to the Secretary
- Ms. Traci Scott, Senior Advisor for Strategic Communications
- Ms. DeAnne M. Seekins, MBA, VHA-CM, VA Mid-Atlantic Health Care Network Director, VISN 6
- Mr. Joseph P. Vaughn, MBA, FACHE, Salisbury VA Healthcare System Medical Center Director
- Ms. Lily Haken MS, LMHC, FACHE, Associate Director
- Dr. James Plunkett MD, Interim Chief of Staff
- Ms. Elizabeth Stroup MSN, RN, NEA-BC, Associate Director for Patient Care Services/Nurse Executive
- Mr. Ronald Maurer Ed.D., Assistant Director
- Dr. (b)(6) MD, Associate Professor of Medicine and Infectious Diseases, Associate Chief of Staff for Medicine (SME)
- Mr. Dave Collins, Administrator, Charlotte HCC
- Ms. Lori Shoaf, Administrator, Kernersville HCC
- Mr. (b)(6) Executive Assistant to Medical Center Director

1540-1550 COVID-19 LINK WITH LEADERSHIP SECVA REMARKS (10 min)

Location: Building 21, Second Floor, Oncology Conference Room, 2C129-21

1550-1555 EXECUTIVE TIME (5 min)

1555-1640 FACILITY TOUR (45 min)

Tour Led By:

- Ms. DeAnne M. Seekins, MBA, VHA-CM, VA Mid-Atlantic Health Care Network Director, VISN 6
- Mr. Joseph P. Vaughn, MBA, FACHE, Salisbury VA Healthcare System Medical Center Director

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DRAFT 5**

Highlighted Areas:

- Building 2, ICU
- Building 8, Pathology & Laboratory Medicine Services
- Building 43, Hospice House

1645-1740 **ERT / ARRIVE CHARLOTTE MARRIOTT CITY CENTER** (55 min)
100 West Trade Street, Charlotte, NC 28202
Drive time: 55 min / 44.2 miles

RON

Thursday, June 11, 2020		Attire: Business
Weather:	Charlotte, NC	H-87°; L-68° - PM Thunderstorms
	Washington, DC	H-81°; L-64° - AM Showers

0715-0730 **ERT / ARRIVE CHARLOTTE HEALTH CARE CENTER** (15 min)
3506 West Tyvola Road, Charlotte, NC 28208-7201
Drive time: 15 min / 5.4 miles

0735-0745 **INTRODUCTION TO COVID-19 ENTRANCE SCREENING AREA** (10 min)

0745-0830 **FACILITY TOUR** (45 min)

Tour Led By:

- Ms. DeAnne M. Seekins, MBA, VHA-CM, VA Mid-Atlantic Health Care Network Director, VISN 6
- Mr. Joseph P. Vaughn, MBA, FACHE, Salisbury VA Healthcare System Medical Center Director
- Mr. Charles “Dave” Collins, MHA, MHRM, ACHE, USAF (Retired), Health Care Center Administrator

Highlighted Areas:

- Immediate Access Clinic/OBIA – Dr. (b)(6) HCC Medical Director (10 Mins)
- Dialysis – Ms. (b)(6), Nurse Manager (5 Mins)
- Pharmacy – Dr. (b)(6) HCC Pharmacy Supervisor (10 Mins)
- Ambulatory Surgery Center – Ms. (b)(6) Ambulatory Surgery Center Nurse Manager & Mrs. (b)(6) Endoscopy Nurse Manager (10 Mins)

0830-0845 **MEDIA PREP** (15 min)

0845-0910 **MEDIA INTERVIEW WITH WSOC** (25 min)

Location: Front of facility

Updated by: (b)(6)
Mission Operations
6/8/2020 3:34 PM

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DRAFT 5**

- 0915-0941** **ERT / ARRIVE CHARLOTTE CBOC** (26 min)
8601 University East Drive, Charlotte, NC 28213
Drive time: 26 min / 16.4 miles
- 0945-0950** **INTRODUCTION TO COVID-19 ENTRANCE SCREENING AREA** (5 min)
- 0950-1020** **FACILITY TOUR** (30 min)
- 1020-1032** **ERT / ARRIVE CHARLOTTE VET CENTER** (12 min)
2114 Ben Craig Drive Suite 300, Charlotte, NC 28262
Drive time: 12 min / 4.9 miles
Greeted by:
- Mr. Chauncey McLeod, Director, Charlotte Vet Center
 - Ms. Colette Calhoun, Office Manager, Charlotte Vet Center
- 1035-1100** **FACILITY TOUR** (25 min)
Tour Led By:
- Mr. Chauncey McLeod, Director, Charlotte Vet Center
 - Ms. Colette Calhoun, Office Manager, Charlotte Vet Center
- 1105-1126** **ERT / ARRIVE CHARLOTTE DOUGLAS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (CLT)** (21 min)
5501 Josh Birmingham Parkway, Charlotte, NC 28208
Drive time: 21 min / 14.7 miles
- 1130-1240** **EXECUTIVE TIME** (1 hr 10 min)
- 1240-1320** **GATE TRANSITION / AIRCRAFT BOARDING** (40 min)
- 1320** **WHEELS UP TO REAGAN NATIONAL AIRPORT (DCA)**
American Airlines 2834 CLT-DCA 1320-1443, 1 hr 26 min
- 1443** **WHEELS DOWN TO REAGAN NATIONAL AIRPORT (DCA)**
1 Aviation Circle, Washington, DC 20001
- 1503-1518** **ERT / ARRIVE RESIDENCE** (15 min)
Drive time: 15 min / 4.4 miles

MC

**FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY – DO NOT DISTRIBUTE
DRAFT 5**

TOTAL TIME BY LOCATION:

W.G. (Bill) Hefner VA Medical Center	2 hr 10 min
Charlotte Health Care Center	1 hr 35 min
Charlotte CBOC	35 min
Charlotte Vet Center	25 min

Charlotte, NC – Salisbury, NC



<u>LOCATION(S)</u>	<u>DRIVE TIME</u>	<u>MILES</u>
Charlotte Douglas International Airport – W.G. (Bill) Hefner VA	55 min	48.8 miles
W.G. (Bill) Hefner VA – Charlotte Marriott City Center	55 min	44.2 miles
Charlotte Marriott City Center - Charlotte Health Care Center	15 min	5.4 miles
Charlotte Health Care Center – Charlotte CBOC	26 min	16.4 miles
Charlotte CBOC – Charlotte Vet Center	12 min	4.9 miles
Charlotte Vet Center - Charlotte Douglas International	8 min	4.3 miles

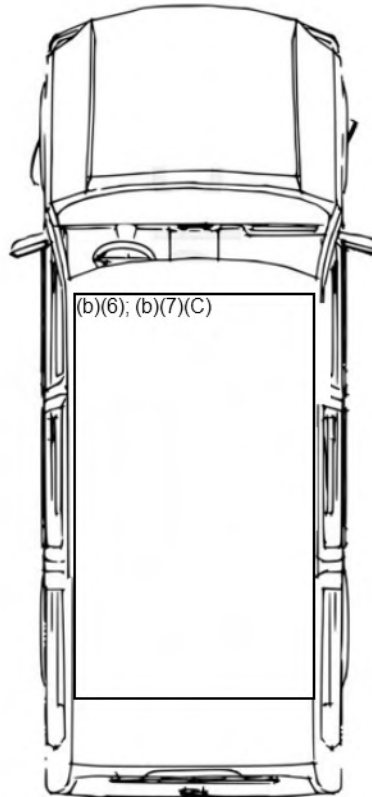
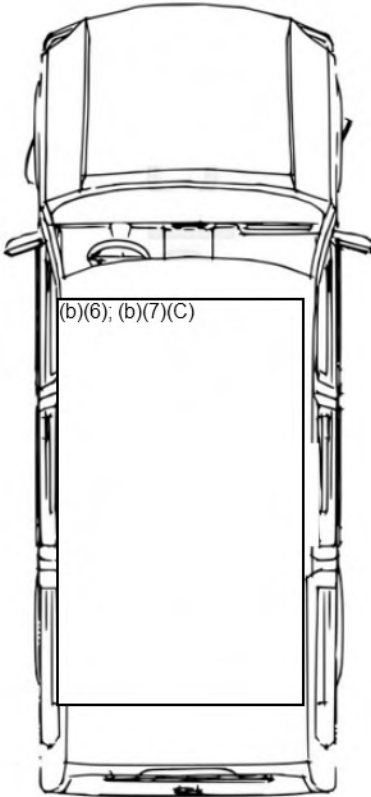
FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY – DO NOT DISTRIBUTE
DRAFT 5

MOTORCADE LOAD PLAN
JUNE 10-11, 2020

MOVEMENT #1-6: ALL MOVEMENTS

LIMO:

CHASE:



From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 23 Jun 2020 14:38:35 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Bi-Weekly Phone Call w/ VSOs
Attachments: July 6 VSO Call Agenda-jrb.docx

Ticket No. A101364FY20

**SecVA's Weekly Brief to VSOs for VAs COVID-19 Response
Agenda**

**Monday, July 6, 2020
2:00pm to 3:00pm EDT)**

Background: A continuation of the bi-weekly briefings to VSOs regarding the VAs response to the COVID-19 challenges.

List of WH & VA Invited Participants:

1. White House: (b)(6) White House
2. VA: Ms. Powers, Mr. Tucker, Dr. Lawrence, Dr. Stone, Mr. Reeves, Ms. Mason, Mr. Hutton, Mr. Syrek, Mr. Hudson, Mr. Sitterly, Dr. Davis, and others.

VSO Participants: 165 invitations emailed to VSOs for this meeting.

Talking Points: See VSO Questions, starting on page 2.

The Call: 1:50pm: Participants are invited to begin dialing in to the call.

- **Call Instructions:** Listed below are the codes and instructions: Please remember all speakers (minus the Secretary and the VSO Liaison) will use be in participant mode.
Dial in number: 877-446-3914
Participant code: (b)(6)
- The participants will hear music until the Moderator joins.
- Participants will unmute by using the unmute code *6
- The Moderator will mute and Unmute participants throughout the call.

- **2:00pm:** VSO Liaison initiates phone call and introduces the Secretary, who then gives greetings and opening comments on general points
- Secretary invites VSO Liaison to ask questions. VSO Liaison will call on the VSOs to ask the selected questions. The Secretary or other leaders discuss as appropriate.
- VSO Liaison repeats for additional questions until complete (with deference to the Secretary's time)
- Secretary closes comments, passes back to VSO Liaison who closes the call.

VSO Questions for 7/6:

1. Various VSOs have asked about the Veterans Treatment Courts and have inquired about incarcerated Veterans during this crisis.

Response:

Prisons and jails generally closed to in-person visits in March 2020, in response to the COVID pandemic. This has prevented in-person outreach visits to incarcerated Veterans, but Veterans Justice Programs staff have worked with their criminal justice partners to connect with Veterans via alternate means – by telephone, or, increasingly, via Veteran Video Connect or other video chat programs.

Many Veterans Treatment Courts (VTCs) have also been forced to close, but many have continued operating virtually at some level, either with full virtual staffing and court sessions held via Zoom, Webex, or other video chat technology, or with modified/reduced connectivity centered around probation officers and Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) specialists maintaining regular phone contact with participants, in the absence of regular court sessions. In many courts, the Veteran mentors who volunteer their time to support Veteran court participants have played a major role in keeping these Veterans engaged not only with their treatment and other goals, but with the Veteran community that develops around each VTC. Volunteer Veteran mentors are a critical component of an effective VTC, and in many courts, their ranks are filled with members of local Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs). Encouraging VSO members to volunteer as mentors in their local VTCs would provide a direct, tangible contribution to these courts and the Veterans who participate in them. Information and training resources for volunteer Veteran mentors is available from Justice for Vets, a division of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals: <https://justiceforvets.org/mentorcorps/>.

Although VA does not provide funding directly to VTCs, VA supports VTCs through the participation of its VJO Specialists as members of VTC treatment teams, and through the health care services it provides to many Veteran participants. VJO Specialists work in 561 VTCs and other Veteran-focused courts, and the VJO workforce continues to grow to help support the increasing number of VTCs and other Veteran-focused criminal justice programs that communities are adopting. Since Fiscal Year 2018, VA has added more than 100 VJO specialist positions at VA medical centers.

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 15 Jun 2020 16:18:06 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Coin Larry Connell

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 18:30:19 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: 12:10pm Wheels up from DEN to MCI

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 29 Jun 2020 19:51:13 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: PREVENTS Virtual Roundtable w/Faith Based Leaders - JC will dial in for SecVA
Attachments: Flyer July 8 Webinar- PREVENTS-Roadmap to Faith BasedKM-cw.pdf, Agenda-
July 8th Event-Final.docx

For Panelists (Presenters) only:

(b)(6) (click # and join)

The Honorable Robert L. Wilkie
Secretary
U.S Department of Veterans Affairs

The PREVENTS Office would like to invite Secretary Wilkie to participate in a virtual roundtable on July 8 at 2:00 PM with national faith-based leaders to discuss the PREVENTS Roadmap and its national public health campaign and PREVENTS Pledge to Prevent Suicide.

In recognition of the power of belonging to a faith-based community as a protective factor against suicide, the discussion at the event will encourage all faith-based leaders to join together the weekend of July 25/26 to use their pulpits to talk to their congregants about suicide prevention using PREVENTS messaging.

We would ask Secretary Wilkie to provide 5-minutes of remarks at the event. Other speakers will include Vice President Michael Pence (invited), Ms. (b)(6) Deputy Director and Special Assistant to the President at The White House (invited), Dr. (b)(6) National Director of Chaplain Service (invited), and Dr. Barbara Van Dahlen, PREVENTS Executive Director.

Given restrictions due to the COVID- 19 pandemic, this will be a virtual event. No media will be invited.

Please let us know if Secretary Wilkie is available to participate. The PREVENTS Office will provide background information and talking points as requested.

Sincerely,

Dr. Barbara Van Dahlen, Ph.D.
Executive Director
PREVENTS



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Center for Faith and Opportunity Initiative (CFOI)
in partnership with

PREVENTS and VA National Chaplain Office,
Featuring the Honorable Robert L. Wilkie, Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Will host the

A Discussion of the PREVENTS Roadmap and Public Health Campaign

on

Wednesday, July 8 2020

from

2:00PM - 3:00PM (EST)

To participate, please join us in Webex by clicking or copying and pasting the following link:
You can join via Computer, Phone Audio and Webex Mobile App

<https://veteransaffairs.webex.com/veteransaffairs/onstage/g.php?MTID=e462bfa8de5ec753b15c12d359fecdaa7>

If you have any questions or require special accommodations, contact
Trulesta Pauling, trulesta.pauling@va.gov, (202) 461-8936 or William Morales, william.morales2@va.gov, (202) 461-0753

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

PREVENTS

The President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans
and End a National Tragedy of Suicide



VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Agenda

PREVENTS Faith-Based Virtual Event
Wednesday, July 8th 2020
2:00pm to 3:00pm eastern
Platform: WebEx (no video for attendees, only audio)

1:55pm *Prelude: Music and short videos before event starts*

I. Welcome and Logistics discussion: (5 minutes)

2:05pm to 2:10pm (b)(6) Acting Director, VA Center for Faith and
Opportunity Initiative

II. Introduction of Speakers (5 minutes)

2:10pm – 2:15pm Dr. Barbara Van Dahlen, PREVENTS Executive Director (5 minutes)

- Speakers: (5 minutes each)
 - Vice President Pence and Karen Pence, Second Lady of the United States
 - (b)(6) Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director for the
White House Office of Public Liaison
 - Robert Wilkie, Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs
 - Dr. (b)(6), VA National Director of Chaplaincy
 - Major General Thomas L. Solhjem, Chief of Chaplains, Office of the Chief of
Chaplains, Department of Defense, DOD Chaplain

III. Presentation of the Roadmap and REACH Campaign and Call to Action

- Dr. Barbara Van Dahlen, PREVENTS Executive Director (10 minutes)

IV. Q & A (questions read into the chat function and then read)

VHA leadership will continue to host the Coronavirus preparation call daily at 3:30pm Eastern.

Please remember to mute your phones when you are not speaking. The entire audience may be muted; if you are dialing in, you must press *6 to unmute yourself. If you are able to, using the Skype integrated audio through your computer may provide a better meeting experience

Join Skype Meeting

Trouble Joining? [Try Skype Web App](#)

Join by phone

844-376-0278,	(b)(6)	(East)	English (United States)
844-815-1331,		(East)	English (United States)
844-770-5400,		(East)	English (United States)

[Find a local number](#)

Conference ID:

[Forgot your dial-in PIN?](#) | [Help](#)



Sent:

Fri, 21 Aug 2020 16:04:18 +0000

This meeting invite will be refreshed weekly. This invite is for the week of 6/1/2020. A new meeting invite will be sent on 6/8.

VHA leadership will continue to host the Coronavirus preparation call daily at 3:30pm Eastern.

Please remember to mute your phones when you are not speaking. The entire audience may be muted; if you are dialing in, you must press *6 to unmute yourself. If you are able to, using the Skype integrated audio through your computer may provide a better meeting experience

Join Skype Meeting

Trouble Joining? [Try Skype Web App](#)

Join by phone

844-376-0278,	(b)(6)	East)	English (United States)
844-815-1331,		East)	English (United States)
844-770-5400,		East)	English (United States)

[Find a local number](#)

Conference ID: (b)(6)

[Forgot your dial-in PIN?](#) | [Help](#)



From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 23 Jun 2020 15:33:11 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Randy Reeves

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 15 Jun 2020 17:47:17 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Radio Interview w/ Joe Pags Show
Attachments: video connect.docx, 06 15 Wilkie WH elder justice summit-jeh.docx, Joe Pags Bio.docx

News Release, June 12, 2020

VA Video Connect visits increase 1000% during COVID-19 pandemic
Video appointments provide Veterans safe, convenient access to care

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today telehealth video appointments using [VA Video Connect](#) increased from approximately 10,000 to 120,000 appointments a week between February and May of 2020.

This increase of 1000% is attributed to VA providers and Veterans taking [precautions against COVID-19](#).

“As we near the three-year anniversary of the launch of VA Video Connect, even during these challenging times, VA has and continues to maintain access to high-quality health care for Veterans,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “As the service becomes more popular, VA remains committed to providing a seamless user experience to ensure Veterans have access to care where and when they need it.”

VA Video Connect allows Veterans and their caregivers to meet virtually with their VA care teams on any computer, tablet, or mobile device with an internet connection. It is one of the largest and most successful digital health platforms in the nation and currently enables more than 25,000 virtual appointments, including [mental health appointments](#) each day.

VA is also taking strides to bridge the digital divide for Veterans who lack the technology or broadband internet connectivity required to participate in VA telehealth services. More than 26,000 cellular-enabled tablets are currently distributed to Veterans across the country. Major wireless carriers T-Mobile, Sprint, now part of T-Mobile, [SafeLink](#) by Tracfone and Verizon are allowing Veterans to access VA telehealth services without incurring data charges.

Due to increased demand during the COVID-19 pandemic, VA is rapidly expanding VA Video Connect, allowing more Veterans and VA care teams to connect by video. During this time, Veterans using VA Video Connect with limited data plans could temporarily [experience data charges](#). While, cellular carriers are taking measures to support Veterans during this period of expansion — Veterans with concerns are encouraged to contact their carrier.

Read more about [VA Video Connect](#). For information about VA's telehealth services visit connectedcare.va.gov.

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of the Freedom of Information

Joe Pags Bio

Pagliarulo began his radio career in 1989 in Palm Beach County, Florida, then worked primarily in television news, serving in many roles and eventually as the main anchor at WEYI-TV in Saginaw/Flint, Michigan (1994–1996), morning and noon anchor at WWMT in Kalamazoo/Grand Rapids, Michigan (1996–1997), main anchor, managing editor and eventually news director at WLAJ in Lansing/Jackson, Michigan (1997–2002) and main anchor at WRGB in Schenectady, New York (2002–2005).^{[4][5]} During and after his time at WRGB he also served as talk show host at WHAM in Rochester, New York and WDXD (now WDTW) in Detroit, Michigan.^[3]

In 2005, Pagliarulo returned to talk radio and began his daily talk show titled *The Joe Pags Show* that was first heard on iHeartMedia's flagship talk radio station WOAI 1200 in San Antonio as well as KPRC-Houston, KEX-Portland, KHOW-Denver, and KTLK-Minneapolis. After Andy Dean's departure from America Now in 2014, Pagliarulo's daily show was broadcast to the 130 *America Now* affiliates for almost a year until a full-time replacement host was selected. After the *America Now* fill-in period ended, Pagliarulo's show began syndication through Compass Media Networks, and is now heard on over 90 stations as of May 2017.^[6] His daily show is broadcast live from 6-9 PM EST and on tape delay in some of his

syndicated markets.^[5] He also hosts a weekend nationally syndicated radio talk show through Premiere Networks, titled *The Weekend with Joe Pags*.^{[7][8]} Pagliarulo has made many appearances on Fox News, CNN, and MSNBC and previously served as a long-time frequent fill-in for Glenn Beck on Beck's television and radio programs. He has won multiple broadcasting awards from the Associated Press,^[9] and his show is listed in the top 25 of Talkers Magazine's "Heavy Hundred"^{[10][11]} and by Newsmax as one of the most influential talk shows in the country.^{[5][12]}

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 18:31:02 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT/Arrive at Hilton President Hotel

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 23 Jun 2020 16:32:24 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: RAH
Attachments: June 24 2020.docx

DAILY BRIEFING BOOK

Wednesday, June 24, 2020

SECRETARY ROBERT L. WILKIE

7:45 – 8:15 am	Daily Sync Mtg	SECVA Suite	
9:00 -9:30 am	Randy Reeves	SECVA Suite	
9:30 – 9:45 am	Phone Call w/Senator Susan Collins ** She will call x4809	SECVA Suite	<u>Tab 1</u>
10:30 – 11:00 am	FaceTime Interview w/ Steve Dent, KIVI, Ch 6 (ABC affiliate), Boise, ID	SECVA Suite	<u>Tab 2</u>
11:00 – 11:30 am	FaceTime Interview w/Benita Zahn, WNYT – ABC, Albany, NY	SECVA Suite	<u>Tab 3</u>
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Lunch	SECVA Suite	
1:00 – 1:30pm	Phone Call w/ Bill Bennett ** SECVA calls (b)(6)	SECVA Suite	
2:00 – 2:30 pm	Dr. Lieberman & Dr. (b)(6) re: COVID Spike	SECVA Suite	
3:00 – 4:00 pm	Kansas City VAMC EEO Allegations 1-800-767-1750 Code: (b)(6) Also on the call will be: Harvey Johnson, DAS, ORM (b)(6), Dir, Western Region, ORM (b)(6) VHA, WMC EEO Mgr David Perry, VHA WMC Acting Chief Ofcr Dr. William Patterson, VISN15 Director David Isaacks, KC VAMC Director	SECVA Suite	<u>Tab 5</u>
5:00 – 6:00 pm	WH Coronavirus Task Force Meeting (b)(6)	SECVA Suite	

8/21/2020 12:04 PM



EXECUTIVE BRIEFING SUMMARY

Senator Susan Collins (R-ME)
Wednesday, June 24, 2020, 9:30-9:45AM
The Senator will call the Secretary
at this number: 202-461-4809

June 24, 2020 Personal Call w/ Senator Collins

OCLA POC: (b)(6)

Driver: Secretary requested a call

Subject: (unsure of the topic or driver)

Participants: Senator Collins **VA:** SECVA

PURPOSE OF EVENT/MEETING:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decisional | <input type="checkbox"/> Informational | <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Remarks | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> Courtesy Call |

OVERVIEW OF EVENT:

The Senator will call the Secretary at 9:30 at this number: (b)(6)

BACKGROUND:

- The Secretary is long acquainted with the Senator. A trip was planned for April 1-3 to visit VA facilities in Maine but was cancelled due to COVID-19 safety precautions. The trip anticipated visiting the Aroostock County CBOC, a Vet Center, and Veterans cemetery in Caribou; then the VA Maine Healthcare System—Togus campus, to include a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Fisher House.
- June 11- Brief call w/ USB Lawrence prior to his tele-townhall with Maine Veterans. The Senator highlighted that Maine has 2nd largest Veteran population per capita; also emphasized the rurality of Maine. Was appreciative that USB Lawrence was doing the tele-townhall with Maine Veterans, and shared the information about the TTH on her social media.
- May 11—Co-signed letter to Secretary regarding telehealth. Response is final and being prepped for Secretary signature as of June 22.
- April 28—Co-signed letter to Secretary regarding PPE and testing kits. Response signed out on June 16.
- April 3—Co-signed letter to Secretary regarding Economic Impact Payments (EIP). Response signed out June 16.
- March 5—Delegation letter to the Secretary (this one led by Rep Jared Golden, but signed by all 4 MOCs from Maine) regarding a request for a Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (RRTP) at Togus. The delegation has been advocating for this; VISN 1 submitted an out-of-cycle request for a capital project-

8/21/2020 12:04 PM

-is being reviewed in VA's SCIP process. Response letter has been slow/delayed but is now final and expect signature soon.

- November 19, 2019—Delegation letter to Secretary regarding Maine State Veterans Homes; resulted in equitable relief for some Veterans where VA incorrectly paid per diem for domiciliary care. There are continuing concerns associated with Maine SVHs due to the unique organizational structure—they are not owned/operated by the state as is typical, and state has provided little/no funding in the past.

RETURN TO SCHEDULE

8/21/2020 12:04 PM

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Key Boise Issues – 6-2020

of Veterans enrolled in Boise VA HealthCare System: About 36,000

of Veterans in Boise VAHCS catchment area: Approx. 120,000

COVID by the numbers (as of 6/22/2020):

8 active cases

23 convalescent cases

1 known death

COVID-19:

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

- Idaho State Veterans Home credits Boise VAMC for testing all residents and employees to allow access to family visitors
- The facility was one of 20 facilities to reopen to non Covid-19 related care as of May 18
- Mountain Home Air Force Base and Idaho Air National Guard conducted flyovers as a show of appreciation to healthcare workers
- Feature on a disabled Veteran occupying himself during quarantine and still receiving care through telehealth
- March 20 – 3 employees confirmed positive
- Enacting screening practices to control entry to VAMC

NOTE: Idaho opened first National Cemetery March/April 2020

Access to Care/Telehealth:

In the past, the Choice Program is a large topic of conversation among veterans in Idaho and Eastern Oregon, due to the number of Veterans living in rural areas. The facility has tried to increase outreach and strengthen initiatives to reach far-reaching veterans such as Telehealth.

- The Boise VAMC has taken major steps to introduce telehealth throughout the state. They have programs where patients can be seen by doctors via video or imaging either from a local VA clinic or partner, or the Veteran's own home.
 - Local negative media coverage about the "Military Widows' Tax."
- In 2016, Dr. Shulkin announced that Boise will become one of the new tele-mental health hubs and will focus on the most severe and complex mental health issues.

MISSION Act:

Due to Idaho's ruralness, there are a great number of veterans who take advantage of the MISSION Act's expanded benefits.

- Boise VA has been heavily promoting the urgent care benefit of the MISSION Act, which has been well-received in the media.
- With the implementation of the MISSION Act, veterans and their families will now be able to receive care in their community instead of enduring long travel times and/or travel costs.

Veteran Homelessness:

8/21/2020 12:04 PM

The homeless outreach program is very active. Veteran homelessness in Idaho faces similar challenges that many other cities face, particularly finding landlords to accept HUD/VASH vouchers.

- There are available vouchers for homeless veterans, but there is a shortage of suitable housing in the area and VA is working hard to get veterans placed.
- A new affordable housing project just broke ground in July that will provide 26 homes for homeless veterans in Boise. Support services from the Boise VA will be offered onsite at Valor Pointe.
 - More than \$5 million was awarded for the project from federal grants and the City of Boise.
- The VAMC has a strong partnership with state, local and community agencies/organizations, such as the Boise Public Library, who work in tandem to address the issue.
 - A VA outreach specialist visits the Boise Library once a week to hold a meeting with homeless veterans to enroll them for services and provide information on benefits they are eligible for. So far, the program has been successful in connecting veterans to VA services.
- The medical center also teams up with community partners to hold veteran stand downs a few times a year.

Suicide Prevention/Mental Health:

Boise VAMC has a very active suicide prevention program that does a lot of collaborative work with state of Idaho. Idaho has the 5th highest suicide rate in the country.

- In 2017, nearly 400 people died by suicide in state; it is estimated that 20% of that number were veterans.
- The VAMC currently has 48 different programs/support groups to help veterans battle against suicide including mental health programs, substance abuse programs, therapy groups, and PTSD programs.
- The Boise VA continues to investigate and evaluate suicide prevention programming. Earlier this month, the VAMC held a Mental Health Summit in Caldwell where much of the discussion revolved around taking a holistic approach to recovery.
 - Positive media coverage of a veteran who turned to the Boise VA for help where she was able to address her mental health issues and addiction through the VA's holistic approach to recovery.
- The medical center is also part of a group of 40 stakeholders in Idaho that provide more resources for people all across the state. The five-year action plan that the VA and other partners developed is estimated to reduce suicide rates by 20% by 2025.
 - Idaho Governor Brad Little came out in support of budgeting an extra \$1M/year to help curb suicides.
 - Other lawmakers would like to see if the money already allocated towards suicide prevention could be used to get the action plan off the ground.
 - Currently 60% of the allocated funds go towards staffing the 24/7 crisis hot lines in Idaho.

Veteran Outreach:

8/21/2020 12:04 PM

The Boise VAHCS is very active in the community and works with community partners to provide outreach and resources to veterans.

- The medical center works with the VBA Regional Office in Boise to host regular town hall and claims clinics. Only hot topic claims in the area are Blue Water related claims.
- Boise VAMC hosts a free veterans' legal clinic as well as a "Wills Clinic" through the Idaho Military Legal Alliance.
 - The "Wills Clinic" is frequently requested by veterans and fills up quickly.
 - The legal clinic is offered one Friday every month, where veterans can get assistance from lawyers in preparing legal documents such as living wills, power of attorney for healthcare and other estate planning documents. This outreach service was recently featured in a [story](#) on Boise State NPR.

Women's Health:

In 2015, Boise VAMC opened a stand-alone women's clinic with 2,255 unique women veterans seen by the clinic in FY18. The clinic is well regarded and adequately resourced. The building is relatively new and is designed in the state-of-the-art PACT (Patient Aligned Care Team) model.

Vet Center:

The Boise Vet Center celebrated its 40 year anniversary to helping veterans this year. Media covered the event and it was positive.

NCA:

- In 2016, NCA announced it had purchased 8.11 acres from a private owner in Buhl, Idaho for \$51,250, to establish a new VA National Cemetery. The cemetery is under construction and is expected to open in Fall 2019. This would make it the only VA National Cemetery in the state.
 - There has been some controversy over the naming of the cemetery that has made it into media coverage.
 - The cemetery was created in support of NCA's "Rural Initiative." The initiative's primary goal is to build small national cemeteries in states without an open national cemetery.
 - The Cemetery will have about 1,000 grave sites, 5,000 casket sites, 250 in-ground cremains sites and 250 columbarium niches to serve approx. 14,000 veterans in the area.
- Last year, VA provided the Idaho Division of Veterans Services with a \$7.4 million grant to build a local State Veterans Cemetery in Blackfoot, Idaho. The project should break ground this summer, on 40 acres of farm land adjacent to State Hospital South in Blackfoot.

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EXECUTIVE BRIEFING SUMMARY
Chairman Moran/Ranking Member Tester
Wednesday June 24, 2020
12:00 P.M.
Call

June 24, 2020 12:00 P.M

OCLA POC: Cathy Haverstock

Driver: 4 Corners Request

Subject: COVID 19 Response

Participants: Chairman Moran/Ranking Member Tester, and other Members TBD

VA: SECVA, Dr. Lieberman, Dr. Lawrence

PURPOSE OF EVENT/MEETING:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decisional | <input type="checkbox"/> Informational | <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Remarks | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> Courtesy Call |

OVERVIEW OF EVENT:

Teleconference with Members to discuss the Department's response to COVID-19.

(b)(5)

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Page 18 of 19

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of the Freedom of Information

Page 19 of 19

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 18:32:25 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT/Arrive at KCVAMC

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 23 Jun 2020 16:50:19 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: REMARKS: PREVENTS - Chamber of Commerce/Hiring Our Heroes Virtual Event
Attachments: PREVENTS Week - July 7-10.docx, (2020.8.5) Guidebook launch ROS DRAFT (002).docx, Wilkie 08 05 Chamber PREVENTS event.docx, Chamber of Commerce draft run of show.docx, Ryan Pitts background.docx

The Honorable Robert L. Wilkie
Secretary
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

The PREVENTS Office would like to invite Secretary Wilkie to participate in a virtual event held in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce/Hiring our Heroes, PREVENTS and the VA Secretary's Center for Strategic Partnerships on July 9 from 1:00 – 2:00 EDT.

The purpose of the event is to release the *Mental Health and Wellbeing in the Workplace: A Practical Guide for Business*, developed under the partnership and will include a second signing of the Hiring Our Heroes Wellbeing in the Workplace Pledge (<https://www.hiringourheroes.org/wellbeing/wellbeing-pledge/>). Secretary Wilkie attended the first signing on November 14, 2019.

We would ask Secretary Wilkie to provide 5-minutes of remarks at the event. Other speakers include Brooke Leslie Rollins, Acting Director of the United States Domestic Policy Council (invited); DOL Secretary Eugene Scalia (invited); Eric Eversole, Vice President, U.S. Chamber of Commerce and President, Hiring Our Heroes (invited); and Dr. Barbara Van Dahlen, PREVENTS Executive Director.

Given restrictions due to the COVID- 19 pandemic, this will be a virtual event. No media will be invited.

Please let us know if Secretary Wilkie is available to participate. The PREVENTS Office will provide background information and talking points as requested.

Sincerely,

Dr. Barbara Van Dahlen, Ph.D.
Executive Director
PREVENTS

From: (b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 4:28 PM

To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Cc: Barry, Ashleigh <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: FW: PREVENTS Virtual Time

Hi (b)(6)

We have the confirmed date/time for the PREVENTS Virtual – Chamber of Commerce/Hiring our Heroes – the release of the Chamber employer guide and pledge signing for July 9 from 1:00 – 2:00 PM EST, can you confirm this is held on Secretary Wilkie’s calendar to attend.

Thank you!
Candace

July 9 – Chamber of Commerce/Hiring our Heroes – release of the Chamber employer guide and pledge signing: *Virtual 1:00 – 2:00 EDT*

Proposed Speakers:

(b)(5), (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Executive Assistant | Secretary’s Center for Strategic Partnerships
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave., NW | Washington, DC 20420
Office: (b)(6)
Mobile: (b)(6)
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PREVENTS

The President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans
and End a National Tragedy of Suicide



VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

PREVENTS Week – July 7 – 12, 2020

**July 7 – Launch of the PREVENTS National Public Health Campaign: *National Press Club
Holman Lounge 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm***

Proposed Speakers:

(b)(5); (b)(6)

July 8 – Faith-based Gathering: *Virtual (Time TBD)*

Proposed Speakers:

(b)(5); (b)(6)

**July 9 – Chamber of Commerce/Hiring our Heroes – release of the Chamber employer guide
and pledge signing: *Virtual 1:00 – 2:00 EDT***

Proposed Speakers:

- Dr. Barbara Van Dahlen, PREVENTS Executive Director
- (b)(6), Acting Director of the United States Domestic Policy Council
- DOL Secretary Eugene Scalia
- VA Secretary Robert Wilkie or Deputy Secretary Pam Powers
- Eric Eversole, Vice President, U.S. Chamber of Commerce and President, Hiring Our Heroes

Tentative July 10 - Department of Defense: Virtual (Time TBD)

Speakers Pending

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation

Wellbeing in the Workplace: Prioritizing Mental Health in Corporate America

Practical Guide for Employers Virtual Launch and Recognition of New Coalition Members

August 5, 2020 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

Zoom Webinar

Run of Show

(b)(5); (b)(6)

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of the Freedom of Information

In June I was in the White House to release the PREVENTS roadmap for ending suicide in this country.

And I said that no president has done more than President Trump to put Veterans at the center of both his campaign and his administration.

But President Trump's PREVENTS initiative also breaks the mold in another important way.

Notice what we DIDN'T announce.

We didn't announce an expensive, new federal bureaucracy that would attempt to reduce the rate of suicide from an air-conditioned building in Washington.

And we didn't create a maze of regulatory requirements for our health care workers to follow.

What President Trump understood right from the start is that forcing everyone into a one-size-fits-all program designed by a central planning committee is not the answer.

The best way to reduce suicide in America is to create a network of partnerships that can teach all of us how to spot people at risk that they meet in their everyday life, and refer them to resources, wherever those resources might be.

Something as simple as a conversation between friends might be enough. Resources provided by faith-based groups, or schools, or NGOs, or state and local governments might also help.

And they might even receive aid and comfort in their place of employment.

That's where your support comes in.

I was with you last year when the first pledge to prioritize mental health and wellbeing in the workplace was signed by 30 companies. Today, I'm glad to see more companies make that same pledge, and I expect it will keep growing from here.

Thank you for joining us in this effort.

We at the Department of Veterans Affairs understand the importance of reaching out to those in need. About 60 percent of the Veterans who take their lives each day aren't current recipients of VA care.

And so, we need to give people options where they live and work.

I also want to thank the VA's Center for Strategic Partnerships. The work done by Deborah Scher and her team have brought this partnership to life and given us a strong, early example of how we can work together to get results.

--

President Trump has done something remarkable here. What he started is an initiative to change the culture of America – to bring us to a new place where it's OK to talk about mental health with family members, friends, neighbors and co-workers.

It's a task that is assigned to all of us, not the federal workforce, and we must think for ourselves how best to achieve it.

It reminds me of an old line from Gen. George Patton, who chased Nazi soldiers out of France and followed them deep into Germany near the end of World War II.

Patton said of his leadership style:

“Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do and they will surprise you with their ingenuity.”

That’s what Trump has done, and the ingenuity shown by your companies is a very encouraging first look at how I hope all Americans will rise to this challenge.

Thank you.

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The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation

Wellbeing in the Workplace: Prioritizing Mental Health in Corporate America

Practical Guide for Employers Virtual Launch and Recognition of New Coalition Members

August 5, 2020 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

Zoom Webinar

Run of Show

(b)(5); (b)(6)

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(b)(5) ; (b)(6)

of the Freedom of Information

SERGEANT (b)(6)

UNITED STATES ARMY

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty:

Sergeant (b)(6) distinguished himself by extraordinary acts of heroism at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a Forward Observer in 2d Platoon, Chosen Company, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 503d Infantry Regiment, 173d Airborne Brigade, during combat operations against an armed enemy at Vehicle Patrol Base Kahler vicinity of Wanat Village, Kunar Province, Afghanistan on July 13, 2008. Early that morning, while Sergeant (b)(6) was providing perimeter security at Observation Post Topside, a well-organized Anti-Afghan Force consisting of over 200 members initiated a close proximity sustained and complex assault using accurate and intense rocket-propelled grenade, machine gun and small arms fire on Wanat Vehicle Patrol Base. An immediate wave of rocket-propelled grenade rounds engulfed the Observation Post wounding Sergeant (b)(6) and inflicting heavy casualties. Sergeant (b)(6) had been knocked to the ground and was bleeding heavily from shrapnel wounds to his arm and legs, but with incredible toughness and resolve, he subsequently took control of the observation post and returned fire on the enemy. As the enemy drew nearer, Sergeant (b)(6) threw grenades, holding them after the pin was pulled and the safety lever was released to allow a nearly immediate detonation on the hostile forces. Unable to stand on his own and near death because of the severity of his wounds and blood loss, Sergeant (b)(6) continued to lay suppressive fire until a two-man reinforcement team arrived. Sergeant (b)(6) quickly assisted them by giving up his main weapon and gathering ammunition all while continually lobbing fragmentary grenades until these were expended. At this point, Sergeant (b)(6) crawled to the northern position radio and described the situation to the command post as the enemy continued to try and isolate the Observation Post from the main Patrol Base. With the enemy close enough for him to hear their voices and with total disregard for his own life, Sergeant (b)(6) whispered in radio situation reports and conveyed information that the Command Post used to provide indirect fire support. Sergeant (b)(6) courage, steadfast commitment to the defense of his unit and ability to fight while seriously wounded prevented the enemy from overrunning the observation post and capturing fallen American soldiers, and ultimately prevented the enemy from gaining fortified positions on higher ground from which to attack Wanat Vehicle Patrol Base. Sergeant Ryan M. (b)(6) extraordinary heroism and selflessness above and beyond the call of duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, Company C, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 503d Infantry Regiment, 173d Airborne Brigade and the United States Army.

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 15 Jun 2020 19:36:55 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: En Route to (b)(6) arrival 12:40pm

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 18 Jun 2020 16:30:05 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Bi-Weekly Call w/ Chairwoman Wasserman Schultz

From: (b)(6) (b)(6) R. EOP/OVP
Sent: Wed, 24 Jun 2020 18:00:42 +0000
To: (b)(6) HHS.GOV (b)(6) @treasury.gov (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6) @cdc.gov (b)(6) @niaid.nih.gov (b)(6) @hhs.gov; (b)(6) @fda.hhs.gov (b)(6)
(b)(6) EOP/NSC (b)(6) @cms.hhs.gov; RLW; (b)(6) EOP/OVP (b)(6) EOP/OVP (b)(6)
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Pamela (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @hhs.gov; (b)(6) @hhs.gov; (b)(6)
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Speechwriters; (b)(6) @hhs.gov (b)(6) @fema.dhs.gov; (b)(6)
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(DOT) (b)(6) EOP/NSC
Cc: (b)(6) OP/WHO (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6)
R. EOP/OVP (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) EOP/NSC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting
Attachments: (b)(5)
(b)(5)
Importance: High

All -

There will be a **White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting** on **Wednesday, June 24th** at **5:00pm** in the White House (b)(6) Preliminary materials attached.

Thank you,

(b)(6) (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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Page 7 of 8

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Page 8 of 8

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From: (b)(6) (b)(6) R. EOP/OVP
Sent: Tue, 16 Jun 2020 17:01:15 +0000
To: (b)(6) @HHS.GOV (b)(6) @treasury.gov; (b)(6)
EOP/WHO; (b)(6) @cdc.gov; (b)(6) @niaid.nih.gov; (b)(6) @hhs.gov; (b)(6) @fda.hhs.gov; (b)(6)
(b)(6) EOP/NSC; (b)(6) @cms.hhs.gov; RLW; (b)(6) EOP/OVP; (b)(6) EOP/OVP; (b)(6)
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(b)(6) @CMS.HHS.GOV; (b)(6) @cms.hhs.gov; (b)(6) @cms.hhs.gov; Powers,
Pamela; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @hhs.gov; (b)(6) @hhs.gov; (b)(6)
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ov; (b)(6) @usda.gov; (b)(6) @usda.gov; (b)(6) EOP/OVP
Subject: [EXTERNAL] White House Coronavirus Task Force
Importance: High

All -

There will be a **White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting on Wednesday, June 17th at 4:00pm** in the White House (b)(6) All materials will be forthcoming.

Thank you,

(b)(6) (b)(6)

Operations Coordinator, White House Coronavirus Task Force
Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff
The Office of the Vice President

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) (b)(6) R. EOP/OVP
Sent: Tue, 30 Jun 2020 00:26:25 +0000
To: (b)(6) @HHS.GOV (b)(6) @treasury.gov; (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6) @cdc.gov (b)(6) @niaid.nih.gov (b)(6) @hhs.gov (b)(6) @fda.hhs.gov (b)(6)
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(b)(6) @CMS.HHS.GOV; (b)(6) @cms.hhs.gov (b)(6) @cms.hhs.gov; Powers,
Pamela (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @hhs.gov (b)(6) @hhs.gov (b)(6)
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Speechwriters (b)(6) @hhs.gov (b)(6) @fema.dhs.gov; (b)(6)
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o (b)(6) @usda.gov (b)(6) @usda.gov (b)(6) EOP/OVP; (b)(6)
B. EOP/OVP

Subject: [EXTERNAL] White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting
Importance: High

All -

There will be a **White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting** on **Tuesday, June 30th** in EEOB 376 at **1:30pm**. All materials will be forthcoming.

Thank you,

(b)(6) (b)(6)

Operations Coordinator, White House Coronavirus Task Force
Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff
The Office of the Vice President

(b)(6)

Page 2 of 2

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From: (b)(6) (b)(6) R. EOP/OVP on behalf of (b)(6) EOP/OVP"
(b)(6)@ovp.eop.gov>
Sent: Mon, 1 Jun 2020 19:40:43 +0000
To: (b)(6)@HHS.GOV;(b)(6)@treasury.gov;(b)(6)
EOP/WHO;(b)(6)@cdc.gov;(b)(6)@niaid.nih.gov;(b)(6)@hhs.gov;(b)(6)@fda.hhs.gov;(b)(6)
(b)(6) EOP/NSC;(b)(6)@cms.hhs.gov;RLW;(b)(6) EOP/OVP;(b)(6) EOP/NSC;(b)(6)
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EOP/OVP;(b)(6)@dol.gov;(b)(6)@hrsa.gov;(b)(6)@usda.gov;(b)(6)@od.nih.gov;(b)(6)@
hhs.gov;(b)(6) EOP/WHO;(b)(6) EOP/WHO;(b)(6) EOP/WHO;(b)(6)
(b)(6) EOP/WHO;(b)(6) EOP/OVP;(b)(6) EOP/WHO;(b)(6) CDR
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, (b)(6) R. EOP/OVP;(b)(6)
EOP/WHO;(b)(6)@fda.hhs.gov;(b)(6)@fda.hhs.gov;(b)(6)@fda.hhs.gov;(b)(6)
(b)(6)@CMS.HHS.GOV;(b)(6)@cms.hhs.gov;(b)(6)@cms.hhs.gov;Powers,
Pamela;(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)@hhs.gov;(b)(6)@hhs.gov;(b)(6)
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ov;(b)(6)@usda.gov;(b)(6)@usda.gov;(b)(6) EOP/OVP
Subject: [EXTERNAL] White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting
Importance: High

All -

There will be a **White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting** on **Tuesday, June 2nd** at **11:00am** in the White House (b)(6) All materials will be forthcoming.

Thank you,

(b)(6) (b)(6)

Operations Coordinator, White House Coronavirus Task Force
Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff
The Office of the Vice President

(b)(6)

Page 2 of 2

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From: (b)(6) (b)(6) R. EOP/OVP
Sent: Tue, 23 Jun 2020 17:22:00 +0000
To: (b)(6) @HHS.GOV (b)(6) @treasury.gov (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6) @cdc.gov (b)(6) @niaid.nih.gov (b)(6) @hhs.gov (b)(6) @fda.hhs.gov (b)(6)
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EOP/WHO (b)(6) @treasury.gov (b)(6) @treasury.gov (b)(6) @hud.gov (b)(6)
(b)(6) @hud.gov (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6) @cdc.gov (b)(6) @niaid.nih.gov (b)(6) @nih.gov (b)(6) @hhs.gov; (b)(6)
(b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6) @fda.hhs.gov (b)(6) @fda.hhs.gov (b)(6) @fda.hhs.gov (b)(6)
(b)(6) @CMS.HHS.GOV (b)(6) @cms.hhs.gov (b)(6) @cms.hhs.gov; Powers,
Pamela (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @hhs.gov (b)(6) @hhs.gov (b)(6)
(b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) @sd.mil; (b)(6)
EOP/OVP (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) @sd.mil; (b)(6) @sd.mil (b)(6)
(b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) EOP/OVP (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6) @hhs.gov (b)(6) EOP/WHO;DL WHO COMMS
Speechwriters (b)(6) @hhs.gov; (b)(6) @fema.dhs.gov (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6) @hhs.gov (b)(6) @fema.dhs.gov (b)(6)
EOP/OVP (b)(6) @mail.mil; (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6) @hrsa.gov (b)(6) @dol.gov (b)(6) @nih.gov; (b)(6) @od.nih.g
ov (b)(6) @usda.gov; (b)(6) @usda.gov; (b)(6) EOP/OVP (b)(6)
(DOT)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting
Importance: High

All -

There will be a **White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting** on **Wednesday, June 24th** at **5:00pm** in the White House (b)(6) All materials will be forthcoming.

Thank you,

(b)(6) (b)(6)

Operations Coordinator, White House Coronavirus Task Force
Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff
The Office of the Vice President

(b)(6)

Page 2 of 2

Withheld pursuant to exemption

Non Responsive Record

of the Freedom of Information

From: (b)(6) (b)(6) R. EOP/OVP
Sent: Wed, 10 Jun 2020 19:57:09 +0000
To: (b)(6)@HHS.GOV; (b)(6)@treasury.gov; (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6)@cdc.gov; (b)(6)@niaid.nih.gov; (b)(6)@hhs.gov (b)(6)@fda.hhs.gov; (b)(6)
(b)(6) EOP/NSC (b)(6)@cms.hhs.gov; RLW (b)(6) EOP/OVP (b)(6) EOP/OVP (b)(6)
(b)(6) EOP/NSC; (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6)
EOP/WHO; (b)(6)@sd.mi (b)(6)@fema.dhs.gov (b)(6)@hhs.gov (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6)
EOP/OVP (b)(6)@dol.gov; (b)(6)@hrsa.gov (b)(6)@usda.gov (b)(6)@od.nih.gov; (b)(6)@
hhs.gov (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6)
(b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) EOP/OVP; (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) CDR
USN WHMO/WHMU (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) EOP/OVP (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6) EOP/OVP (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) EOP/OVP;DL OVP
NSA EXECSEC (b)(6)@mail.mil (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6)@treasury.gov (b)(6)@treasury.gov (b)(6)@hud.gov (b)(6)
(b)(6)@hud.gov; (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6)@cdc.gov (b)(6)@niaid.nih.gov (b)(6)@nih.gov (b)(6)@hhs.gov (b)(6)
(b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6)@fda.hhs.gov (b)(6)@fda.hhs.gov (b)(6)@fda.hhs.gov; (b)(6)
(b)(6)@CMS.HHS.GOV (b)(6)@cms.hhs.gov (b)(6)@cms.hhs.gov; Powers,
Pamela; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)@hhs.gov (b)(6)@hhs.gov (b)(6)
(b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6)@sd.mil (b)(6)
EOP/OVP (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6)@sd.mil; (b)(6)@sd.mil (b)(6)
(b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) EOP/OVP (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6)@hhs.gov (b)(6) EOP/WHO;DL WHO COMMS
Speechwriters (b)(6)@hhs.gov (b)(6)@fema.dhs.gov (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6)@hhs.gov (b)(6)@fema.dhs.gov (b)(6)
EOP/OVP (b)(6)@mail.mil (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6)
EOP/WHO; (b)(6)@hrsa.gov (b)(6)@dol.gov (b)(6)@nih.gov (b)(6)@od.nih.g
ov (b)(6)@usda.gov (b)(6)@usda.gov (b)(6) 1. EOP/OVP
Subject: [EXTERNAL] White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting

All -

There will be a **White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting** on **Thursday, June 11th** at **2:30pm** in the White House (b)(6) All materials will be forthcoming.

Thank you,

(b)(6) (b)(6)

Operations Coordinator, White House Coronavirus Task Force
Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff
The Office of the Vice President

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) (b)(6) R. EOP/OVP
Sent: Thu, 18 Jun 2020 18:15:23 +0000
To: (b)(6) @HHS.GOV; (b)(6) @treasury.gov (b)(6)
EOP/WHO; (b)(6) @cdc.gov; (b)(6) @niaid.nih.gov (b)(6) @hhs.gov (b)(6) @fda.hhs.gov (b)(6)
(b)(6) EOP/NSC; (b)(6) @cms.hhs.gov; RLW (b)(6) EOP/OVP; (b)(6) EOP/OVP; (b)(6)
(b)(6) EOP/NSC (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6) @sd.mil; (b)(6) @fema.dhs.gov; (b)(6) @hhs.gov; (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6)
EOP/OVP; (b)(6) @dol.gov (b)(6) @hrsa.gov (b)(6) @usda.gov; (b)(6) @od.nih.gov (b)(6)
hhs.gov (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) EOP/WH (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6)
Douglas L. EOP/WHO; (b)(6) EOP/OVP (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) CDR
USN WHMO/WHMU (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) EOP/OVP (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6) EOP/OVP (b)(6) EOP/WHO; O (b)(6) EOP/OVP; DL OVP
NSA EXECSEC (b)(6) @mail.mil; (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6) @treasury.gov (b)(6) @treasury.gov; (b)(6) @hud.gov; (b)(6)
(b)(6) @hud.gov (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6) @cdc.gov; (b)(6) @niaid.nih.gov (b)(6) @nih.gov (b)(6) @hhs.gov (b)(6)
(b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6) @fda.hhs.gov (b)(6) @fda.hhs.gov (b)(6) @fda.hhs.gov (b)(6)
(b)(6) @CMS.HHS.GOV (b)(6) @cms.hhs.gov (b)(6) @cms.hhs.gov; Powers,
Pamela (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @hhs.gov (b)(6) @hhs.gov (b)(6)
(b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) @sd.mil; (b)(6)
EOP/OVP (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6) @sd.mil; (b)(6) @sd.mil (b)(6)
(b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) EOP/OVP (b)(6)
EOP/WHO; (b)(6) @hhs.gov (b)(6) EOP/WHO; DL WHO COMMS
Speechwriters (b)(6) @hhs.gov (b)(6) @fema.dhs.gov (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6) @hhs.gov (b)(6) @fema.dhs.gov (b)(6)
EOP/OVP (b)(6) @mail.mil; (b)(6) EOP/WHO (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6) @hrsa.gov (b)(6) @dol.gov (b)(6) @nih.gov (b)(6) @od.nih.g
ov (b)(6) @usda.gov (b)(6) @usda.gov; (b)(6) EOP/OVP
Subject: [EXTERNAL] White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting
Importance: High

All -

There will be a **White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting on Friday, June 19th at 4:00pm** in the White House (b)(6) All materials will be forthcoming.

Thank you,

(b)(6) (b)(6)

Operations Coordinator, White House Coronavirus Task Force
Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff
The Office of the Vice President

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) (b)(6) R. EOP/OVP
Sent: Thu, 11 Jun 2020 16:57:28 +0000
To: (b)(6) @HHS.GOV; (b)(6) @treasury.gov; (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6)1@cdc.gov; (b)(6) @niaid.nih.gov; (b)(6) @hhs.gov; (b)(6) @fda.hhs.gov; (b)(6)
(b)(6) . EOP/NSC; (b)(6)@cms.hhs.gov; RLW (b)(6) EOP/OVP; (b)(6) EOP/OVP; (b)(6)
(b)(6) EOP/NSC; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6) @sd.mil; (b)(6) @fema.dhs.gov; (b)(6) @hhs.gov; (b)(6)
EOP/WHO (b)(6)
EOP/OVP (b)(6) @dol.gov; (b)(6) @hrsa.gov; (b)(6) @usda.gov; (b)(6) @od.nih.gov; (b)(6) @
hhs.gov; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6)
(b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) EOP/OVP; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) CDR
USN WHMO/WHMU; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) EOP/OVP; (b)(6)
EOP/WHO; (b)(6) . EOP/OVP; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) EOP/OVP; DL OVP
NSA EXECSEC; (b)(6) @mail.mil; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6)
EOP/WHO; (b)(6) @treasury.gov; (b)(6) @treasury.gov; (b)(6) @hud.gov; (b)(6)
(b)(6) @hud.gov; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6)
EOP/WHO; (b)(6) @cdc.gov; (b)(6) @niaid.nih.gov; (b)(6) @nih.gov; (b)(6) @hhs.gov; (b)(6)
(b)(6)
EOP/WHO; (b)(6) @fda.hhs.gov; (b)(6) @fda.hhs.gov; (b)(6) @fda.hhs.gov; (b)(6)
kes@CMS.HHS.GOV; (b)(6) @cms.hhs.gov; (b)(6) @cms.hhs.gov; Powers,
Pamela; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @hhs.gov; (b)(6) @hhs.gov; (b)(6)
(b)(6) . EOP/WHO; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) @sd.mil; (b)(6)
EOP/OVP; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) @sd.mil; (b)(6) @sd.mil; (b)(6)
(b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) EOP/OVP; (b)(6) A.
EOP/WHO; (b)(6) @hhs.gov; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; DL WHO COMMS
Speechwriters; (b)(6) @hhs.gov; (b)(6) @fema.dhs.gov; (b)(6)
EOP/WHO; (b)(6) @hhs.gov; (b)(6) @fema.dhs.gov; (b)(6)
EOP/OVP; (b)(6) @mail.mil; (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6)
EOP/WHO; (b)(6) @hrsa.gov; (b)(6) @dol.gov; (b)(6) @nih.gov; (b)(6) @od.nih.g
ov; (b)(6) @usda.gov; (b)(6) @usda.gov; (b)(6) EOP/OVP; (b)(6)
P. EOP/WHO
Cc: (b)(6) EOP/WHO; (b)(6) EOP/OVP; (b)(6)
EOP/WHO; (b)(6) EOP/OVP
Subject: [EXTERNAL] White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting
Attachments: (b)(5)
(b)(5)

All -

There will be a **White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting** on **Thursday, June 11th** at **2:30pm** in the White House (b)(6) Materials attached.

Thank you,

(b)(6) (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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(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information

Page 04 of 19

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information

Page 05 of 19

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information

Page 06 of 19

Withheld pursuant to exemption

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of the Freedom of Information

Page 07 of 19

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of the Freedom of Information

Page 08 of 19

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of the Freedom of Information

Page 09 of 19

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of the Freedom of Information

Page 10 of 19

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(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information

Page 11 of 19

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information

Page 12 of 19

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(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information

Page 13 of 19

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(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information

Page 14 of 19

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information

Page 15 of 19

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information

Page 16 of 19

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of the Freedom of Information

Page 17 of 19

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(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information

Page 18 of 19

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information

Page 19 of 19

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 18 Jun 2020 16:43:52 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Bi-Weekly Call w/Chairwoman Wasserman Schultz

From: (b)(6) (b)(6) R. EOP/OVP on behalf of "(b)(6)" EOP/OVP"
(b)(6)@ovp.eop.gov>
Sent: Tue, 9 Jun 2020 00:26:38 +0000
To: (b)(6)@HHS.GOV;(b)(6)@treasury.gov;(b)(6)
EOP/WHO;(b)(6)@cdc.gov;(b)(6)@niaid.nih.gov;(b)(6)@hhs.gov;(b)(6)@fda.hhs.gov;(b)(6)
(b)(6) EOP/NSC;(b)(6)@cms.hhs.gov;RLW;(b)(6). EOP/OVP;(b)(6) EOP/NSC;(b)(6)
(b)(6) EOP/WHO;(b)(6)
EOP/WHO;(b)(6)@sd.mil;(b)(6)@fema.dhs.gov;(b)(6)hhs.gov;(b)(6)
EOP/WHO;(b)(6)
EOP/OVP;(b)(6)@dol.gov;(b)(6)@hrsa.gov;(b)(6)@usda.gov;(b)(6)@od.nih.gov;(b)(6)@
hhs.gov;(b)(6) EOP/WHO;(b)(6) EOP/WHO;(b)(6) EOP/WHO;(b)(6)
(b)(6) EOP/WHO;(b)(6) EOP/OVP;(b)(6) EOP/WHO;(b)(6) CDR
USN WHMO/WHMU;(b)(6) EOP/WHO;(b)(6) EOP/OVP;(b)(6)
EOP/WHO;(b)(6) EOP/OVP;(b)(6) EOP/WHO;(b)(6) EOP/OVP;DL OVP
NSA EXECSEC;(b)(6)@mail.mil;(b)(6). EOP/WHO;(b)(6)
EOP/WHO;(b)(6)@treasury.gov;(b)(6)@treasury.gov;(b)(6)@hud.gov;(b)(6)
(b)(6)@hud.gov;(b)(6). EOP/WHO;(b)(6). EOP/WHO;(b)(6)
EOP/WHO;(b)(6)@cdc.gov;(b)(6)@niaid.nih.gov;(b)(6)@nih.gov;(b)(6)@hhs.gov;(b)(6)
, (b)(6) R. EOP/OVP;(b)(6)
EOP/WHO;(b)(6)@fda.hhs.gov;(b)(6)@fda.hhs.gov;(b)(6)@fda.hhs.gov;(b)(6)
kes@CMS.HHS.GOV;(b)(6)@cms.hhs.gov;(b)(6)@cms.hhs.gov;Powers,
Pamela;(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)@hhs.gov;(b)(6)@hhs.gov;(b)(6)
(b)(6) EOP/WHO;(b)(6) EOP/WHO;(b)(6)@sd.mil;(b)(6)
EOP/OVP;(b)(6) EOP/WHO;(b)(6)@sd.mil;(b)(6)@sd.mil;(b)(6),
(b)(6) OP/WHO;(b)(6) EOP/OVP;(b)(6)
EOP/WHO;(b)(6)@hhs.gov;(b)(6) EOP/WHO;DL WHO COMMS
Speechwriters;(b)(6)@hhs.gov;(b)(6)@fema.dhs.gov;(b)(6)
EOP/WHO;(b)(6)@hhs.gov;(b)(6)@fema.dhs.gov;(b)(6)
EOP/OVP;(b)(6)@mail.mil;(b)(6). EOP/WHO;(b)(6)
EOP/WHO;(b)(6)@hrsa.gov;(b)(6)@dol.gov;(b)(6)@nih.gov;(b)(6)@od.nih.g
ov;(b)(6)@usda.gov;(b)(6)@usda.gov;(b)(6). EOP/OVP
Cc: (b)(6) EOP/WHO;(b)(6). EOP/WHO;(b)(6)
EOP/OVP;(b)(6) EOP/OVP
Subject: [EXTERNAL] White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting

Good afternoon,

There will be a **White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting** on **Tuesday, June 9th** at 3:30pm in the White House (b)(6) All materials will be forthcoming.

Thank you,

(b)(6) (b)(6)

Operations Coordinator, White House Coronavirus Task Force
Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff
The Office of the Vice President

(b)(6)

From: VHA Healthcare Operations Center
Sent: Tue, 30 Jun 2020 14:25:03 +0000
To: VHA Healthcare Operations Center (b)(6); VHA VISN

Directors (b)(6) (WMC) (b)(6)
(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) VHACO (b)(6) Cussatt, Dominic (SES) (b)(6)
(b)(6); Everett, John P. (SES) (b)(6) 10RCS (b)(6)
(b)(6)
(b)(6) (HEFP/10NA5E) (b)(6) (WMC) (b)(6)
(b)(6) VHA NCOD; (b)(6)
(b)(6)
(b)(6) (WMC); Powers, Pamela; (b)(6)
(b)(6); VHA HOC All Staff; VHA OHT C19 Action; (b)(6)
(b)(6) (HEFP/10NA5C) (b)(6)
(b)(6)
(b)(6) (Physician); VHA VISN CMO Only; (b)(6)
(b)(6) (V17); (b)(6)
(b)(6) MD, MBA, FACHE (b)(6) @deloitte.com (b)(6)
(b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6)
(VACO) (b)(6) (V20) (b)(6) (Portland) (b)(6)
(V20) (b)(6) (OGC) (b)(6) (OGC) (b)(6)
(V20) (b)(6) (Prometheus) (b)(6)
(b)(6) URVAMC; (b)(6)
(b)(6) (ERPi) (b)(6) (VHA) (b)(6)
(b)(6)
OHT (b)(6) (VACO) (b)(6) ICVAMC (b)(6)
(b)(6) (OHT) (b)(6) (VACO) (b)(6)
(b)(6) (OGC) (b)(6) VHA LOGOPSCENTER (b)(6)
(b)(6) @mckinsey.com; (b)(6)
(b)(6)
(b)(6) (Microsoft); (b)(6)
(b)(6) (V20); (b)(6)
FNCVAMC; (b)(6)
OEM; (b)(6) (VHACO) (b)(6) (HEFP\10NA5A) (b)(6)
(b)(6) (ERPi); (b)(6)
(b)(6)
W (VISN 22) (b)(6)
(b)(6) Deloitte Consulting; (b)(6) VHA CO 10N Support
(b)(6) VHATAM; (b)(6) (TUA) (b)(6)
(b)(6) (Puget Sound) (b)(6)

Subject: Copy: COVID19 Moving Forward - Tue/Fri
Attachments: Untitled

This meeting invite will be refreshed regularly.

VHA leadership will continue to host the COVID19 Moving Forward call **every Tuesday and Friday**.

Please remember to mute your phones when you are not speaking. The entire audience may be muted; if you are dialing in, you must press *6 to unmute yourself. If you are able to, using the Skype integrated audio through your computer may provide a better meeting experience

Join Microsoft Teams Meeting

+1 872-701-0185 United States, Chicago (Toll)

Conference ID:

[Local numbers](#) | [Reset PIN](#) | [Learn more about Teams](#) | [Meeting options](#)



From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 24 Jun 2020 12:41:23 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Interview w/ Bill Hemmer Reports, FOX News
Attachments: CLIENTEMAIL_FNNFINAL2 NOV30_1632669.pdf



Fox News Channel Satellite Desk

Tel: (b)(6)
Email: (b)(6)@foxnews.com

Work Order Status:
Confirmed

Work Order Date: 07/03/2020

Work Order #1632669

Work Order Origination:
Arlington, VA

Network: FNC
Show: BILL HEMMER REPORTS (3P-4P) 80-3940
Contact: (b)(6)
Phone: (b)(6)
Created By: (b)(6)
Modified By: (b)(6)
Special Instructions: 1709 N. Kenilworth Street Arlington, Virginia 22205
Operator will be Martin: (301) 674-7611

Story Slug: secretary wilkie		Guest / Reporter: Robert Wilkie		Start	End	Resource Description	Unit Price	QTY	Unit	Total Price
15:00ET	16:00ET	StudiGO - DC (Mobile Studio)	1,200.00	1.00	Hour	1,200.00				
15:00ET	16:00ET	LiveU Point to Point	0.00	1.00	Month	0.00				
15:00ET	16:00ET	CKT 160 LiveU (IFB)	0.00	1.00	Month	0.00				
15:00ET	16:00ET	REM 283	0.00	1.00	Month	0.00				
Estimated Total Cost										1,200.00

Client Authorization _____
Date _____

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 10 Jun 2020 13:54:38 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD: Media Set Up

From: VHA Healthcare Operations Center
Sent: Mon, 15 Jun 2020 13:09:08 +0000
To: VHA Healthcare Operations Center; (b)(6); VHA VISN

Director: (b)(6) (WMC); (b)(6)
(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) VHACO; (b)(6) Cussatt, Dominic (SES) (b)(6)
(b)(6); Everett, John P. (SES) (b)(6) (10RCS); (b)(6)
(b)(6)
D., MD; (b)(6) (HEFP/10NA5E) (b)(6) (WMC) (b)(6)
(b)(6) VHA NCOD (b)(6)
(b)(6)
(b)(6) (WMC); Powers, Pamela (b)(6)
(b)(6); VHA HOC All Staff; VHA OHT C19 Action (b)(6)
(b)(6) HEFP/10NA5C (b)(6)
(b)(6)
(b)(6) (Physician); VHA VISN CMO Only (b)(6)
(b)(6) (V17) (b)(6)
(b)(6) MBA, FACHE; (b)(6) @deloitte.com; (b)(6)
(b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6)
(VACO) (b)(6) (V20) (b)(6) (Portland) (b)(6)
(V20) (b)(6) (OGC) (b)(6) (OGC) (b)(6)
(V20) (b)(6) (Prometheus) (b)(6)
(b)(6) DURVAMC; (b)(6)
(b)(6) ERPi (b)(6) VHA (b)(6)
(b)(6)
OHT (b)(6) (VACO) (b)(6) RICVAMC (b)(6)
(b)(6) OHT (b)(6) (VACO) (b)(6)
(b)(6) (OGC) (b)(6) VHA LOGOPSCENTER; (b)(6)
(b)(6) @mckinsey.com (b)(6)
(b)(6)
(b)(6) Microsoft (b)(6)
(b)(6) (V20); (b)(6)
FNCVAMC (b)(6)
OEM; (b)(6) (VHACO) (b)(6) (HEFP\10NA5B) (b)(6)
(b)(6) ERPi (b)(6)
(b)(6)
W (VISN 22) (b)(6)
(b)(6) (Deloitte Consulting) (b)(6) VHA CO 10N Support
Staff; (b)(6) VHATAM (b)(6) (TUA) (b)(6)
(Shuron) (b)(6) Puget Sound; (b)(6)

Subject: Copy: Daily COVID19 Preparation Call - Week of 6/15

This meeting invite will be refreshed weekly. This invite is for the week of 6/15/2020. A new meeting invite will be sent on 6/22.

VHA leadership will continue to host the Coronavirus preparation call daily at 3:30pm Eastern.

Please remember to mute your phones when you are not speaking. The entire audience may be muted; if you are dialing in, you must press *6 to unmute yourself. If you are able to, using the Skype integrated audio through your computer may provide a better meeting experience

Join Skype Meeting

Trouble Joining? [Try Skype Web App](#)

Join by phone

844-376-0278,,	(b)(6)	(East)	English (United States)
844-815-1331,,		(East)	English (United States)
844-770-5400,,		(East)	English (United States)

[Find a local number](#)

Conference ID (b)(6)

[Forgot your dial-in PIN?](#) | [Help](#)



From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 10 Jun 2020 13:55:13 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD: Interview w/OAN

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 9 Jun 2020 20:42:17 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: SECVA Prep for HVAC Call

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 10 Jun 2020 16:22:20 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT 400 N. Capitol, 3rd Floor

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 11 Jun 2020 16:37:11 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD - PREVENTS EVENT

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 10 Jun 2020 13:06:18 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Media Prep/HOLD

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 10 Jun 2020 13:06:50 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT/Arrive at Lunch

From: RLW
Sent: Fri, 12 Jun 2020 20:36:36 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Leadership Briefing

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 10 Jun 2020 13:13:29 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Leadership briefing

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 10 Jun 2020 13:07:44 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT/Arrive at Veterans Health Clinic at Gloucester County

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 10 Jun 2020 13:14:13 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Lunch

From: RLW
Sent: Fri, 12 Jun 2020 17:03:15 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Senior Leader Offsite
Attachments: OSVA Guest Information Veterans Affairs.xlsx, SECVA COVID-19 Lessons Learned Offsite Traveler Instructions 7-2-2020v1.docx

SECVA selected 7/10. Will inform WH. This senior leader offsite will clear his calendar for the day I expect. Once I get final WH ok, will inform all concerned.

From: Tucker, Brooks
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 1:04 PM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @va.gov; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @va.gov
Cc: Syrek, Christopher D. (Chris) (b)(6) @va.gov; Powers, Pamela (b)(6) @va.gov
Subject: RE: SECVA Calendar on July 9 and 10

Ok, adding deputy for overall awareness. Will ask SECVA his preference.

Thank you

Brooks D. Tucker
Acting Chief of Staff
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue NW
Washington DC 20420

(b)(6) and (b)(6) The WH is looking to schedule an offsite outside of the city for the SECVA and his senior leaders and the dates WH has available are either 7/9 or 7/10. Please advise soonest whether either one of those days has a major scheduling issue that is unmovable/unchangeable. If we have to “break a tie”, SECVA can weigh in.

Brooks D. Tucker
Acting Chief of Staff
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue NW
Washington DC 20420

Camp David Guest Information

	Title or Designation	Guest Name	DATES	Vehicle Make / Model	Car Notes (driver, departing, carpet, security detail)	Food Allergies / Food Concerns
1	Secretary of the Dept. of Veterans Affairs	Robert Wilkie	10-Jul-20	Chevrolet Suburban		None
2	Acting Deputy Secretary	Pamela Powers	10-Jul-20	Chevrolet Suburban		None
14	Chief of Staff	Brooks Tucker	10-Jul-20	Honda Accord		None
15	Deputy Chief of Staff	Chris Syrek	10-Jul-20	Volkswagon Jetta		None
17						
18						
19						
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21						
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50						

Page 4 of 9

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(7)(E)

of the Freedom of Information

Page 5 of 9

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(7)(E)

of the Freedom of Information

Page 6 of 9

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(7)(E)

of the Freedom of Information

Page 7 of 9

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(7)(E)

of the Freedom of Information



SECVA Offsite
July 10, 2020
Instructions to the Traveler (ITT)
(as of 7/2/2020)

Event Title	SECVA COVID Operational Lessons Learned Offsite
Event Description	Secretary Wilkie has invited VA Senior Leaders for a one day offsite to Camp David on Friday, July 10th. This will be an opportunity to discuss top strategic operational lessons learned from COVID, including any consequential reforms or transformative actions required to adjust to the demands of the pandemic.
Target Audience	VA Assistant Secretaries, Under Secretaries and Key Leadership
Program Date	July 10, 2020
High Level Day Agenda	8:00 - 8:30 AM – (b)(7)(E) 8:30 -12:30 AM – Morning Activities 12:30 - 1:30 PM – Lunch 1:30 - 3:30 PM – Afternoon Activities 3:30 Adjourn
Travel Instructions & Funding	<u>Meals:</u> Breakfast and lunch will be provided. <u>Travel Mileage:</u> Individuals whose POV mileage from their residence is within 50 miles one-way to/from the off-site are limited to reimbursement of POV mileage more than their normal daily commute expense. Individuals whose POV mileage from their residence is greater than 50 miles one-way to/from the offsite location are entitled to be reimbursed the total amount of POV mileage. All travel costs will be the responsibility of your respective offices. You are required to submit your final travel costs in Concur/CGE Solutions within 5 days of your return to your station.
Location	Camp David (b)(7)(E)

	(b)(7)(E)
Transportation	Please plan to arrive at least 20 min prior to the start of the event to allow time to clear security and secure any electronics. Only pre-authorized guests will be allowed to enter the site (this includes support staff, drivers and/or security details).
Dress Code	<p>Dress is “Camp/business” casual – recommend you wear shoes suitable for light hiking. It is also recommended that you dress in layers and bring an umbrella.</p> <p>Weather pending, you will have the opportunity to take a walking tour of the Camp and participate in some of the indoor/outdoor entertainment on site (i.e., bowling, arcade, souvenir shop, skeet, hiking trails, etc.).</p>
Access/Contraband	<p>(b)(7)(E)</p> <p>In case of an emergency, you will be able to be reached at: (b)(6) or (b)(6)</p> <p>(b)(6)</p>
Program/Logistical Questions	<p>(b)(6)</p> <p>Office of Enterprise Integration Department of Veterans Affairs</p> <p>(b)(6) (Day of Event)</p>

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 10 Jun 2020 13:08:19 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Leadership briefing/tour

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 15 Jun 2020 13:46:22 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: VHA Daily COVID19 Update
Attachments: Untitled

(b)(6)

Sent:

Fri, 21 Aug 2020 16:04:37 +0000

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 10 Jun 2020 13:09:14 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT/Arrive at Hampton Inn Turnersville

RON

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 30 Jun 2020 14:01:16 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: OAN Interview

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 15 Jun 2020 19:25:56 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD - JC

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 15 Jun 2020 21:06:49 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: White House Task Force Meeting

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 17 Jun 2020 13:01:27 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Interview w/ Bill Hemmer, FOX News

3:00pm arrival
3:20pm Hit time

From: RLW
Sent: Fri, 5 Jun 2020 12:42:29 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: TRAVEL - Norfolk/Salem, Virginia

From: RLW
Sent: Fri, 26 Jun 2020 17:57:40 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Phone Call w/Mr. John Hesse

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 15 Jun 2020 19:21:36 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: En Route to 400 N Capitol NW

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 15 Jun 2020 15:31:24 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD - Raleigh, NC w/Senator Tillis

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 30 Jun 2020 14:01:16 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Interview w/ Jennifer Franco OAN Interview

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 16 Jun 2020 14:27:40 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD - Travel to Kansas City, MO

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 17 Jun 2020 14:11:15 +0000
Subject: HOLD - Travel to KC

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 15 Jun 2020 13:51:17 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD: ERT

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 17 Jun 2020 14:11:15 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: TRAVEL to KC

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 10 Jun 2020 16:22:45 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT Residence

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 16 Jun 2020 14:27:58 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD - Departure to KS

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 10 Jun 2020 13:04:34 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT/Arrive at Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VAMC

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 16 Jun 2020 14:01:29 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD - Phone call w/Philips CEO Vitor Rocha

Hi Nathan – Glad to schedule this. So sorry for the delay.

Would Monday, June 22 at 1:00pm work for you all?

Thank you,

(b)(6)

From: Naylor, Nathan (b)(6)@philips.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 7:07 AM

To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)@va.gov>

Cc: Scher, Deborah L. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6)@va.gov>; Galpin, Kevin MD (b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6)@philips.com>; (b)(6)@philips.com>; (b)(6) (b)(6) L. (b)(6)@va.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: REQUEST: :10 Min Leader-to-Leader Call on the Award of the Tele-ICU National Expansion Contract to Philips North America

Hi (b)(6)

Hope you and the 10th Floor family are well. I'm checking back in to see if Mr. Rocha and the Secretary could connect this week for a brief call on his personal commitment as CEO of Philips North America to the successful continuation of the Tele-ICU National Expansion awarded June 1st.

Vitor hopes to assure the Secretary this will have the full attention and priority of all of us on the team.

Best regards,

Nathan

--

Nathan Naylor
Vice President for Veterans Healthcare
Philips North America
Mobile (b)(6)





From: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @va.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 1, 2020 10:17 AM
To: Naylor, Nathan (b)(6) @philips.com>
Cc: Scher, Deborah L. (b)(6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (b)(6) @va.gov>; (b)(6) (b)(6) @va.gov>; Galpin, Kevin MD (b)(6) @va.gov>; (b)(6) (b)(6) @philips.com>; (b)(6) @philips.com>; (b)(6) (b)(6) L. (b)(6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: REQUEST: :10 Min Leader-to-Leader Call on the Award of the Tele-ICU National Expansion Contract to Philips North America

Thank you, Nathan. We'll get this scheduled ASAP. We have a lot going on today – so call likely will not happen today. Back to all ASAP. Thank you.

(b)(6)

From: Naylor, Nathan (b)(6) @philips.com>
Sent: Monday, June 1, 2020 10:09 AM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @va.gov>
Cc: Scher, Deborah L. (b)(6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (b)(6) @va.gov>; (b)(6) (b)(6) @va.gov>; Galpin, Kevin MD (b)(6) @va.gov>; (b)(6) (b)(6) @philips.com>; (b)(6) @philips.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] REQUEST: :10 Min Leader-to-Leader Call on the Award of the Tele-ICU National Expansion Contract to Philips North America

Good Morning (b)(6)

Vitor Rocha, CEO of Philips North America, asks if Secretary Wilkie would be available for a brief :10 minute call today or early this week. Mr. Rocha would like to thank the Secretary for the honor of Philips North America being selected as the awardee of the Tele-ICU National Expansion Contract and personally convey his determination to ensure our partnership meets and exceeds the needs of your intensivists and Connected Care leaders. Vitor and the entire Philips eICU team know that your ICUs are on the front lines during the COVID19 Pandemic and recognize our selection as your partner carries with it historic responsibility to preform and transform.

Heather Wilson is Vitor's Executive Assistant and her contact information is below, along with mine. Either one of us would be glad to work with you to facilitate this call.

Thanks again (b)(6)

Very Respectfully,

Nathan

--

(b)(6)

Executive Assistant to Vitor Rocha, Philips North America
Philips, 22100 Bothell Everett Highway, Bothell, WA 98021
Tel: +1 (b)(6) Cell: 1 (b)(6) Email: (b)(6)@philips.com

--

Nathan Naylor
Vice President for Veterans Healthcare
Philips North America
Mobile: (b)(6)



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From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 15 Jun 2020 19:36:55 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: En Route to (b)(6) - arrival 1:20pm

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 10 Jun 2020 13:05:06 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Intro/Screening

From: RLW
Sent: Fri, 26 Jun 2020 12:42:29 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Senator Collins Virtual Town Hall
Attachments: RE: Secretary Call w/ Senator Collins- Wed June 24 @9:30am

Waiting on confirmation of timing.
1 hour event

From: RLW
Sent: Fri, 26 Jun 2020 12:37:47 +0000
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) L.
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Secretary Call w/ Senator Collins- Wed June 24 @9:30am

Absolutely—I want Paul Lawrence, the Tigua VAMC Director and the VISN 1 Director on the call as well.

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @va.gov>
Date: Friday, Jun 26, 2020, 8:36 AM
To: RLW (b)(6) @va.gov>
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @va.gov>
Subject: FW: Secretary Call w/ Senator Collins- Wed June 24 @9:30am

Sir,
Senator Collins is asking if you would participate in a virtual townhall on July 15 at 6:00 or 6:30pm.

Your calendar can accommodate the requested date of July 15 should you decide to participate. (You will be in Detroit on July 13-14.)

Please let me know if this is something we can schedule for you.

Thank you,
(b)(6)

(b)(6) (b)(6)
**Executive Assistant to the
Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs**
(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) @va.gov>
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2020 8:31 AM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @va.gov>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @va.gov>
Cc: Haverstock, Cathy (b)(6) @va.gov>
Subject: FW: Secretary Call w/ Senator Collins- Wed June 24 @9:30am

During the Secretary's call with Collin he floated the idea of doing with her (tele-town hall) what he did with Ernst.

Collins' office has proposed the highlighted date/time. Let me know if this is something that will work and our staff will begin prepping.

Thanks!

From: (b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 11:16 AM
To: (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: Secretary Call w/ Senator Collins- Wed June 24 @9:30am

(b)(6)

Senator Collins' office contacted me in follow up to yesterday's call. The Senator would like to plan a Veteran's conference call, and was hoping the Secretary would join her for the call.

Her office has suggested July 15th early evening (maybe 6:00 or 6:30 for one hour)... and was wondering if that would work for the Secretary's schedule.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Congressional Relations Officer
Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs (OCLA)
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

(b)(6) (m)

New England Delegations (PA, MA, NY, NJ, RI, CT, NH, VT, ME)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 10:43 AM
To: (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: Secretary Call w/ Senator Collins- Wed June 24 @9:30am

(b)(6)

Here's the EBS for the Secretary's call tomorrow... note I provided recent background as reminders of her touchpoints with VA, but no talking points, as I have no idea why he asked for the call or what he wants to talk about.

I included the note about his cancelled trip from early April, and (b)(6) has no knowledge of that trip being rescheduled yet.

Please let me know if you think this needs more. Or if you want me to add the generic COVID talking points back into this. Then you or I can send up to (b)(6)

Thank you,
(b)(6)

(b)(6)
Congressional Relations Officer
Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs (OCLA)
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
(b)(6) (m)
New England Delegations (PA, MA, NY, NJ, RI, CT, NH, VT, ME)

From: (b)(6)@va.gov
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 10:51 AM
To: (b)(6)@va.gov
Subject: RE: Susan Collins

The Senator can call (b)(6)

No need for you to be on the call, but if you could put together an EBS just in case that would be great. Would also reach out to (b)(6) from the travel team and see whatever happened to that trip that got canceled. May be good to note that on the EBS.

Thanks!

Childress (b)(6)@va.gov

From: (b)(6)@va.gov
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 10:46 AM
To: (b)(6)@va.gov
Subject: RE: Susan Collins

The Senator is available on Wednesday from 9:30-9:45 for a call with the Secretary. Can we confirm?

Also, please advise if you want front office to be in direct contact with her scheduler since it is personal... am I needed for the call?

(b)(6)
(b)(6) (m)

From: (b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 8:11 AM
To: (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: Susan Collins

No idea. Just tell them it's a personal call.

From: (b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 8:10 AM
To: (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: Susan Collins

Good morning.

Yes of course. Topic?

From: (b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 8:09 AM
To: (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: FW: Susan Collins

Good morning (b)(6)

Could you please reach out to Collins' office and see if Sen Collins would be able to jump on the phone for a short call with the Secretary?

We have availability anytime on **Wed morning from 9-10.**

Thanks!

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 7:35 AM
To: Haverstock, Cathy (b)(6)@va.gov> (b)(6)
(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: Susan Collins

The Secretary would like to speak with Susan Collins some time this week.

Can you all please help schedule?

Thank you.

(b)(6)

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 10 Jun 2020 13:05:59 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Facility Tour

From: RLW
Sent: Fri, 5 Jun 2020 12:39:14 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: TRAVEL- New York

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 18 Jun 2020 16:26:52 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: **Rescheduling** Phone Call w/ Chairwoman Wasserman Schultz

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 17 Jun 2020 15:05:52 +0000
Subject: David Webb Show

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 10 Jun 2020 16:22:20 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT 400 N. Capitol, 3rd Floor - Arrival 6:15pm

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 24 Jun 2020 12:41:29 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Travel to PA

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 10 Jun 2020 16:22:20 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT Residence

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 15 Jun 2020 19:21:36 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: En Route to 400 N Capitol NW, 3rd Floor

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 16 Jun 2020 20:25:22 +0000
To: RLW
Attachments: June 17 2020.docx

DAILY BRIEFING BOOK

Wednesday, June 17, 2020

SECRETARY ROBERT L. WILKIE

7:45 – 8:15 am	Daily Sync Mtg	SECVA Suite	
9:00 – 10:00 am	Bi-Weekly w/Under Secretaries 3 US will attend in person	SECVA Suite	
11:00 – 11:30 am	Prep for WH Task Force Meeting 1-877-446-3914 Code: (b)(6)		
11:30 am – Noon	Lunch	SECVA Suite	
12:00 – 12:15 pm	Coin Larry Connell	Rm 930	
12:30 – 1:30 pm	Weekly Call w/ VSOs	OBCR	Tab 1
1:30 – 2:00 pm	ERT White House		
2:00 – 3:00 pm	White House PREVENTS Event		Tab 2
3:00 – 3:30 pm	ERT VACO		
4:00 – 5:00 pm	White House Coronavirus Task Force Mtg (b)(6)	SECVA Suite	Tab 3

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 15 Jun 2020 19:36:55 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: En Route to WH

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 30 Jun 2020 19:05:30 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Pop In - VHA Mtg w/Senators Lott & Breaux

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 16 Jun 2020 16:43:28 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: LUNCH

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 15 Jun 2020 19:36:55 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: En Route to (b)(6)

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 17 Jun 2020 15:05:52 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Interview - David Webb Show

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 15 Jun 2020 19:21:36 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: En Route to VACO

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 17 Jun 2020 15:06:55 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Interview - Fox Across America

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 11 Jun 2020 11:02:04 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD - Possible travel day

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 17 Jun 2020 14:11:15 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Depart to Kansas City - AA #4472

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 17 Jun 2020 18:58:02 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD - Videotaping of Korean War Memorial

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 1 Jun 2020 13:02:15 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD - Faith Based Event

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 16 Jun 2020 16:00:36 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Lunch / Office Time

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 2 Jun 2020 12:26:39 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Test for USO Event

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 10 Jun 2020 13:13:52 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Facility Tour

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 4 Jun 2020 14:37:12 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD - Call w/Senator Cotton

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 12:17:30 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT/Arrive at University of AZ

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 4 Jun 2020 17:11:22 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD - Travel

From: RLW
Sent: Fri, 5 Jun 2020 11:40:56 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Mtg w/Under Secretaries & Assistant Secretaries

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 12:17:56 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Exec time

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 4 Jun 2020 17:30:47 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD - Phone Call w/SEN Cotton

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 17 Jun 2020 14:39:13 +0000
To: RLW

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 30 Jun 2020 19:05:30 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD: Pop In - VHA Mtg w/Senators Lott & Breaux

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 12:18:30 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: VSO Listening Session

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 4 Jun 2020 19:29:24 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD - Travel

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 12:18:44 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Exec time

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 29 Jun 2020 14:54:23 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD: OAN Interview

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 30 Jun 2020 17:25:27 +0000
Subject: HOLD - Meet w/WH

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 15 Jun 2020 19:36:55 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: En Route to - (b)(6) - arrival 1:30pm

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 30 Jun 2020 14:01:16 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD: OAN Interview

From: VHA Healthcare Operations Center
Sent: Fri, 26 Jun 2020 21:29:04 +0000
To: VHA Healthcare Operations Center (b)(6) VHA VISN

Directors: (b)(6) WMC (b)(6)
(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) VHACO (b)(6) Cussatt, Dominic (SES) (b)(6)
(b)(6) Everett, John P. (SES); (b)(6) 10RCS; (b)(6)
(b)(6)
D., MD (b)(6) (HEFP/10NA5E); (b)(6) (WMC) (b)(6)
(b)(6) VHA NCOD; (b)(6)
(b)(6)
(b)(6) (WMC); Powers, Pamela; (b)(6)
(b)(6) ; VHA HOC All Staff; VHA OHT C19 Action; (b)(6)
(b)(6) (HEFP/10NA5C); (b)(6)
(b)(6)
(b)(6) (Physician); VHA VISN CMO Only (b)(6)
(b)(6) . (V17) (b)(6)
(b)(6) MD, MBA, FACHE (b)(6) @deloitte.com; (b)(6)
(b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6) (VACO) (b)(6)
(b)(6) V20; (b)(6) Portland (b)(6) V20; (b)(6)
(b)(6) (OGC) (b)(6) (OGC) (b)(6) V20; (b)(6)
(Prometheus); (b)(6)
(b)(6) DURVAMC; (b)(6)
(b)(6) (ERPi); (b)(6) (VHA) (b)(6)
(b)(6)
OHT; (b)(6) (VACO) (b)(6) RICVAMC; (b)(6)
(b)(6) (OHT) (b)(6) (VACO) (b)(6)
(b)(6) OGC; (b)(6) VHA LOGOPSCENTER; (b)(6)
(b)(6) @mckinsey.com; (b)(6)
(b)(6)
(b)(6) (Microsoft); (b)(6)
(b)(6) V20; (b)(6)
FNCVAMC; (b)(6)
OEM (b)(6) VHACO; (b)(6) (HEFP\10NA5A) (b)(6)
(b)(6) ERPi; (b)(6)
(b)(6)
(b)(6) (Deloitte Consulting); (b)(6) VHA CO 10N Support
Staff (b)(6) .(VHATAM); (b)(6) TUA; (b)(6)
(Shuron); (b)(6) Puget Sound; (b)(6)
Subject: Copy: COVID-19 - Moving Forward Tue/Fri

This meeting invite will be refreshed regularly. .

VHA leadership will continue to host the Coronavirus preparation call **every Tuesday and Friday** at 3:30pm Eastern.

Please remember to mute your phones when you are not speaking. The entire audience may be muted; if you are dialing in, you must press *6 to unmute yourself. If you are able to, using the Skype integrated audio through your computer may provide a better meeting experience

Join Skype Meeting

Trouble Joining? [Try Skype Web App](#)

Join by phone

844-376-0278,	<input type="text" value="(b)(6)"/>	(East)	English (United States)
844-815-1331,	<input type="text" value="(b)(6)"/>	(East)	English (United States)
844-770-5400,	<input type="text" value="(b)(6)"/>	(East)	English (United States)

[Find a local number](#)

Conference ID

[Forgot your dial-in PIN?](#) | [Help](#)



From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 17 Jun 2020 11:25:08 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD - TRAVEL to New Jersey

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 17 Jun 2020 11:25:08 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: TRAVEL to New Jersey

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 10 Jun 2020 13:10:09 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT/Arrive at Wildwood Convention Center

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 25 Jun 2020 10:40:32 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: WH TASK FORCE MEETING

Good evening,

This message is being sent to assistants, essential staff and military aides.

The next **White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting** is tentatively scheduled for **Friday, June 26th at 2:30**. A calendar invitation and RSVP email will be sent tomorrow afternoon upon confirmation.

Thank you,

(b)(6) (b)(6)

Operations Coordinator, White House Coronavirus Task Force
Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff
The Office of the Vice President

(b)(6)

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 23 Jun 2020 20:56:24 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT (b)(6) / on to Korean War Memorial

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 10 Jun 2020 13:05:29 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Leadership Briefing

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 17 Jun 2020 14:27:15 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Lunch

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 8 Jun 2020 09:59:46 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: En Route to VACO

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 18 Jun 2020 18:30:35 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: 3:00pm Wheels up from MCI to ORD (Chicago)

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 24 Jun 2020 12:50:00 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: LUNCH

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 11 Jun 2020 19:43:20 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: En Route to WH

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 18 Jun 2020 18:31:25 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Layover in Chicago

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 18 Jun 2020 18:32:23 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: 6:00pm Wheels up from ORD to DCA

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 3 Jun 2020 17:04:05 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Phone Call w/Senator J. Ernst

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 4 Jun 2020 15:06:40 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD - Video Shoot

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 24 Jun 2020 12:41:29 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD - Travel to PA

From: RLW
Sent: Fri, 19 Jun 2020 20:18:22 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD - (b)(6)

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 18 Jun 2020 10:58:26 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: WH Task Force Mtg

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 9 Jun 2020 19:08:00 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Introduction to COVID-19 Screening Area

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 18 Jun 2020 12:18:36 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD - Atlanta & Columbus, GA

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 4 Jun 2020 19:49:20 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD Travel

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 9 Jun 2020 19:10:07 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Introduction to COVID-19 Screening Area

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 18 Jun 2020 17:02:22 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD: Media

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 4 Jun 2020 17:31:40 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD - Phone Call w/SEN Cotton

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 9 Jun 2020 19:19:27 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Media Prep

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 18 Jun 2020 18:29:27 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: 7:35pm Wheels up from DCa to MCI (Kansas City, MO)

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 8 Jun 2020 20:44:35 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT/Visit Charlotte CBOC

~26 min/16.4 mi

0950 Facility tour

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 22 Jun 2020 12:54:21 +0000
Subject: No Scheduling

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 4 Jun 2020 15:06:40 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Video Shoot
Attachments: script draft -- Bind our Wounds-jeh.docx

SCRIPT – SECRETARY WILKIE

I want to acknowledge the very difficult time we find ourselves in as a nation. Today I want to express my profound love for America and the Veterans that fought in uniform to fulfill the promises of our founders for every person.

In the meantime, please pray that America's strength and resolve can be found in her everyday leaders like those that have honorably served and we can once again in Lincoln's words, 'Bind Up The Nation's Wounds' together.

Our Veterans well know that in the military we work together toward the common goals to accomplish the defense needs of the nation. We must listen to one another, genuinely care for one another, and recognize that our dreams are tightly woven together.

Just as Lincoln saw the need to take care of our Veterans as a nation, we understand that our fate as a people is a shared one. We need each other in ways too numerous to enumerate. We will enjoy the fruits of the liberty that our Veterans fought so bravely to gain and preserve only if we strive as a people who sincerely believe in the rights of all men and women.

VA will continue on the path of genuine concern and caring for our Veterans and their families. The nation can look to VA as a beacon of hope that has no other reason for existing but to serve those who served so willingly to preserve and protect the rights of our fellow citizens.

Respect and dignity are the rights of all men and women without regard to background, social standing, or beliefs. I know our great and noble employees who have proven themselves as courageous and dedicated throughout the pandemic understand this better than anyone.

Let us determine to stand together, work together, and care for one another to heal our wounds and realize the dream of a more perfect union.

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 8 Jun 2020 20:51:20 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT/Visit Charlotte Vet Center

~12 min/4.9 mi

Greeted by:
Mr. Chauncey McLeod, Director, Charlotte Vet Center
Ms. Colette Calhoun, Office Manager, Charlotte Vet Center

1035 Facility tour

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 22 Jun 2020 17:38:55 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: No Scheduling

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 22 Jun 2020 12:48:59 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD: Bill Bennett Phone Call

From: RLW
Sent: Fri, 5 Jun 2020 12:39:14 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD - Travel

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 8 Jun 2020 20:55:13 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Executive Time

From: RLW
Sent: Fri, 5 Jun 2020 12:42:29 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD - TRAVEL

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 22 Jun 2020 12:00:55 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD: Call w/ Susan Collins

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 16 Jun 2020 19:22:03 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Hair Cut

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 9 Jun 2020 16:56:13 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD - Visit to Quantico

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 18 Jun 2020 13:57:46 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: SECVA Weekly Call w/ Takano & Roe

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 24 Jun 2020 17:21:09 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: A/DEPSEC, COS, Hutton, Davis & (b)(6) re: Survey of Veterans re: VA Motto

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 29 Jun 2020 14:54:23 +0000
To: RLW

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 15 Jun 2020 14:25:00 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Layover in DEN

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 29 Jun 2020 15:44:57 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: PREVENTS Launch, REACH

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 15 Jun 2020 14:23:59 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: 7:53am - Wheels up from PHX to DEN (Denver)

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 18 Jun 2020 14:23:35 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD: Prep for WH Task Force

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 2 Jun 2020 12:51:49 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD: Media

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 22 Jun 2020 12:24:10 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: (b)(6) & Traci re: Upcoming Remarks

From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 18 Jun 2020 14:43:48 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD: DWS Call

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 17 Jun 2020 11:25:08 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: TRAVEL to New Jersey Veterans Health Clinic

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 24 Jun 2020 15:04:22 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD - Possible videotaping

From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 17 Jun 2020 11:46:50 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Leadership briefing / Facility Tour

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 8 Jun 2020 15:18:46 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Call w/Deputy, Cos, & DCoS -

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 16 Jun 2020 14:27:40 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Travel to Kansas City, MO

From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 2 Jun 2020 12:51:03 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD: Media

From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 22 Jun 2020 13:42:32 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD - Task Force Meeting

All –

This message is being sent to assistants, essential staff and military aides.

The next **White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting** is for **Wednesday, June 24th**. A time has not yet been confirmed. A calendar invitation will be sent tomorrow afternoon with details.

Thank you,

(b)(6) (b)(6)

Operations Coordinator, White House Coronavirus Task Force
Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff
The Office of the Vice President

(b)(6)