



VA & OGC

Structures and Functions

2023

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of General Counsel

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs

Our mission, as the Department of Veterans Affairs, is to fulfill President Lincoln's promise "To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan" by serving and honoring the men and women who are America's Veterans. **VA's** five core values underscore the obligations inherent in **VA's mission**: Integrity, Commitment, Advocacy, Respect, and Excellence (ICARE).

The veterans health care system was established following World War I to provide medical care and rehabilitation to veterans. The United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is now the second largest federal agency after the Department of Defense. It is the largest integrated healthcare provider in the United States and one of the largest in the world.

VA was ranked the most improved large Federal Agency by Partnership for Public Service in 2021. And in 2022 was ranked by Partnership for Public Service as one of the top five Best Places to work in Federal government. Forbes ranked VA as one of America's top large employers in 2021 and 2022.

Veterans in the US

([National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics \(va.gov\)](https://www.va.gov))

2000, 26.4 million veterans living in the U.S.

2020, 19.1 million veterans living in the U.S. (7% of adult population)

Vietnam veterans, 6.4 million

Peace time veterans, 4 million

Women veterans, 1.7 million

2040, 12.9 million veterans living in the U.S. (projected)

Median veteran age is 65

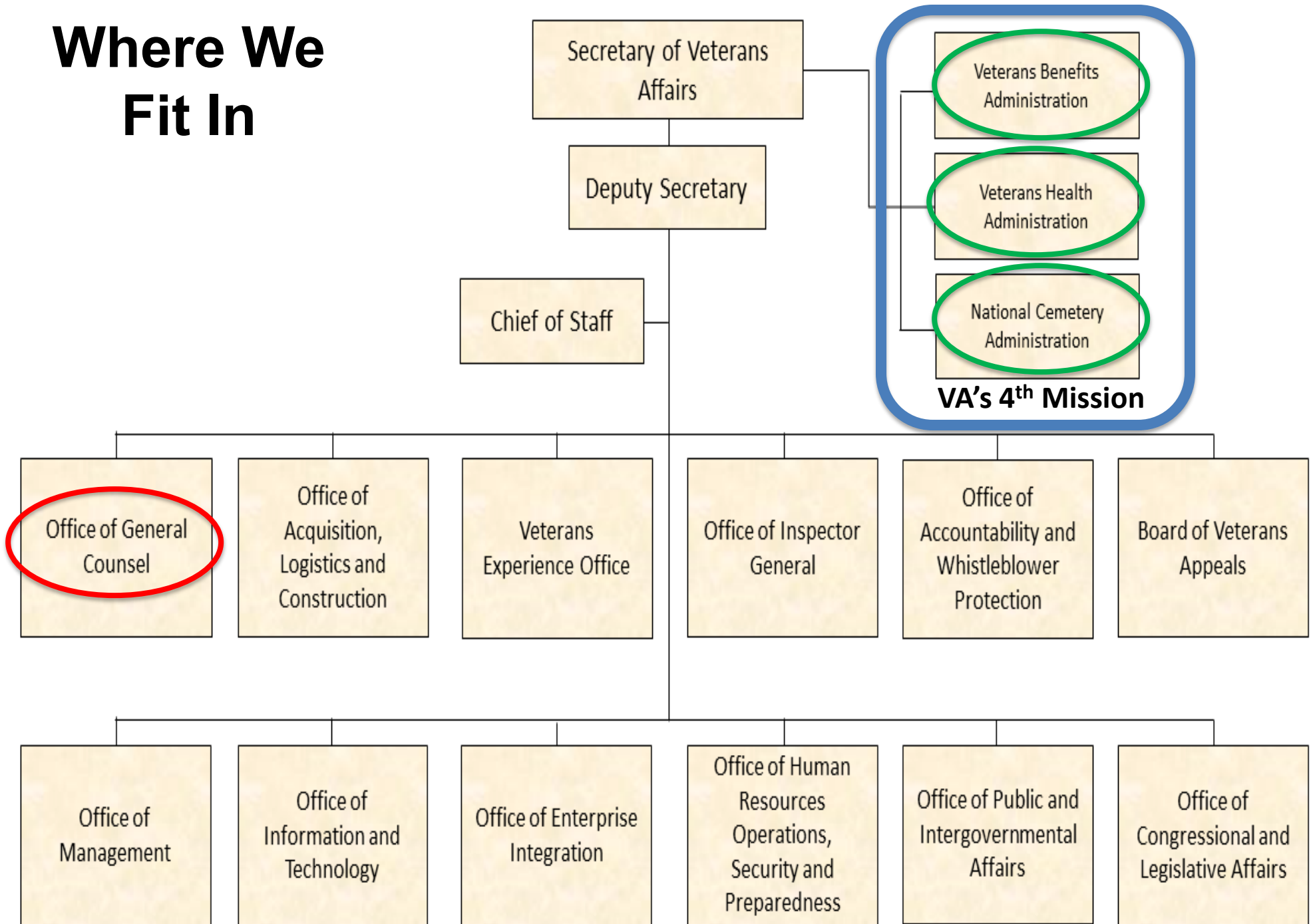
Median post 9/11 veterans age is 37

Median Vietnam veteran age is 71

Median WWII veteran age is 93

US Census, 2020 - [Those Who Served: America's Veterans From World War II to the War on Terror \(census.gov\)](https://www.census.gov)

Where We Fit In



VA = 425,428 FTEE*

Administrations – 406,771 employees

- [Veterans Health Administration](#) 379,251 employees in 18 VISNs, in 5 Districts
- [Veterans Benefits Administration](#) 25,303 employees in 4 Districts
- [National Cemetery Administration](#) 2,217 employees in 5 Districts

Staff Offices – 18,657 employees spread throughout VACO & the Districts

Information Technology	8,766
Electronic Health Record Modernization	337
General Administration (including OGC)	3,341 (OGC = 850)
Board of Veterans Appeals	1,356
Inspector General	1,100
Franchise Fund	2,481
Supply Fund	1,276

[FY-2022-VA-BudgetSubmission.zip](#)

*PACT Act just blew this up!



VA Benefits & Health Care Utilization

Updated 1/28/2022

Number of Veterans Receiving VA Disability Compensation (as of 12/31/2021):	5.27 M
Number of Veterans Rated 100% Disabled (as of 12/31/2021):	1,002,445
Number of Veterans Receiving VA Pension (as of 12/31/2021):	189,126
Number of Spouses Receiving DIC (as of 12/31/2021):	445,383
Number of Total Enrollees in VA Health Care System (FY 21):	9.26 M ¹
Number of Total Unique Patients Treated (FY 21):	6.81 M ¹
Number of Veterans Compensated for PTSD (as of 12/31/2021):	1,272,548
Number of Veterans in Receipt of IU Benefits (as of 12/31/2021):	374,998
Number of VA Education Beneficiaries (FY 21):	841,603
Number of Life Insurance Policies Supervised and Administered by VA (as of 12/31/2021):	5.73 M
Face Amount of Insurance Policies Supervised and Administered by VA (as of 12/31/2021):	1.23 T
Number of Veterans Participating in Voc Rehab (Chapter 31) (FY 21):	125,144 ³
Number of Active VA Home Loan Participants (as of 12/31/2021):	3.59 M
Number of Health Care Professionals Rotating Through VA (Academic Year (AY) 19-20):	118,012
Number of Veterans with Major/Minor Amputations Utilizing VA Health Care (FY 21):	97,851 ²

Source: VBA Office of Performance Analysis and Integrity; Health Services Training Report; VBA Education Service; ¹ VHA OABI and VSSC (10E2A); ² VA VSSC Amputation Cube; ³ Includes 12,870 Veterans in interrupted case status over one year.
 Produced by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics. <http://www.va.gov/vetdata/pocketcard/index.asp>

Veterans Demographics

Projected U.S. Veterans Population:	19,162,515	{Female 2,045,384 10.7%}
Projected Number of Living WW II Veterans:	240,329	
Estimated Number of WW II Veterans Pass Away Per Day:	234	
Percentage of Veteran Population 65 or Older:	46.3%	
Veteran Population by Race:	White 78.6%	Black 12.6%
	Asian/Pacific Islander 2.1%	Other 4.0%
	American Indian/Alaska Natives 0.8%	Hispanic 8.2%

About VA

Number of Full Time VA Employees Employees in Pay Status:	400,075 426,437
Number of Total VA Care Sites:	1,303 ¹
Number of VAMC with Outpatient Acute Inpatient Care Sites:	171 145
Number of VA Outpatient Only Care Sites:	1,120
Number of VA Vet Centers:	300
Number of VBA Regional Offices:	56
Number of VA National Cemeteries:	155

FY2020 Appropriations (enacted) ²	FY2021 Appropriations (enacted) ^{2,5}	FY2022 Appropriations (requested) ^{2,6}
VA: \$218.43B	VA: \$245.28B	VA: \$269.86B
VHA: \$84.10B ³	VHA: \$92.82B ³	VHA: \$101.54B ³
VBA-GOE: \$3.00B ⁴	VBA-GOE: \$3.16B ⁴	VBA-GOE: \$3.42B ⁴
NCA: \$329M	NCA: \$397M	NCA: \$439M
OIT: \$4.34B	OIT: \$4.88B	OIT: \$4.84B

Source: Veteran Population (VP2018) as of 9/30/2021; VA Employ Pay Status Count 12/31/2021; Veterans Affairs Site Tracking (VAST) 12/31/2021¹ (Does not include temporarily deactivated sites); NCA as of 12/31/2021; Office of Budget; Health Services Training Report AY19-20; ² Includes MCF; ³ Medical Care w/ MCF, joint, medical research; ⁴ Discretionary Spending Only; ⁵ Does not include COVID supplemental funding received via P.L. 116-127/116-36; ⁶ Does not include mandatory requests in the American Jobs Plan.

How Much We Do

5.27M = VBA disability comp. recipients

9.26M = VHA enrollees

520 = NCA interments per day

FY22 appropriations \$270B (25B increase)

\$270B (+17B)

- 101.54 VHA
- 3.42B VBA
- 0.439B NCA
- 0.140B OGC
- 4.84B OI&T (including EHR)

\$160B+/- remaining, where did it go?

WH requested budget for 2023, \$301.4B

VA available at a glance pocket cards:

<https://www.va.gov/vetdata/pocketcard/index.asp#>



155 NCA Cemeteries with 520 interments per day

98.2 percent of all respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they were satisfied with their experience at the national cemetery.

96.9 percent of all respondents agreed or strongly agreed the quality of service they received from cemetery staff was excellent.

98.0 percent of all respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the national cemetery staff was courteous.

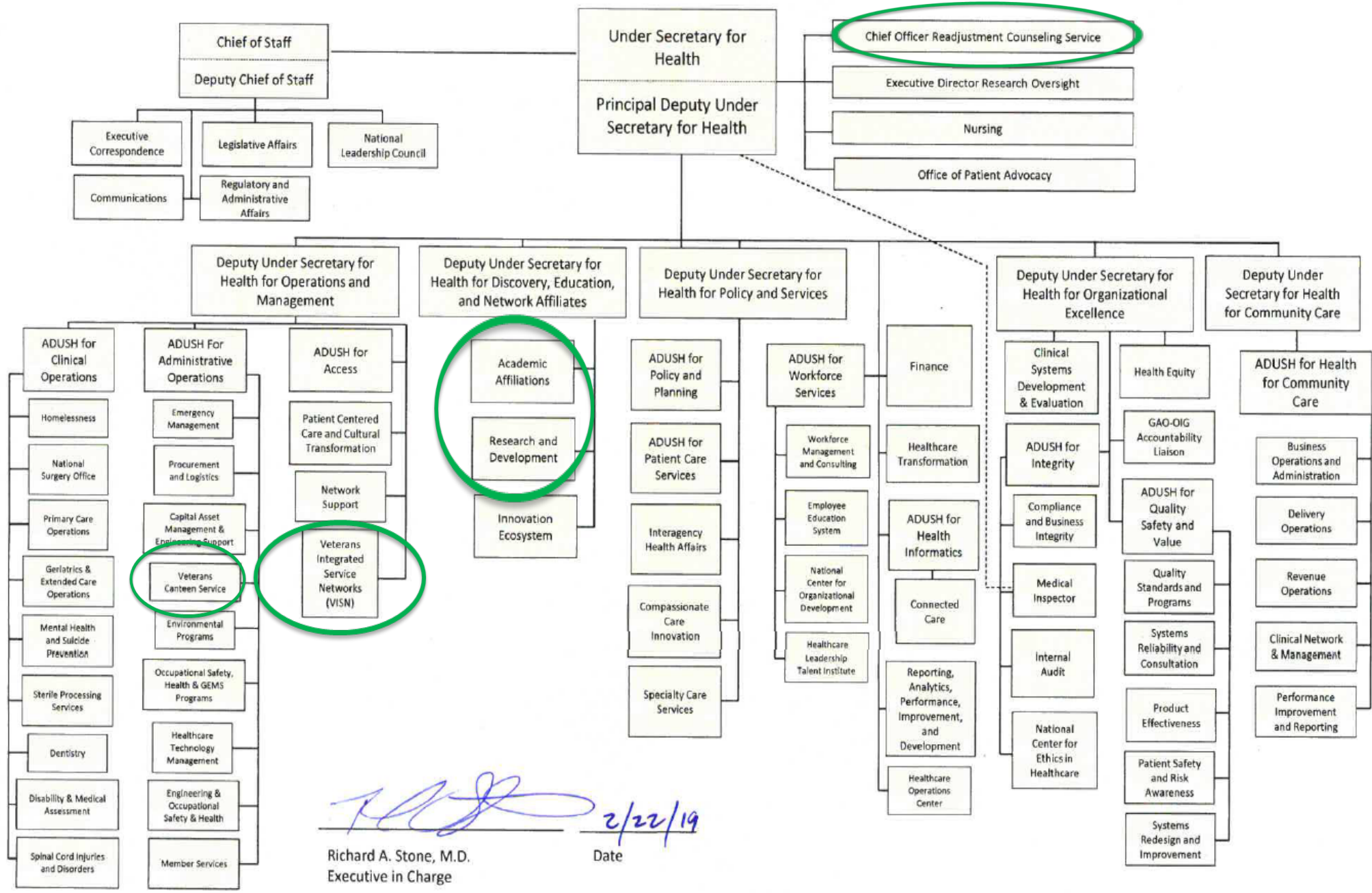
97.1 percent of all respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the national cemetery staff was professional (knowledgeable, helpful, and responsive).


99.0 percent of all respondents agreed or strongly agreed the overall appearance of their national cemeteries was excellent.

98.7 percent of respondents indicated they would recommend their national cemeteries to Veteran families during their time of need.

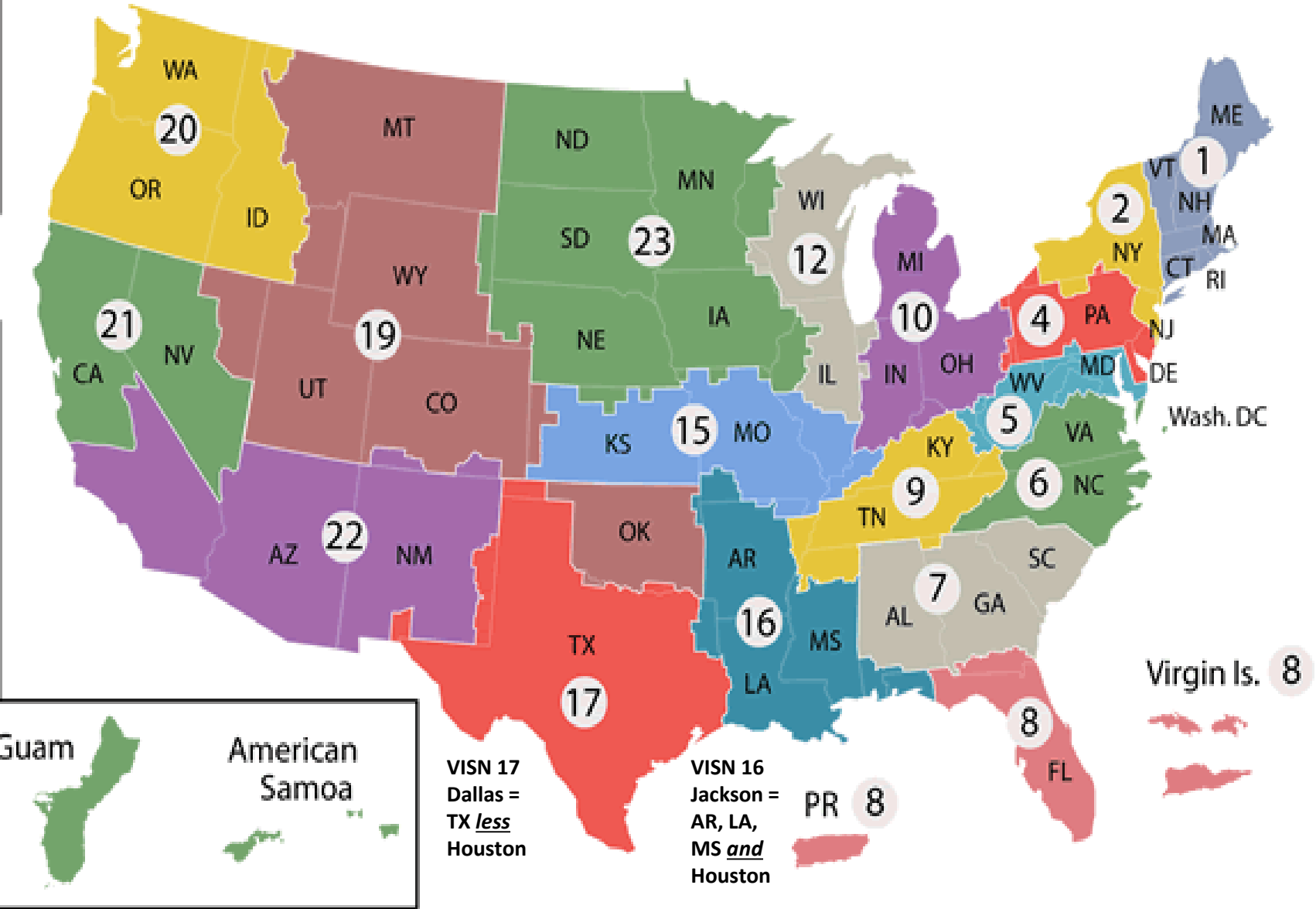
Grave locator: <https://www.cem.va.gov/>

VHA Organization w/ 379,251 employees




 Richard A. Stone, M.D.
 Executive in Charge
 Date 2/22/19

VHA Field Operations - 18 VHA VISNS Within the 5 Districts



VHA Field Operations - 18 VHA VISNS Within the 5 Districts

VA EASTERN COLORADO HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Overall rating of hospital (Global measure)

1/2019 - 12/2019
Date Range

8/13/2021
Last date updated

Higher Value is Better

Rank 10 of 37

Hospital Name	Rank	Value
UCHEALTH YAMPA VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER		87.00
ORTHOCOLORADO HOSPITAL AT ST ANTHONY MED CAMPUS		86.00
MORRILL COUNTY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL		84.00
SAINT JOSEPH HOSPITAL		84.00
CASTLE ROCK ADVENTIST HOSPITAL		82.00
PERKINS COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES		82.00
DECATUR COUNTY HOSPITAL		81.00
LUTHERAN MEDICAL CENTER		81.00
PRESBYTERIAN ST LUKE'S MEDICAL CENTER		81.00
VA EASTERN COLORADO HEALTHCARE SYSTEM		81.00
VAIL HEALTH HOSPITAL		81.00
CENTRAL HEALTH ST ANTHONY MEDICAL CAMPUS		80.00

81.00
VA Top 10 Percent

77.00
VA Top 25 Percent

71.29
National Average

72.00
National Median

77.78
Regional Average

78.00
Regional Median

171 VA Medical Centers

1,123 Community Based
Outpatient Clinics
(CBOCS) & other
healthcare facilities

How are they rated:

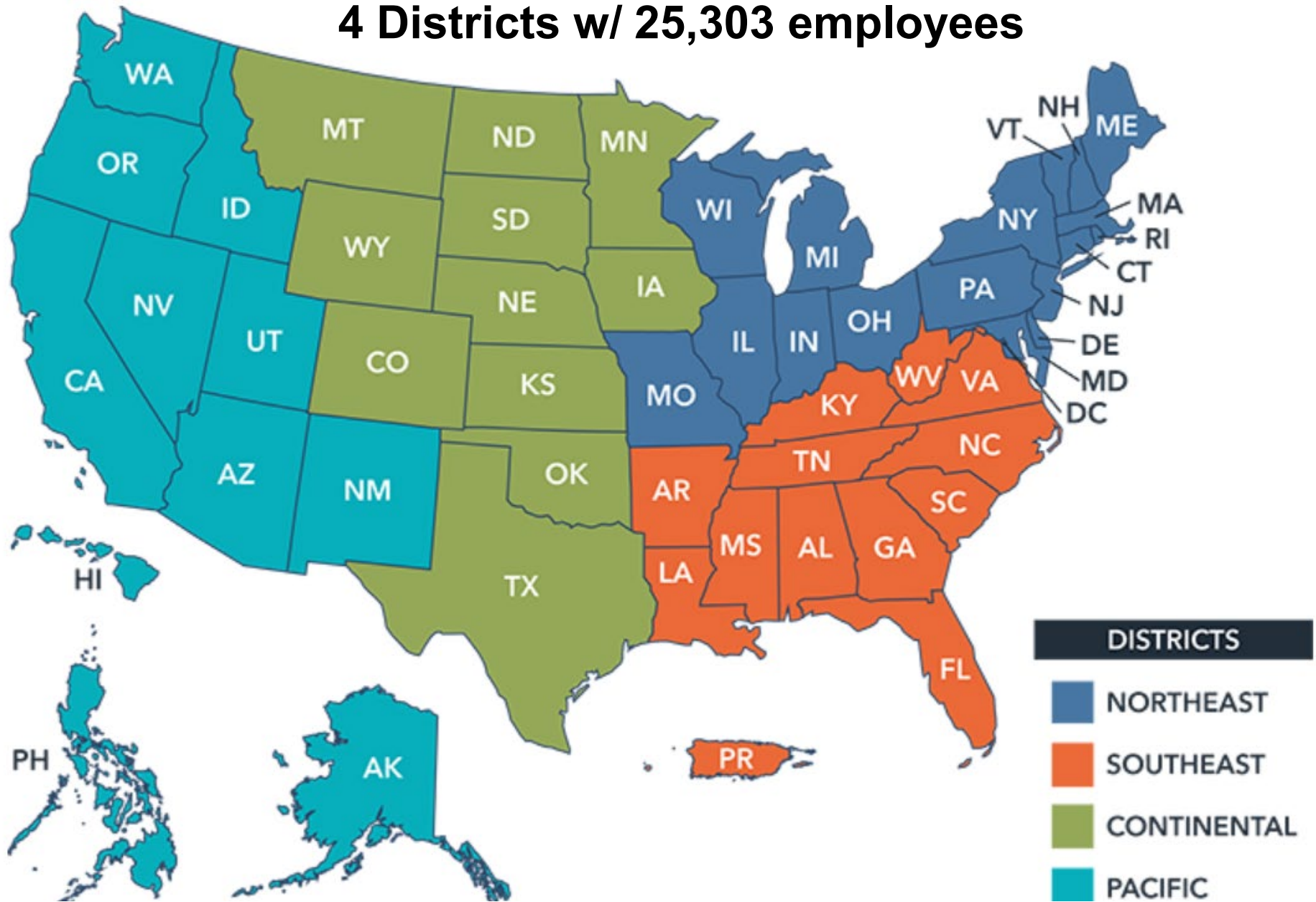
Previously: Star Ratings

Now: How Does Care
Compare In VA and Other
Facilities In My Area?

<https://www.accesstocare.va.gov/Healthcare/QualityOfCare>

VBA Field Operations – 56 Regional Offices

4 Districts w/ 25,303 employees



VBA Field Operations; 56 Regional Offices

4 Districts w/ 23,986 employees

J12 =IF(ISNA(\$A12),"",IFERROR(SUMIFS(D_D[PROD_FYTD],D_D[MT],5,D_D[CAT],SMS,D_D[EP],-1,D_D[LOC],\$A12),0))

DISTRICT SELECTOR		Compensation and Pension Rating Bundle Metrics							Report through		
<input type="radio"/> Northeast <input type="radio"/> Southeast <input checked="" type="radio"/> Continental <input type="radio"/> Pacific <input type="radio"/> Other		Station of Jurisdiction View							Saturday, March 26, 2		
		The Station of Jurisdiction (SOJ) is the regional office assigned to work the claim							ADP = Average Days Penc		
		Each Special Mission has distinct claim counts							ADC = Average Days to C		
		When Special Mission is set to Pension, BDD, or Quickstart, the District Selector has no impact							Accuracy is available		
SPECIAL MISSION SELECTOR		CLAIM METRICS									
Compensation <input type="text" value="Compensation"/>		# Pending	# Pending > 125 Days	% Pending > 125 Days	ADP	# Completed MTD	ADC MTD	# Completed FYTD	ADC FYTD	Rating 3 Month Issue	Rating 3 Month Claim
Compensation Total		584,939	235,094	40.2%	158.8	119,620	161.8	741,580	135.7	97.2%	91.9%
Continental District		16,084	5,779	35.9%	147.2	24,414	173.1	152,165	140.0	98.7%	95.5%
Cheyenne		161	58	36.0%	141.3	233	157.8	1,476	128.0	94.8%	68.3%
Denver		1,213	296	24.4%	103.5	2,496	126.9	16,708	116.2	100.0%	100.0%
Des Moines		712	170	23.9%	102.5	1,556	138.0	10,085	120.7	98.0%	91.4%
Fargo		199	81	40.7%	155.6	563	170.3	3,759	144.1	98.2%	88.6%
Fort Harrison		468	192	41.0%	144.4	756	168.9	4,504	163.8	99.2%	94.3%
Houston		2,742	575	21.0%	91.8	4,497	122.6	28,629	107.0	97.2%	95.2%
Lincoln		1,048	493	47.0%	177.8	1,332	218.4	8,411	191.5	100.0%	100.0%
Muskogee		1,922	699	36.4%	139.5	3,527	137.3	23,264	121.6	99.0%	91.7%
Sioux Falls		459	169	36.8%	139.9	839	149.9	7,307	98.7	95.2%	90.1%
St. Paul		2,342	898	38.3%	171.9	3,188	222.1	18,881	145.5	98.8%	100.0%
Waco		4,439	2,040	46.0%	186.3	4,690	247.6	24,460	203.8	100.0%	100.0%
Wichita		379	108	28.5%	127.9	737	151.5	4,681	152.0	100.0%	100.0%

Ready

Public facing measures include:

- Claims inventory
- Claims backlog
- 3-month accuracy by claim
- 12-month accuracy by claim
- 3-month accuracy by issue
- 12-month accuracy by issue
- Fully developed claims processing times

Claims data here: https://www.benefits.va.gov/REPORTS/detailed_claims_data.asp

OGC OVERVIEW

The General Counsel provides legal advice and services to the Secretary (SECVA) and all organizational components of the Department. The General Counsel is, by statute, the Department's Chief Legal Officer. 38 USC § 311

OGC's Mission

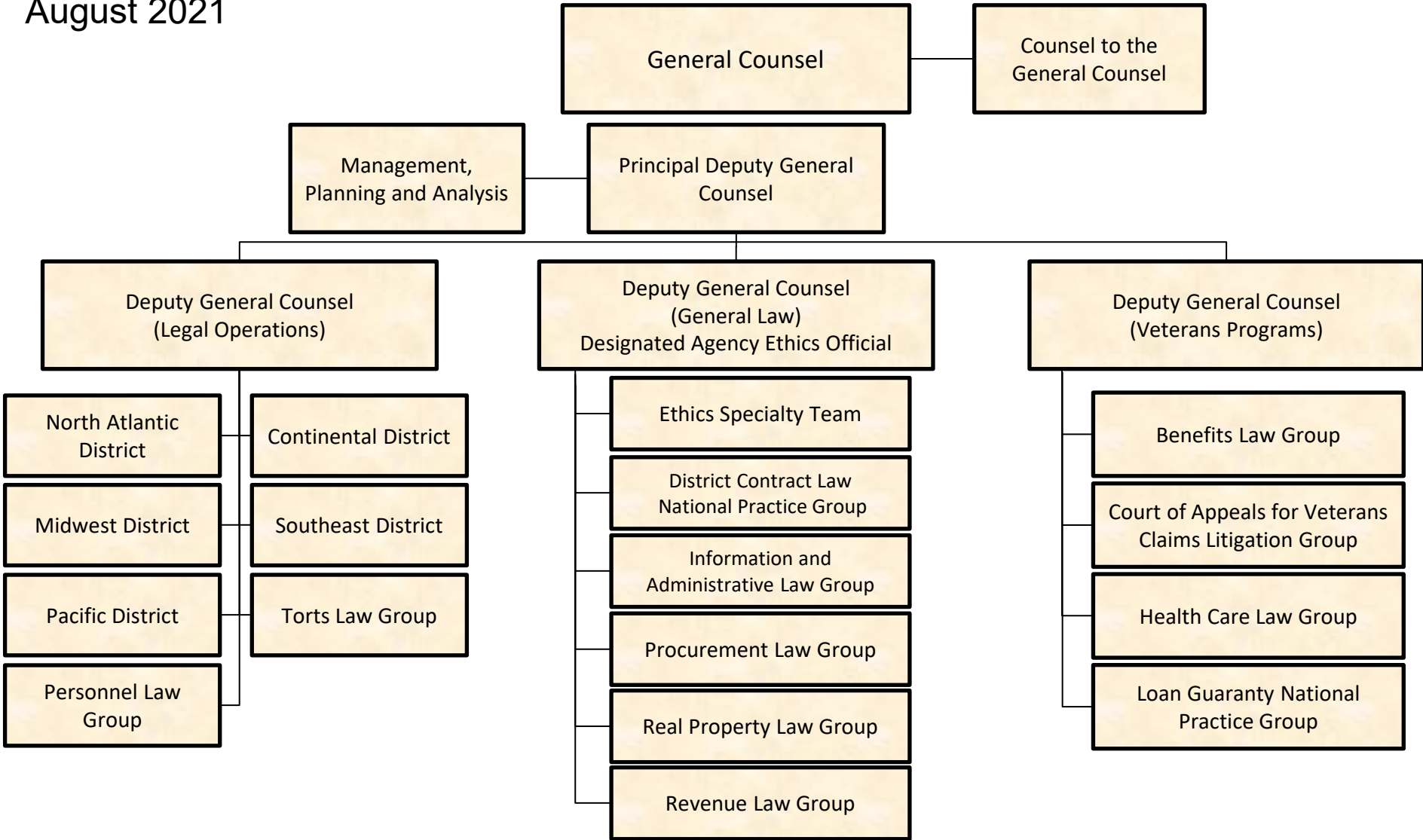
- The Office of General Counsel serves as VA's in-house counsel and is committed to ensuring that every member of our organization has a Veteran focus and an understanding and commitment to the business priorities of our VA clients.
- OGC's attorneys act as business partners, providing sound legal expertise, and as needed, critical problem-solving skills and risk-management advice.
- OGC strives to provide real-time legal advice. Our goal is to be involved with Department decision-makers during the initial phases of decisions and actions, rather than focusing only on defending actions after the decisions have been made. This proactive, preventive approach promotes better outcomes and reduces risk.

OGC's Structure

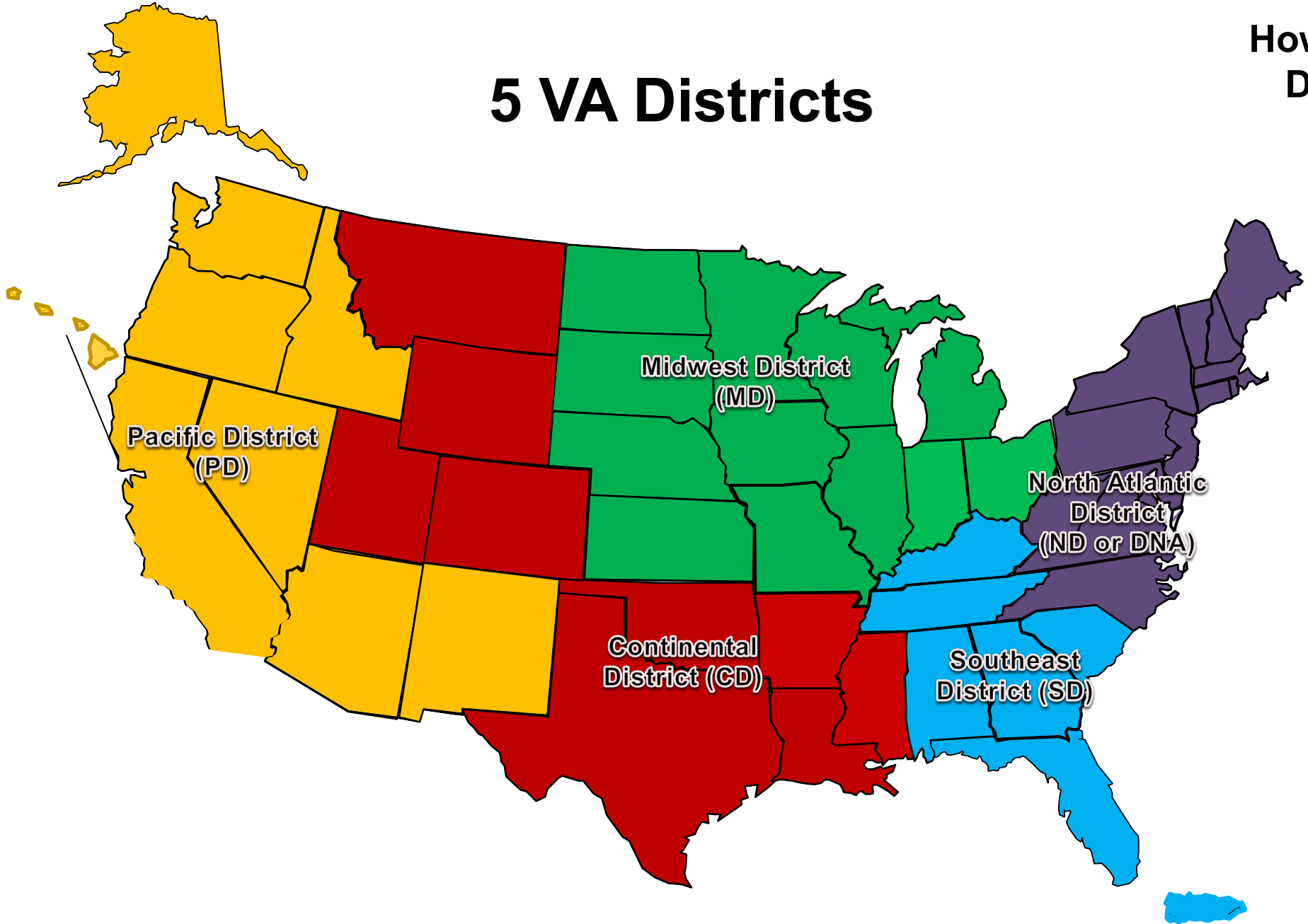
- The General Counsel, Principal Deputy General Counsel, and three Deputy General Counsel advise the SECVA, DEPSEC, Chief of Staff, and other senior Department officials regarding all laws, regulations, Executive Orders, and judicial precedents pertaining to the Department.
- OGC provides a full range of legal and litigation services, as well as support for legislative and regulatory activities through
 - 9 VA Central Office (VACO) based Law Groups
 - 2 National Practice Groups (NPGs)
 - 5 Offices of Chief Counsel in the Districts
 - Ethics Specialty Team (EST)
 - Torts Law Group (TLG)

OGC Structure

August 2021



5 VA Districts



Veterans are at the Center of OGC's Legal Services

Striving to complete review of tort claims within 180 days, providing timely adjudication to Veterans and their families

Providing legal assistance regarding Congressional oversight requests and hearings increases transparency and improves trust in VA, which benefits Veterans

Defending the Secretary's adjudication of Veterans' claims for benefits while ensuring a legally sound and timely claims appeals process for Veterans

Partnering with VA offices to secure legally compliant contracts which strike the best bargain for Veterans, and ensuring timely procurement of facilities for use by Veterans

Providing legal guidance regarding Federal Ethics Rules to promote an ethical culture and accountability for Veterans

Tort Claims

OGC Front Office & Operations

US Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims

Contracts, Construction & Leases

Government Ethics

Information Law

Employment Law

Legally Compliant VA Programs

Accreditation of Veterans Representatives

Revenue

Loan Guaranty

Ensuring timely and complete analysis and legally appropriate release of information, whether to Congress, Veterans, courts, or the public, improves trust in VA, which benefits Veterans

Defending the Agency to promote effective services and protect Agency resources; Protecting whistleblowers; Ensuring disciplinary actions are effectively utilized to promote better service to Veterans

Ensuring legally compliant implementation of VA laws, that VA programs serve Veterans, and protecting VA from litigation outcomes that inhibit efficient service to Veterans

Ensuring timely review, approval, and oversight of the accreditation process which improves Veterans' access to qualified representatives

Recovering funds owed to VA which are returned to VA Medical Centers for use in caring for Veterans

Providing legal assistance and review of receipt of title under the guaranteed loan program, multi-unit developments, quiet title disputes, specialty adapted housing grants, and related matters



Detailed Summary of Law Offices' Responsibilities

Veterans' Programs

Benefits Law Group

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) administers over \$100 billion in benefits annually to Veterans, their dependents, and survivors, through a wide variety of benefit programs to address the impact of service-connected disability or death, to assist in attaining educational and vocational goals, and to provide for the economic needs of Veterans and their families. VA also operates 155 National Cemeteries, provides funding to 121 State and Tribal Veterans Cemeteries, and provides headstones and other burial benefits to memorialize deceased Veterans and honor their service and sacrifice to our Nation. The Benefits Law Group provides a comprehensive array of legal services to support these benefit and memorial programs. The benefit programs BLG supports include: 1) Disability Compensation – For economic impairment due to service-connected disability; 2) Disability Pension – For elderly or disabled wartime Veterans with low income; 3) Survivors' Benefits – Compensation for service-connected death; need-based pension; 4) Education Benefits (GI Bill) – Payments for tuition, housing, and other education costs; 5) Vocational Rehabilitation – Training, education, and employment services; 6) Insurance – For Veteran and Servicemember deaths and Servicemember traumatic injuries; 7) Burial and Memorial Benefits – Payments, burial services, and cemetery operations; and 8) Accreditation, Discipline, and Fees Program--Oversees organizations and individuals providing representation of claimants before VA. BLG's practice entails a broad range of services, including legislative matters, regulations, litigation, and legal advice and assistance to program officials and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. BLG works closely with the Department of Justice to represent VA in appellate litigation before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit and has been involved in cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. While BLG primarily deals with the statutes in title 38, United States Code, governing Veterans benefits, its practice regularly implicates a diverse body of other laws, including Constitutional law, administrative law, and rules of civil and appellate procedure, and often involves complex and interesting issues of statutory and regulatory interpretation.

Duties will be performed at the VA Central Office located in Washington D.C.

Detailed Summary of Law Offices' Responsibilities (cont'd.)

Court of Appeals Litigation Group (CALG)

CALG represents the Secretary before the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC). It is the newest and largest group in OGC. The staff includes over 90 appellate attorneys and 30 support staff of paralegals, legal assistants, and copy clerks. An 18-member management team completes the CALG staff. Each appellate attorney maintains a full case load for which he or she is fully accountable to the Court and to the Secretary. Law school students assist appellate attorneys with all aspects of their cases.

Our practice consists largely of legal research and writing, including: 1) Appellate briefs; 2) Dismissal motions; 3) Motions to remand for additional consideration and/or development; 4) Responding to petitions for extraordinary relief; and, 5) Responding to applications for attorney fees filed under the Equal Access to Justice Act. Briefing conferences, facilitated by the Court's Central Legal Staff, are also held in most cases. There is frequent interaction with opposing counsel, from record development to the negotiation of fees.

Oral argument is also an important part of each appellate attorney's practice. Hundreds of cases have been argued before the Court in the CAVC's courtroom in Washington, D.C., and others have been showcased in arguments conducted at law schools throughout the country.

Duties will be performed at the VA Central Office located in Washington D.C.

Detailed Summary of Law Offices' Responsibilities (cont'd.)

Healthcare Law Group

The Healthcare Law Group (HLG) works on primarily national level issues with respect to the operation of VA's national healthcare system for Veterans. This requires providing advice on: 1) The Medical Benefits Package available to enrolled Veterans; 2) Guardianship, Commitment, and Informed Consent; 3) Eligibility and enrollment for VA care and copayments; 4) VA's Care in the Community Program; 5) VA's Caregivers Program; 6) Medical/legal partnerships; 7) VA Programs for homeless Veterans; 8) Related litigation and legislation involving the above.

The Specialty Team Advising Research (STAR), a subgroup of OGC Healthcare Law (HLG), focuses on research and related areas of work such as: 1) Research Agreements – Cooperative Research and Development Agreements, Material Transfer Agreements, Confidentiality Disclosure Agreements, Cooperative Technology Administration Agreements, Intellectual Property (IP) licenses, Federal/Non-Profit funds for research; 2) Research Issues – Institutional Review Boards (including informed consent and HIPAA authorization); research misconduct, research oversight, treatment of research injury; research adverse events; 3) Intellectual Property – Determination of rights including representing the agency before the Commerce Department for any appeals, actions at the USPTO limited to patent assignments, recordation at USPTO, power of attorney, establishing right of assignee to take action, recordation of Government use licenses; 4) Issues related to VA NPCs – Creation/dissolution/merger; drafting and revising bylaws and policies; advising Boards of Directors, Officers, and Employees; attendance at NPC meetings; Non research legal advice (e.g. personnel, contracts, real property, etc. are excluded); and 5) Issues related to VA Center for Innovation & Innovators Network - Drafting and revising Memorandum of Understanding and CRADAs, advising Innovation Specialists in the field on project-specific activities, advising VA employees on IP, commercialization, and issues related to innovation projects.

The Office of Regulation Policy and Management is another subgroup of OGC Healthcare Law. This office provides centralized coordination of regulation development, tracking, policy integration, and economic impact analyses for VA regulations.

The Healthcare Law Group is based out of VA Central Office located in Washington D.C.

Detailed Summary of Law Offices' Responsibilities (cont'd.)

Loan Guaranty National Practice Group

The Loan Guaranty National Practice Group (LGNPG) is a nationwide team of legal experts responsible for helping Veterans achieve home ownership and/or adapted housing, while protecting the interests of VA. VA has provided over \$3.4 trillion in housing benefits to Veterans since enactment of the GI Bill. In FY2022 alone, VA guaranteed more than \$256 billion in home loans and provided over a billion dollars in home retention assistance.

LGNPG's subject matter includes all programs administered by VA's Loan Guaranty Service: the guaranteed home loan program, Native American Direct Loan program, loan securitization programs, and Specially Adapted Housing. Specific assignments can include—

- drafting or reviewing legislation,
- reviewing regulations,
- drafting testimony for Congressional hearings,
- providing litigation assistance to the Solicitor General or Department of Justice,
- reviewing transactional documents (for example, mortgage servicing questions, title packages, condominium projects, and bankruptcy matters),
- legal research projects, and
- special assignments, as needed.

LGNPG team members work closely with stakeholders across Government, including the White House, Congress, and other federal agencies, providing support and assistance as needed. Duties can be performed in numerous geographic locations.

Detailed Summary of Law Offices' Responsibilities (cont'd.)

General Law

District Contract Law National Practice Group

The District Contract Law National Practice Group provides legal advice and litigation representation for VA contract and real property matters throughout the United States. Our legal work primarily supports VA's mission in medical centers and clinics via the full range of contracts, including supplies, services, construction, leasing, sharing and selling agreements, revocable licenses, permits, and appropriations issues related to acquisitions. Through our efforts, we enable VA to acquire the best supplies, services, and facilities to deliver exceptional health care and benefits to Veterans. We are a virtual team with members who perform work in more than 30 different cities across the country.

Duties can be performed in numerous geographic areas where there is existing DCNPG attorney support.

Detailed Summary of Law Offices' Responsibilities (cont'd.)

Ethics Specialty Team

The Ethics Specialty Team (EST) assists employees in complying with the Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch, criminal statutes related to conflicts of interest, and other laws governing personal and professional conduct. By consulting with the EST, an employee gains a safe harbor in that administrative action will not be taken against an employee who acted in good faith reliance upon the advice of an agency ethics official, provided the employee, in seeking such advice made full disclosure of all relevant circumstances BEFORE taking the action.

As attorneys and deputy ethics officials for the Agency, the EST: 1) manage the VA's agency ethics program; 2) serve as VA's liaison with the Office of Government Ethics (OGE); 3) administer VA's financial disclosure program; 4) administer and supervise VA's ethics training program; and 5) advise current and former employees on: a) Financial Conflicts of Interest; b) Impartiality in performing official duties [endorsements]; c) Misuse of position or resources; d) Outside activities; e) Gifts between employees or from outside sources; f) Seeking other employment and post-government employment; and g) Political activity (Hatch Act). Legal Interns will work with supervision and assistance of experienced attorneys in the above noted areas and will receive guidance and feedback.

Duties will be performed at the VA Central Office located in Washington D.C.

Detailed Summary of Law Offices' Responsibilities (cont'd.)

Information and Administrative Law Group

The Information and Administrative Law Group (“IALG”) provides legal guidance on information disclosure matters, including, but not limited to, the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”); privacy; information security; data governance; Copyright and Trademark; law enforcement; federal appropriations; federal advisory committees; gifts of personal property to VA; and, eDiscovery. IALG attorneys advise on national cases, ensuring concise messaging for VA personnel, cabinet-department officials, and regional attorneys. In addition, IALG provides counsel on all eDiscovery and FOIA litigations, VA cyber-security infrastructure, and VA’s multi-billion dollar budget.

Duties will be performed at the VA Central Office located in Washington D.C.

Procurement Law

The Procurement Law Group provides legal and policy support to the Department of Veterans Affairs for Government Supply and Service Contracts, Care in the Community, Sharing Agreements (38 USC 8153), Inter Agency Agreements/ Economy Act, Federal Supply Schedule, Bid Protest Claims, Information Technology Contracts, and Debarment and Suspension.

Duties can be performed in several geographic areas where there is existing Procurement Law attorney support, including but not limited to VA Central Office located in Washington D.C. and Eatontown, New Jersey.

Detailed Summary of Law Offices' Responsibilities (cont'd.)

Real Property Law Group

The Real Property Law Group ("RPLG") provides legal and policy support to the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) major construction, environmental, energy and real property programs. The RPLG is comprised of 20 attorneys and paraprofessionals committed to the VA mission. Our major clients are the Office of Acquisition, Logistics and Construction, the Office of Asset and Enterprise Management and the National Cemetery Administration. The RPLG provides legal support on Agency and Governmental Accountability Office bid protests and claims before the Contract Board of Contract Appeals and the Court of Federal Claims. RPLG provides critical support to the VA's major leasing, property acquisition and disposal programs and the VA unique Enhanced Use Lease Program that provides supportive housing and other services to homeless Veterans. RPLG attorneys interact with congressional committees, VA Secretary officials and other Government agencies, including the Department of Justice Office of Management and Budget, General Services Administration, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Office of the Comptroller General, and the Department of Defense.

Duties will be performed at the VA Central Office located in Washington D.C.

Revenue Law Group

The Revenue Law Group ("RLG") is a virtual team of about 62 legal professionals who are responsible for legal policy and operations of VA's national revenue and debt programs. Through its subrogation program, the RLG recovers tens of millions of dollars each year in support of Veterans health care and Veterans' individual cases against responsible third parties. Working with the VA's Office of Community Care revenue divisions and the Debt Management Center, the RLG delivers a wide range of legal services in connection with reimbursable health insurance, as well as representation of VA in employee debt appeals, bankruptcy and probate matters.

The position can be performed in a number of geographic areas where there is existing RLG attorney support.

Detailed Summary of Law Offices' Responsibilities (cont'd.)

Legal Operations

District Counsel Offices

Five Offices of District Chief Counsels provide legal advice and services to leadership of Veterans Health Administration (VHA), Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) and the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) components nationwide and in various territories that develop and administer the multiple, varied missions and programs offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The Chief Counsel exercises important policy-making, policy determining or other executive functions by providing legal advice and assistance, and policy recommendations in all areas of legal responsibility of the office, and directing and coordinating specific legal programs in the District on behalf of the Department and its constituent agencies in the District not otherwise under the purview of an OGC law group. District Offices review all program initiatives, policies, procedures and directives for consistency with State and Federal law, administrative soundness, efficiency and economic advisability; and recommends and drafts new regional or departmental policies and procedures in response to new or amended legislation involving departmental programs. District Offices are exclusively responsible for litigation advocacy, advisory, consultation, and negotiation services supporting health care, employment, and business management activities and administrative operations throughout the District, including representing the VA at psychiatric commitment hearings in state courts and in personnel-law-related claims by and against the Department before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB), the Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA), Arbitrations pursuant to collective bargaining agreements, Disciplinary Appeals Boards conducted under 38 U.S.C. §§ 7461-7464, and VA Grievance Procedures.

Duties can be performed in a number of geographic areas where there is existing District attorney support.

Detailed Summary of Law Offices' Responsibilities (cont'd.)

Personnel Law Group

The Personnel Law Group (PLG) serves as the principal advisor to the VA Secretary and VA leadership including the Deputy Secretary, Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, and General Counsel as well as supervisors/managers on Federal personnel-related matters, including employment, labor, whistleblower rights and protections, discrimination, reasonable accommodations, the implementation of the VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act, and VA specific appointment and pay authorities; and liaises with Department of Justice (DOJ), including the Office of Legal Counsel, and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) on issues of first impression.

PLG consists of multiple teams that work closely together handling litigation and policy. Litigation team attorneys advise on, review, and litigate performance and disciplinary actions taken against SES and Senior Leaders; represent the VA in handling sophisticated and complex litigation, including class action pay cases, and matters before the Federal Labor Relations Authority, the Merit Systems Protection Board, and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; handle cases before impartial arbitrators under the Department's negotiated and administrative grievance procedures. Policy team attorneys advise and provide legal opinions on a wide range of personnel law topics, including, human resources and pay, labor management relations, agreements with other agencies or with non-governmental organizations, Title 38 Disciplinary Appeal Board attorney fee applications, decisions removing matters from bargaining under 38 U.S.C. §7422, the credentialing, privileging, and licensing of VA health care professionals, and on staffing through employment-based immigration. Policy team attorneys also advise on the development and implementation of personnel law related legislation and rulemaking.

Duties will be performed at the VA Central Office located in Washington D.C.

Detailed Summary of Law Offices' Responsibilities (cont'd.)

Torts Law Group

The Torts Law Group (TLG) is responsible for investigation and litigation support concerning Federal Tort Claims Act matters which covers claims against the VA that involve injury, or death (with emphasis on medical malpractice cases) or damage to, or loss of, privately owned property, allegedly resulting from the negligence of any employee of VA acting within the scope of his/her employment at those VA installations within his or her jurisdiction.

This involves:

- 1) Responsibility for medical malpractice, personal injury and property damage investigations, making a thorough study of all available information, including medical records, and analyzing the evidence in depth in order to determine its sufficiency and potential impact in event of trial;
- 2) Determination as to potential liability of the U.S. Government and whether the claim should be settled, compromised, or denied, and responsibility for negotiating a fair and equitable settlement with claimants and their attorneys; and
- 3) Working with the U.S. Department of Justice to defend Department FTCA cases in litigation in federal court.

Duties can be performed in a number of geographic areas where there is existing TLG attorney support.