

Protect & Enhance VA Health Care

DAV is a strong supporter of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA)

- largest direct federal provider of health care services in the nation
- sets the standard for quality, safety and efficiency
- system focused on preventing disease, and maintaining veterans' health.



How Many Veterans Served?

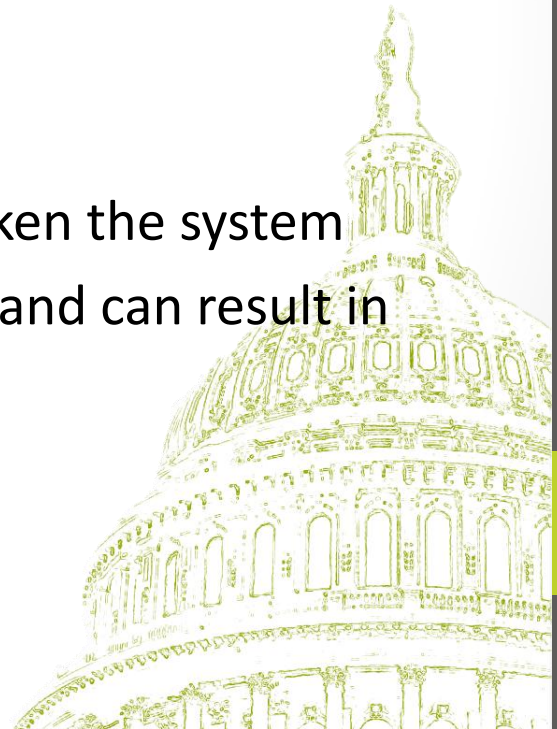
- VHA expects to provide health-care services to more than 6.5 million unique patients this year
- VHA provides specialized services including treatment for:
 - war-related polytrauma
 - mental health
 - blind rehabilitation
 - TBI , burn, and spinal cord injury care
 - prosthetics



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DAV opposes widespread use of vouchers or private contract care

- **Exception:** if VA is unable to provide timely access to needed care, i.e.,
 - Based on clinic need
 - Geographic inaccessibility
 - Not capable of furnishing services required
- Widespread use of contract care could weaken the system
- Quality of contract care difficult to monitor and can result in poor health outcomes



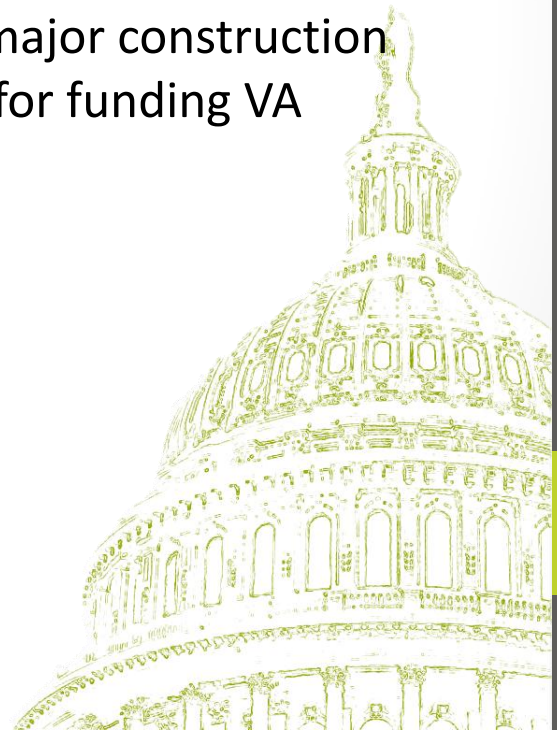
Growing Problem: Maintenance & Modernization

- VA maintains 5,600 buildings worth \$45 billion
- Average VA building is more than 60 years old; many are over 100 years old
- More than 3,900 infrastructure needs have been identified and it will cost between \$55-\$64 billion to address them
- VA is requesting about one-fourth of projected need annually. At this pace, VA will need 25 years to complete a “10-year plan.”



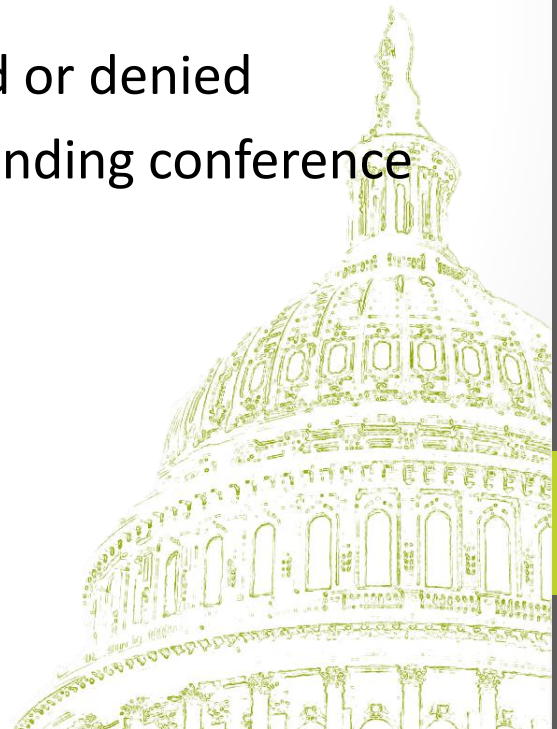
VA Biomedical Research

- VA research: integral part of VA health care
- Independent report in 2012 found unmet infrastructure needs of nearly \$800 million
- Report indicated many research facilities present life-safety risks to staff and veterans
- DAV urges Congress to approve \$50 million for major construction and \$175 million for other maintenance, repair for funding VA research.

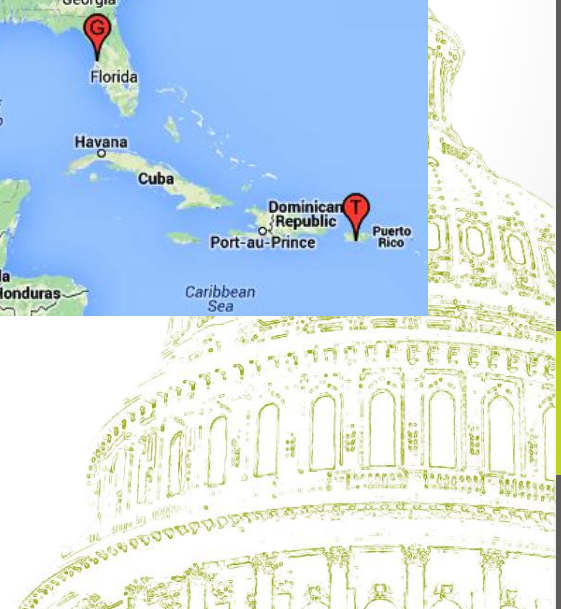
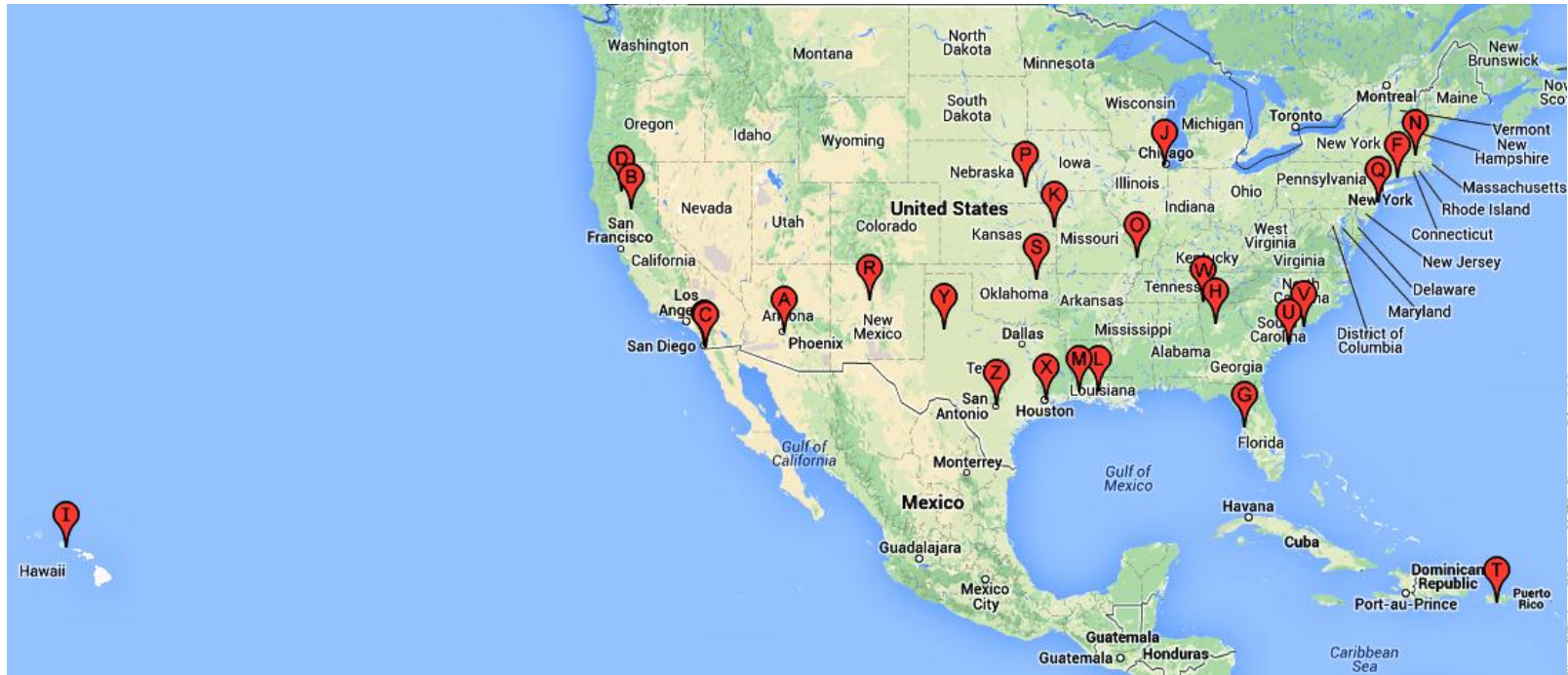


New Leasing Suspended

- 2012 determination by Congressional Budget Office (CBO) halted further VA leases
- 27 leases in jeopardy in 18 states
- Most leases are CBOCs that provide good access to care for veterans
- If not resolved, health care will be restricted or denied
- Leases would be approved by passage of pending conference committee report, as of July 29.



Is Your CBOC Affected?



The DAV Member's Role

The DAV Commander's Action Network (DAV CAN)

Are you registered? Encourage family and friends to register.

DAV CAN is not just for DAV members; anyone interested in veteran-related matters can join!

DAV CAN is our message board:

- Sometimes for information purposes
- Sometimes for action-oriented purposes

There are over 332,000 people registered for the CAN, but we CAN do better!



Your Role

Members are the eyes and ears of the DAV

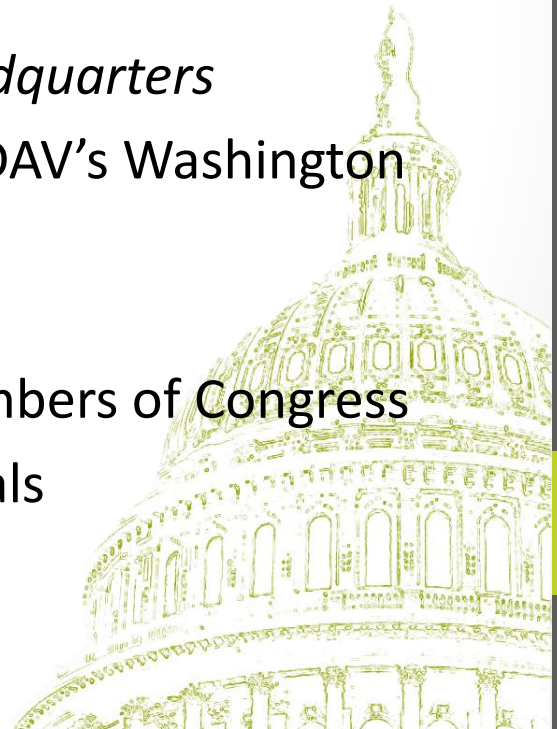
What are you seeing, hearing, experiencing, based on your involvement with the VA?

Communicate your experiences amongst the members of your chapter; the good and the bad!

Report your findings to your Department Headquarters

The Departments can route their findings to DAV's Washington Headquarters

- Findings could lead to resolutions
- Findings could lead to discussions with members of Congress
- Be ready to engage with your elected officials



New VA Leadership

VA Secretary Nominee

Robert McDonald



Interim VA Under Secretary for Health

Dr. Carolyn Clancy



Interim Director, VHA Office of Medical Inspector

Gerard R. Cox, MD, MHA

