Virginia Department of Veterans Services

Overview for Senate Finance Committee
Public Safety Subcommittee

Commissioner John L. Newby II
January 17, 2018
VDVS is...

• Innovative and always changing, with new and expanded programs to meet the needs of veterans of all periods of service
• A leader among state-level veterans agencies – VDVS programs have been/are being copied by other states (V3, MMAC, VVFS)
• Over 800 dedicated employees strong!
• An agency with a diverse portfolio but one unifying mission:

  Serving those who served!
Virginia Veterans By The Numbers

- 8th largest veterans population: 725,000+
- 4th largest as % of population: 1 in 11 Virginians is a veteran
- 14% are women: almost 104,000 – highest among all states
- 4th largest military retiree population: 156,000+
- 4th highest % of veterans in the labor force
- 4th highest in veteran working age population
$11B a Year in Direct Federal Spending

• $8.5 Billion paid directly to veterans in FFY16
  – $3.2B in USDVA compensation and pension payments
  – $5.25B in DoD retirement pay

• $2.6 Billion in additional spending by USDVA, including:
  – $1.6 B for medical care
  – $901 M for education and training
  – $130 M for general expenses (operating, construction, etc.)
DVS FY17 Operational Highlights

- **$3.15 Billion** in federal compensation and disability payments (DVS filed **50,229** disability compensation claims filed on behalf of Virginia veterans and families).
- **6,205** veterans hired by V3-certified companies.
- **6,764** individual services delivered to veterans and families by the Virginia Veteran and Family Support (VVFS) program.
- **145,630** patient days of care delivered at veterans care centers.
- **$850 Million** in G.I. Bill benefits paid to Virginia veterans (FFY16).
- **1,750** burials at Virginia’s three state veterans cemeteries.
- **63,990** visitors to the Virginia War Memorial.
**Introduced Budget**

- New veterans benefits offices in Virginia Beach (NAS Oceana) and Fairfax County (Ft. Belvoir)
- Veterans entrepreneurship program
- Women veterans program
- State veterans cemeteries – operations and maintenance
Virginia Department of Veterans Services

DVS Locations – FY19

Benefits Services Offices
1. Abingdon
2. Accomac
3. Big Stone Gap
4. Charlottesville
5. Chesapeake
6. Danville
7. Emporia (planned)
8. Fairfax
9. Fort Belvoir (planned)
10. Fredericksburg
11. Hampton
12. Hampton VA Medical Center
13. Henrico
14. Loudoun
15. Lynchburg
16. Manassas
17. McGuire VA Medical Center (Richmond)
18. NAS Oceana (planned)
19. Norfolk
20. Pentagon
21. Petersburg
22. Portsmouth
23. Quantico
24. Richmond/Short Pump (planned)
25. Roanoke
26. Salem VA Medical Center
27. South Hill
28. Springfield
29. Staunton
30. Strasburg
31. Tazewell
32. Virginia Beach
33. Williamsburg
34. Wytheville

Care Centers
- Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center, Richmond
- Virginia Veterans Care Center, Roanoke

Virginia Veteran and Family Support Regions
- Northern Region
- Eastern Region
- Central Region
- Western Region

Cemeteries
- Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Amelia
- Albert G. Horton, Jr., Memorial Veterans Cemetery, Suffolk
- Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Dublin

* VVFS: Underlined offices indicate co-location of VVFS and Benefits Services offices.
Benefits Services

• **Provide Virginia’s veterans and their family members with accurate, timely and ethical education and assistance in obtaining their federal and state veterans benefits**
  - 50,000+ claims filed in FY17 (Initial, Re-Opened, Notice of Disagreement, Appeals, Dependency)
    - Service-connected Disability Compensation Claims (evidence-based)
    - Veteran Pension Claims (need-based; $13K max)
    - Aid and Attendance Claims (need-based; $22K-25K max)
    - Survivor Benefit Claims (non-need-based)
  - 200,000+ client contacts in FY17
    - VA Health Care Eligibility
    - Certificate of Eligibility for VA Home Loan Guarantees
    - Veterans Group Life Insurance (VGLI) Applications
    - Application for Education Benefits
    - Outreach into Local Communities – Itinerary Visits
    - Referrals to Local, State, and Federal Social Services
    - Assistance to Veterans Service Organizations

www.dvs.virginia.gov
Education, Transition, and Employment

• **Capitalize on veteran talent pool**: Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Program helps 1,000+ Virginia employers recruit, hire, and retain skilled veteran employees. Over 31,000 hires to date!

• **Create seamless transition from military to veteran status**: Virginia Transition Assistance Program (VTAP) helps veterans and family members connect to jobs, education, and services. Over 22,000 served last year

• **Put veterans on fast track to Healthcare Careers**: Military Medics and Corpsmen (MMAC) program connects veterans to jobs at six partner health systems – 56 hires to date, with almost 200 in pipeline

• **Maximize education and training opportunities**: DVS responsible for approving education and training programs for G.I. Bill use: 50,000+ students @ 1,000 approved programs last year
Virginia Veteran and Family Support

- **Fill critical gap in care coordination**: in partnership with veterans and family members, VVFS resource specialists perform needs assessments and develop coordinated resources plans.

- **Connect veterans and families to behavioral, rehabilitative, and supportive services**: offered by federal, state, local, and private service providers.

- **Deliver focused services**: peer support, family workshops and retreats, caregiver support.

- **Ensure that homelessness among veterans is rare, brief, and non-re-occurring**: Virginia was 1st state in the nation to functionally end veteran homelessness (3,600+ housed in last three years).

- **Serve Justice Involved Veterans**: VVFS provides crisis intervention training for law enforcement agencies; works with courts on veterans dockets; and partners with VADOC, prisons, and jails on re-entry programs.
Veterans Care Centers

- Provide skilled nursing, Alzheimer’s/memory, and short-term rehabilitative care to Virginia veterans
- In-patient, residential care facilities
- Virginia Veterans Care Center (Roanoke): 240 beds
- Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center (Richmond): 200 beds
- Two new veterans care centers (128-beds each) under construction
  - Puller Veterans Care Center (Vint Hill, Fauquier County)
  - Jones & Cabacoy Veterans Care Center (Virginia Beach)
  - Target opening: Early 2020
Veterans Cemeteries

- **Provide a final resting place for our veterans and their families** in a setting of honor, dignity, respect, and remembrance at state veterans cemeteries in Amelia, Dublin, and Suffolk

- **Operate and maintain cemeteries as national shrines**: same operating procedures and eligibility requirements as national cemeteries like Quantico and Culpeper (veterans, spouses, and some children are eligible)

- Three burial options: in-ground full casket, above-ground cremated, in-ground cremated

- 1,750 interments last year (almost 17,000 to date)

- Developed in phases: $10M federal grant in 2017 for Suffolk Phase 3 expansion (design underway)

- DVS has applied for $4M federal grant for Amelia Phase 2 expansion (likely award 2019)
**Virginia War Memorial**

- **Honor patriotic Virginians who rendered faithful service and sacrifice in the cause of freedom and liberty for the Commonwealth and the nation in time of war**: inscribed in the Shrine of Memory are the names of the nearly 12,000 Virginians killed in action from WWII to the present.

- **Honor all of Virginia's veterans, preserve their history, educate the public, and inspire patriotism in all Virginians**: pass their extraordinary stories of sacrifice forward to future generations through many outreach and on-site educational programs.

- Paul & Phyllis Galanti Education Center: Smithsonian-quality exhibits and award-winning educational programs.

- 64,000 visitors in FY17.

- 28,000 square foot addition under construction (target completion Summer 2019): expand the Shrine of Memory, new education and exhibit space.
Questions?

Stay in touch with DVS!

http://www.dvs.virginia.gov/

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