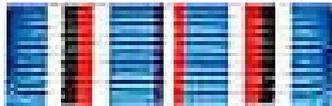




Las Cruces Vet Center Briefing

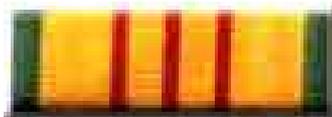
WWII American Theater
Campaign Medal



WWII Victory Medal



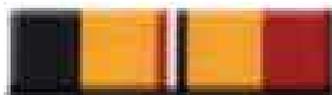
Vietnam Service Medal



GWOT Expeditionary Medal



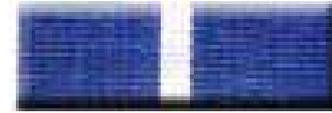
USMC Combat Action Ribbon



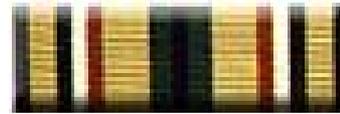
WWII Asian Pacific
Campaign Medal



Korea Service Medal



SW Asia Service Medal



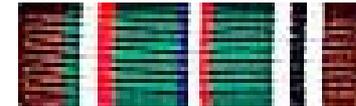
Afghanistan Campaign Medal



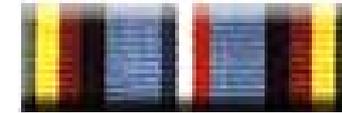
USMC Expeditionary Medal



WWII European, African, Middle Eastern
Campaign Medal



Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal



Kosovo Service Medal



Iraq Campaign Medal



Navy Expeditionary Medal





Mission Statement

We are the people in VA who welcome home war Veterans with honor by providing readjustment counseling in a caring manner. Vet Centers understand and appreciate Veterans' war experiences while assisting them and their family members toward a successful post-war adjustment in or near their community.



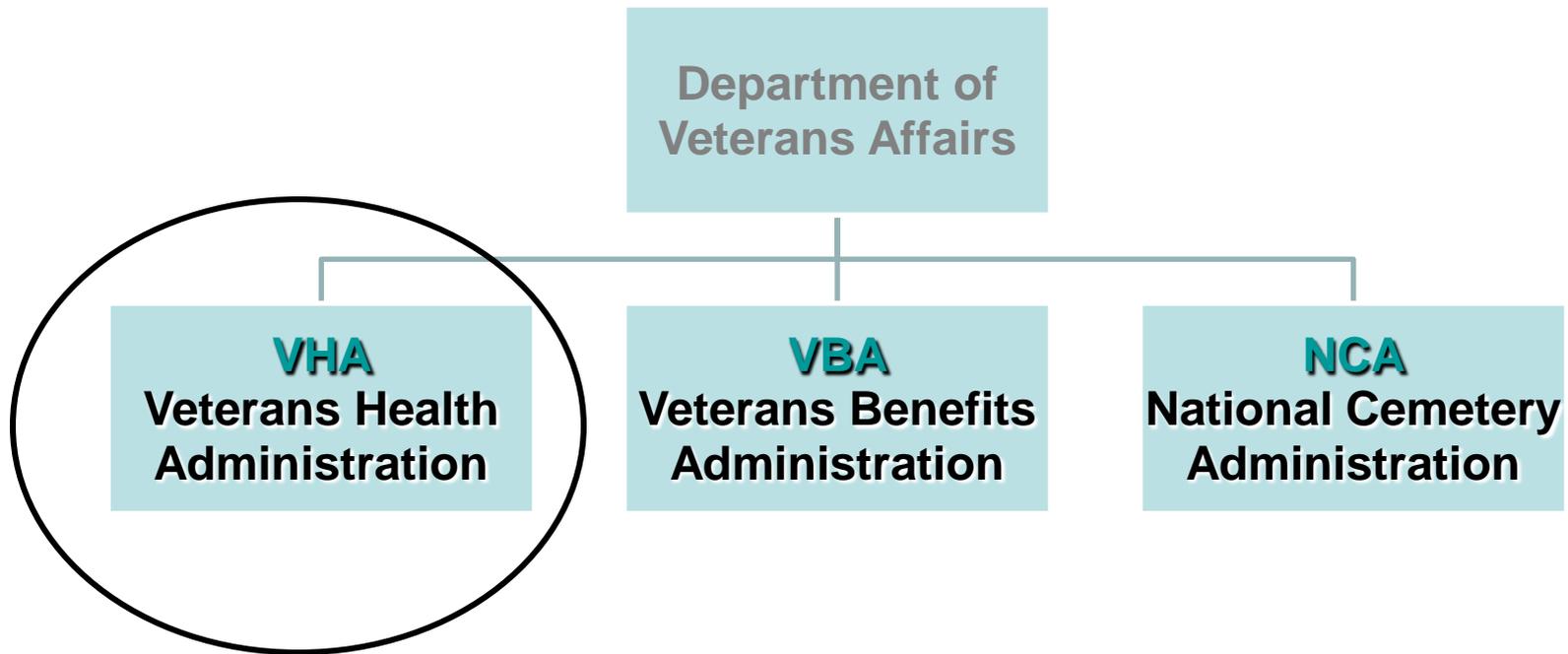
RCS History

In 1979, the U.S. Congress established the Readjustment Counseling Service (RCS), also known as the Vet Center Program, to provide post-combat readjustment counseling in an alternative setting, easy for Veterans to access.

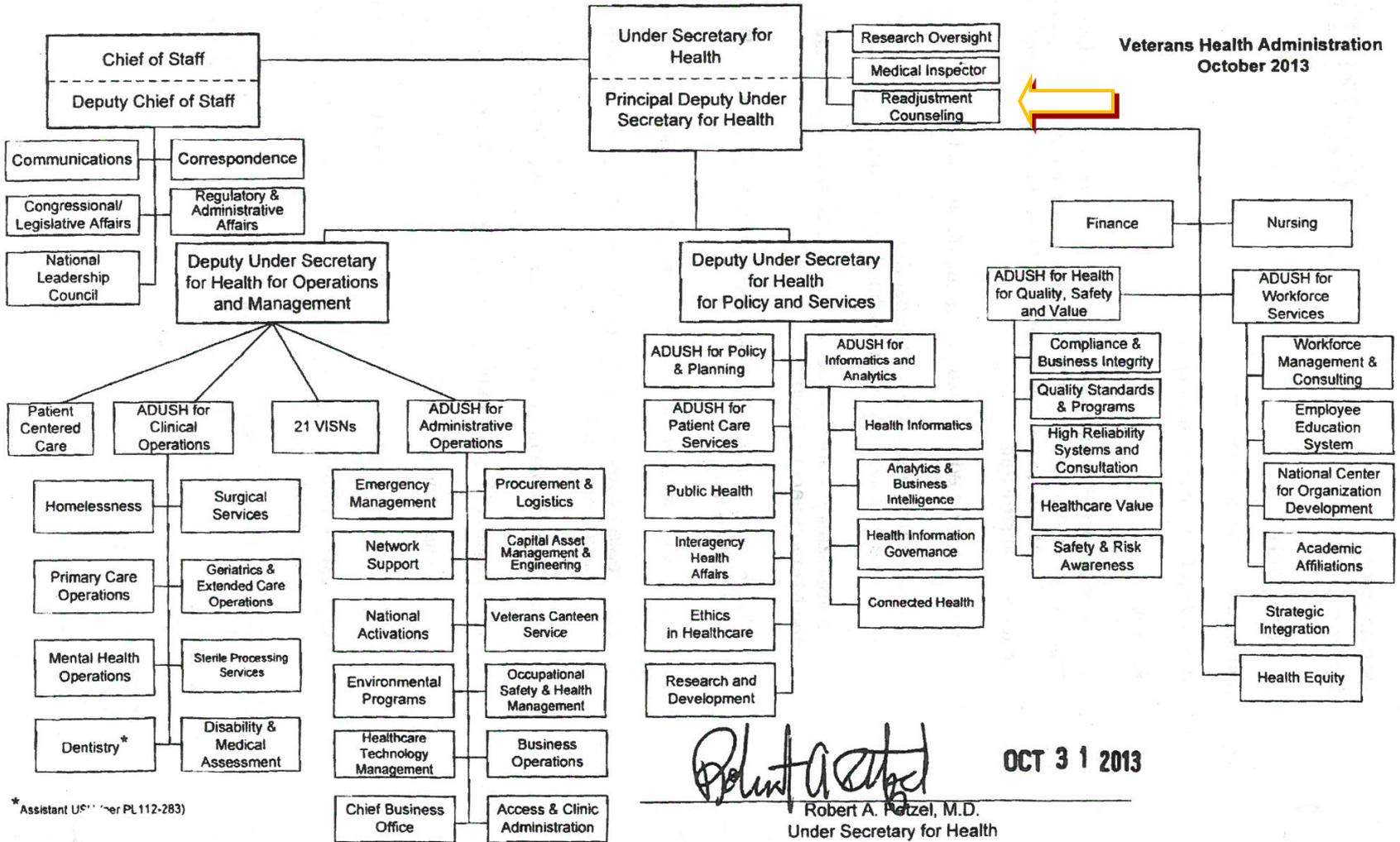
The Vet Center program was the first program in VA, or anywhere, to systematically address the psychological traumas of war in combat Veterans. RCS was established a full year before the definition of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) was published in the Third Edition of the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders in 1980.



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



* Assistant USF (per PL 112-283)


 Robert A. Petzel, M.D.
 Under Secretary for Health

OCT 31 2013

Vet Centers are contained within Readjustment Counseling Service, which is just to the right of the gold arrow above.



Added Perspective

- RCS represents <1% of the VHA mental health budget
- RCS accounts for 26% of the VHA mental health workload
- 37% of Vet Center clients are not seen in any other VHA facility
- RCS has a 97% Veteran client satisfaction rate

...Keeping the Promise

- The establishment of the Las Cruces Vet Center was announced March 1, 2007 at a joint press conference by Senator Jeff Bingaman and VA Secretary Jim Nicholson:
 - ***“Our vet centers lead the world in helping combat veterans successfully readjust to life at home,” Nicholson said. “It’s an important service which combat veterans have earned. VA continues to expand into more communities with our vet centers to bring our services closer to the veterans who need them.”***
- The Las Cruces Vet Center was one of 23 new centers authorized by Congress and VA as part of a major program expansion across the country.



Vet Center



Las Cruces Vet Center
1120 Commerce Dr., Suite B
(between Café-A-Go-Go and
Los Compas Restaurants)

CBOC



Las Cruces CBOC
1635 Don Roser
(near where Missouri St.
crosses under I-25)

Veteran Centered

Outreach

Treatment

Referral

Post-Combat Readjustment





Vet Center Eligibility

WAR ZONE VETERANS, all eras, including:

- Vietnam – 28 Feb 61 to 7 May 75
- Korea – 27 Jun 50 to 31 Jan 55
- WW II – 7 Dec 41 to 31 Dec 46
- U.S. Merchant Marines – in ocean-going service during the period of armed conflict, 7 Dec 41 to 15 Aug 45
- Lebanon – 25 Aug 82 to 26 Feb 84
- Grenada – 23 Oct 83 to 21 Nov 83
- Panama – 20 Dec 89 to 31 Jan 90
- Persian Gulf – 2 Aug 90 to the present



Eligibility (Cont'd)

- Somalia – 17 Sep 92 to the present
- Former Yugoslavia operations up to the present including
 - Joint Endeavor/Guard/Forge
- Global War on Terror – 11 Sep 01 to the present

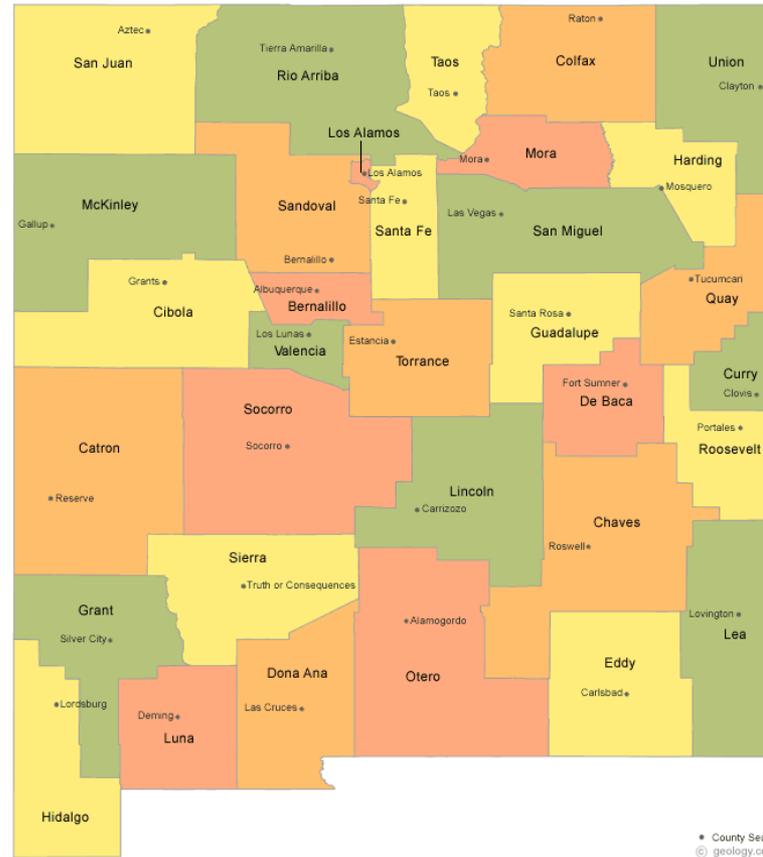
Eligibility is also extended to:

- Victims of military sexual trauma
- Immediate surviving family members of Armed Forces personnel who died in the service of the country while on active duty for bereavement counseling



On August 5, 2003, VA Secretary authorized Vet Centers to furnish bereavement counseling to surviving parents, spouses, children and siblings of service members who have fallen while on active duty, to include federally activated Reserve and National Guard personnel.





The Las Cruces Vet Center's service area was recently changed and now includes Lincoln, Roosevelt, Lea, Chaves, Eddy, Otero, Doña Ana, Sierra, Luna, Hidalgo, and Grant counties which is 46,797 square miles; 39% of the state of New Mexico (Source: 2010 U.S. Census Report).



Like community-based Vet Centers, Mobile Vet Centers focus on services that help combat Veterans make the often difficult readjustment to civilian life.



Each Mobile Vet Center is equipped with a state of the art satellite communications package that includes fully encrypted tele-health equipment, access to all VA systems (Computerized Patient Record System, MyHealthEvet) and connectivity to emergency response systems.



Authorized Manning

- 1 Director
- 4 Counselors (3 Assigned)
 - 1 Vacant Position
- 1 MVC Driver
- 1 Office Manager
- 4 Work Studies



Las Cruces Vet Center Productivity Metrics

- Averaging over 606 combat Veteran and family member encounters this fiscal year
- 128% of the RCS productivity standard
- No waiting



1-877-WAR-VETS is an around the clock confidential call center where combat Veterans and their families can call to talk about their military experience or any other issue they are facing in their readjustment to civilian life. The staff is comprised of combat Veterans from several eras as well as families members of combat Veterans. This benefit is prepaid through the Veteran's military service.

(This video was directed and produced by Kyle Hausmann-Stokes, an Army Veteran who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and is a graduate of the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts. Everyone featured in the video is an employee of the Vet Center Combat Call Center.)





- **COMBAT CALL CENTER**
 - **1-877-WAR-VETS**

- **VETERAN CRISIS LINE**
 - **1-800-273-8255 then Press '1'**

- **QUESTIONS?**