

Component 1: Introduction to Health Care and Public Health in the U.S.

Unit 2: Health Care Settings

Lecture 2: Government Health Care Services

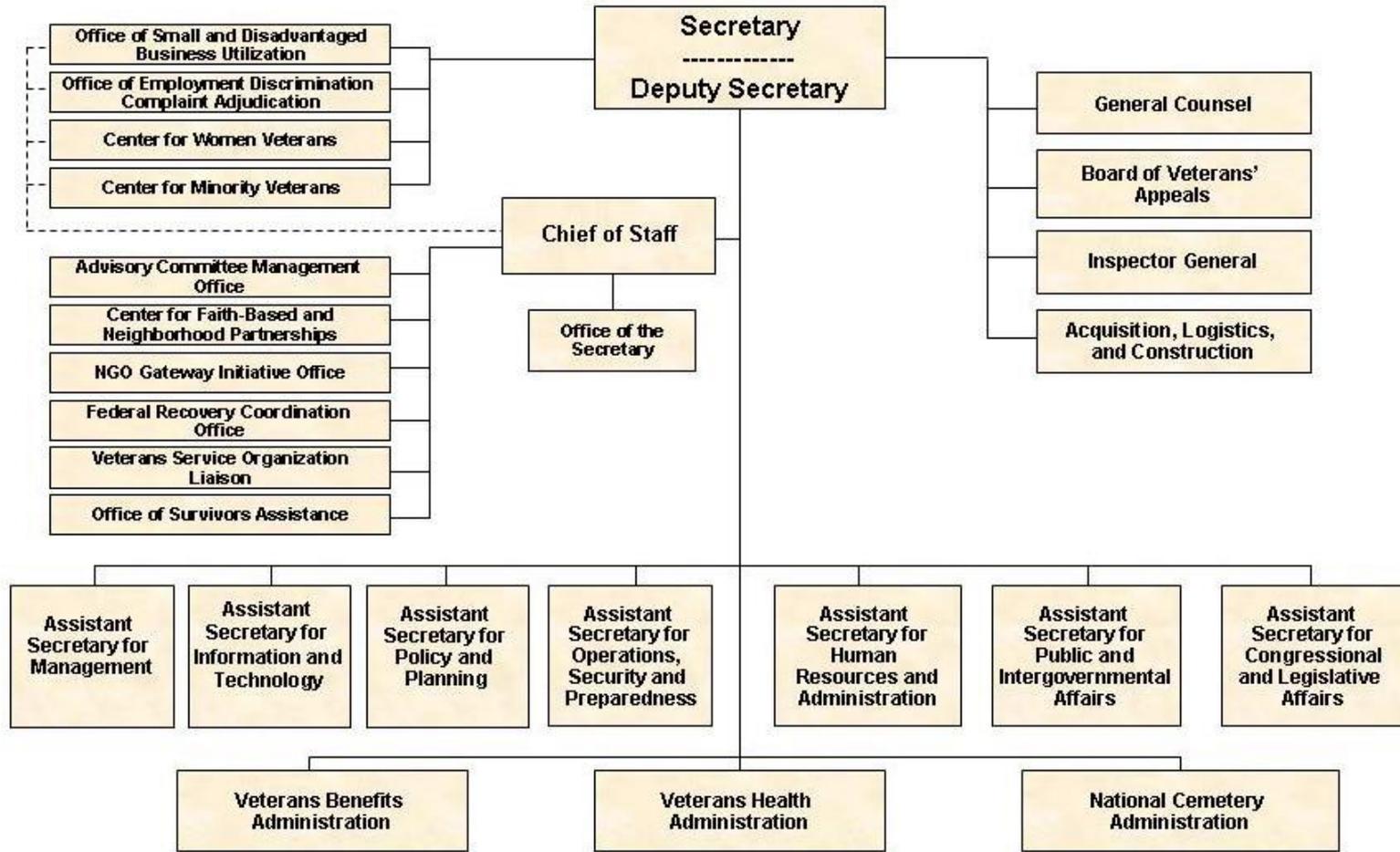
Objectives of This Lecture

- Describe the organization of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Military Health System (MHS)
 - Organization of the VA system
 - Overview of the MHS
 - Goals and functions of each

VA System: History and Overview

- Operated by the Dept. of Veterans Affairs
 - Established in 1930
 - Medical care, benefits, social supports, memorials
 - Serves veterans and their families
 - All branches of service

Department of Veterans Affairs



<http://www.va.gov/ofcadmin/docs/vaorgchart.pdf>

VA System: Strategic Goals

- Improve quality of life for veterans with disabilities
- Ease the transition from military to civilian life
- Honor veterans in life and after death
- Contribute to public health, emergency readiness, socioeconomic well-being, and history of the U.S.
- Delivery quality service to veterans through optimal personnel, technology, business practices, and financial resources

VA System: Services and Benefits

Medical	Mental Health	Logistical/Financial
Outpatient care	Readjustment	Disability compensation
Hospitalization	PTSD	Pensions
Health information	Substance abuse	GI Bill
Wellness	Suicide prevention	Vocational, employment
Dental care	Chaplain	Child education assistance
Nursing care	Patient advocates	Life insurance, trauma injury insurance
Rx assistance		Home loans
Female veterans		Survivor benefits
Rehabilitation		Burial benefits

VA System: Capacity

- 153 hospitals
- 956 community-based outpatient clinics
- 134 community living centers
- 90 domiciliary rehab programs
- 232 Vet centers
- 57 veterans benefits regional offices

VA Hospitals

- Single hospitals
- Health care systems
 - Groups of medical centers, clinics
 - Share resources; improve efficiency
 - Examples
 - VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System
 - VA Puget Sound Healthcare System

VA: Community-Based Outpatient Clinics

- Freestanding clinics
- Routine care
- Every state and territory
- Accessible and convenient

VA: Community Living Centers

- Akin to nursing homes
- Skilled nursing facilities
- Veterans with special concerns
 - Chronic health conditions
 - Need for rehabilitation
 - End-of-life care

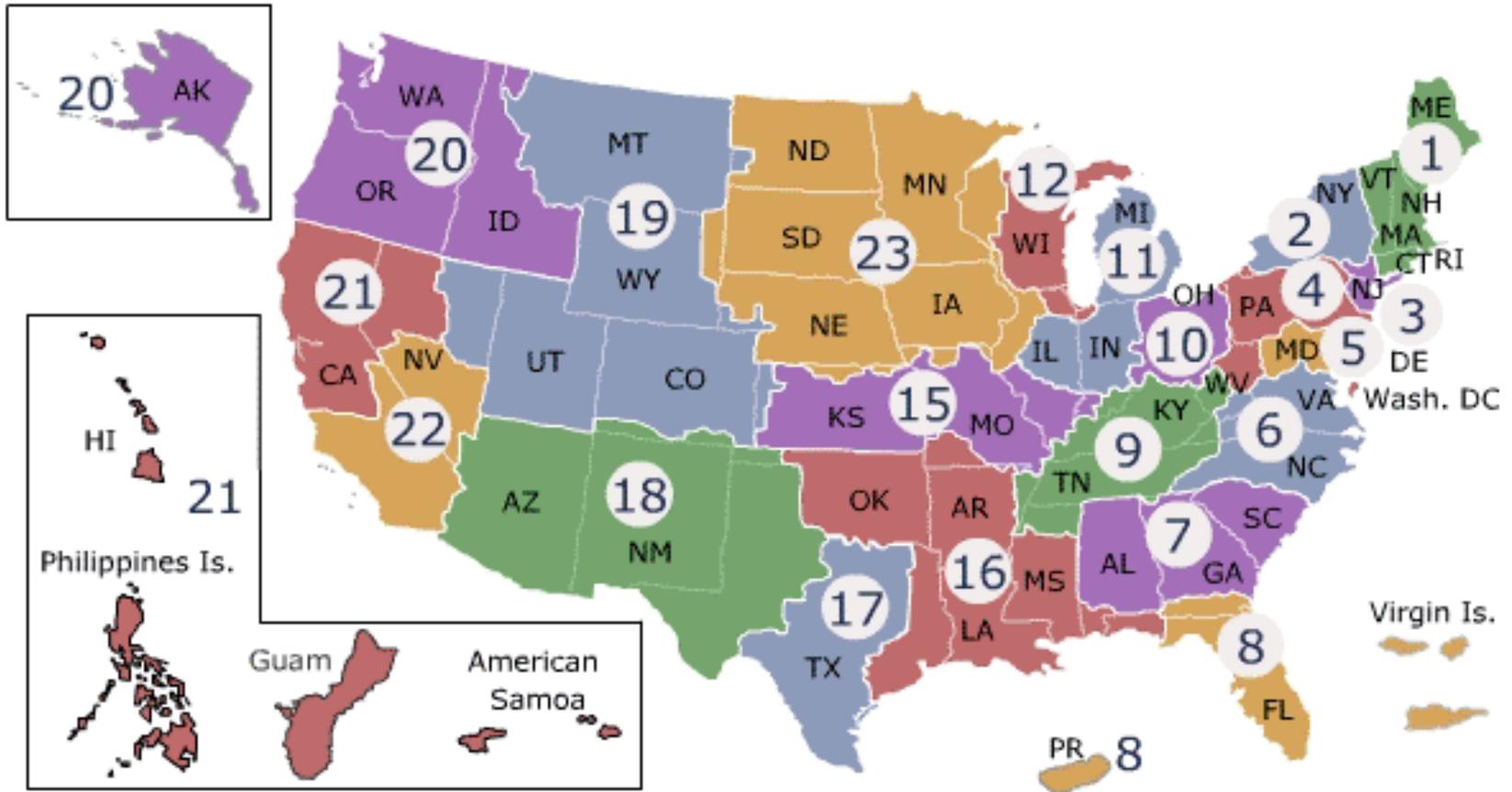
VA: VHA Domiciliaries

- Oldest element in VA health care system
 - “Soldiers’ Homes” in late 1860s
- Treatment and rehabilitation for veterans with
 - Severe medical conditions
 - Mental illness, substance abuse, psychosocial problems
- Operate together with the VA’s Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation and Treatment Programs
- Goals are healthful behaviors, quality of life, integration into society

VA: Vet Centers

- Counseling for combat veterans and families
- Every state and territory
- Services include
 - Readjustment to civilian life
 - Help with medical problems
 - Military sexual trauma
 - Substance abuse
 - Bereavement counseling for families

VA: Veterans Integrated Services Networks



<http://www2.va.gov/directory/guide/division.asp?dnum=1>

Military Health System: Overview

- Operated by the Department of Defense
- U.S. active-duty military and their families
- Structure
 - Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs
 - Medical departments of the military branches
 - Combatant Command surgeons
 - TRICARE providers (including private sector)

MHS: TRICARE Program Overview

- Series of managed care plans
 - Comprehensive, low-cost options
 - Network of physicians, hospitals, pharmacies
 - Active duty, retirees, families; all service branches
- Most common coverage plans
 - TRICARE Prime (HMO)
 - TRICARE Standard
 - TRICARE for Life (Medicare)
 - TRICARE Reserve Select
 - Also overseas options; family care

MHS: TRICARE Program Benefits

Medical	Mental Health
Outpatient care	Counseling
Hospitalization	Readjustment
Health information	PTSD, TBI
Wellness	Substance abuse
Dental, vision care	Suicide prevention
Nursing care	Patient advocates
Rx assistance	Chaplain
Female services	
Rehabilitation	

MHS: Deployable Medical Capability



MHS: Deployable Medicine Goals

- Effective health care wherever troops go
- Specific goals include
 - First responder care
 - Essential care (life and limb)
 - Definitive care
 - Care en route to other medical facilities
 - Logistical issues (supplies, equipment)
 - Command issues (training, information technology)

MHS: Disaster Response

- Medical emergencies; mass casualty events
- Homeland defense
- Flu outbreak preparedness
- Disaster relief; humanitarian assistance
- International health initiatives
- Health care for non-DoD beneficiaries

MHS: Education and Research

- Education
 - Teaching hospitals
 - Defense Medical Readiness Training Institute
 - JTTS Clinical Practice Guidelines
 - Tactical Combat Casualty Care
- Research
 - Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs
 - Military Infectious Diseases Research Program
 - TriService Nursing Research Program

Summary: VA and MHS

- VA
 - Run by the Department of Veterans Affairs
 - Serves veterans after discharge
- MHS
 - Run by the Department of Defense
 - Serves veterans during military service
- Goals
 - Benefit all service members and their families
 - Maximize physical and mental health
 - Provide logistical and/or financial assistance