Women Veterans 101

Betty Moseley Brown, Ed.D.
Acting Director, VA Center for Women Veterans

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Agenda

- VA, CWV & WVP Overview
- Women Veterans Demographics/History
- Challenges Faced by Women Veterans
  - VA Initiatives to Address Challenges
- Health Care for Women Veterans
  - Population and Utilization
  - Comprehensive Primary Care
  - Reproductive Health Initiatives
  - Accomplishments
- Benefits for Women Veterans
VA, CWV & WVP
Overview
Congressional Mandate

November 1994, Public Law 103-446 required VA to create The Center for Women Veterans, to monitor and coordinate VA programs for women.
Monitor and coordinate VA’s administration of health care and benefits services, and programs for women Veterans.

Serve as an advocate for a cultural transformation (both within VA and in the general public) in recognizing the service and contributions of women Veterans and women in the military.

Raise awareness of the responsibility to treat women Veterans with dignity and respect.
Demographics and History

Source: America's Women Veterans: Military Service History and VA Benefits Utilization Statistics, Department of Veterans Affairs, National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics, Nov. 23, 2011;
http://www.va.gov/VETDATA/docs/SpecialReports/Final_Womens_Report_3_2_12_v_7.pdf
Current Women Veterans Demographics

- Women are one of the fastest growing subpopulations of Veterans. Based on active duty and recruiting numbers, the percentage of women Veterans is projected to increase.

- 2,271,222 million women Veterans of the 21,972,964 million living Veterans, (VetPop as of 9/30/13) – 10.4 percent of the total Veterans population.

- By 2020, they are estimated to be 12.4 percent the total Veterans populations.

- Median female Veteran’s age is 49 (male – 64, as of 9/30/12).
Most female Veterans alive today served during the Gulf War II and during peacetime. The largest peacetime period since the advent of the All-Volunteer Force was from May 1975 to July 1990. Large proportions of female Veterans also served during the Gulf War Era.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey PUMS, 2011
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

Note: Periods of military service shown here are coded with women who have multiple periods of service being placed into their most recent period of service.
Challenges Faced by Women Veterans and VA Initiatives
Challenges Faced by Women Veterans

- Women Veterans:
  - Are unaware of their Veterans status; they often do not self-identify as Veterans.
  - Do not apply for VA’s benefits and services, since they are not aware that they are Veterans.
  - Are sometimes limited in access to VA’s gender-specific care and use fee-based care and contracts.
  - Experience a lack of child care options, which limit their ability to make appointments at VA, to acquire gainful employment and to pursue educational goals.
  - Exhibit lower utilization of VA.
  - Experience lack of transportation to and from appointments.
VA Initiatives to Address Challenges

- Web site and social media.
- Collaboration with federal, state, local and external partners.
- Health care:
  - Child care.
  - Non-VA care/coordination of care.
  - Transportation.
  - Research related to VA health care.
- Benefits:
  - Hiring/employment initiatives.
- Memorial affairs:
  - Expanding access: outreach to women Veterans.
  - Expanding access: funeral directors resource kit.
Health Care for Women Veterans
- Over 2.2 million women Veterans in the U.S.
- Over 390,000 utilized Veterans Health Administration (VHA) health care services in FY 2013.
- Women Veterans using VHA services have been increasing 7% per year which results in a 60% growth of women Veterans using VHA between FY 2009 and FY 2015.
- Care provided to women Veterans at 151 medical centers and 985 outpatient clinics.

Age distribution of women Veteran patients, FY01 and FY10

Benefits for Women Veterans
➢ Joint VA/DoD web portal

➢ Available 24/7

➢ 3.6 Million users

➢ 24% of total registered users are women

➢ Accessed in over 180 countries

➢ Available to all Veterans, Servicemembers, and dependents over 18

➢ Thousands of useful links through the National Resource Directory

➢ Easy registration

➢ Mobile access to popular features

➢ Promotional materials available on the site
"I’m One" Campaign - Tweet Your Photo #womensvets
How to Contact the Center

Staff Members:
- Dr. Betty Moseley Brown
- Desiree Long
- Shannon Middleton
- Michelle Terry

Address:
Department of Veterans Affairs
Center for Women Veterans (00W)
810 Vermont Ave., NW
Washington, DC  20420

Phone: 202-461-6193
Fax: 202-273-7092

Website: www.va.gov/womenvet
Email: 00W@mail.va.gov