



VA 101

Basic Training for Understanding the Department of Veterans Affairs



VA's Mission

"To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan."



Who is a Veteran?

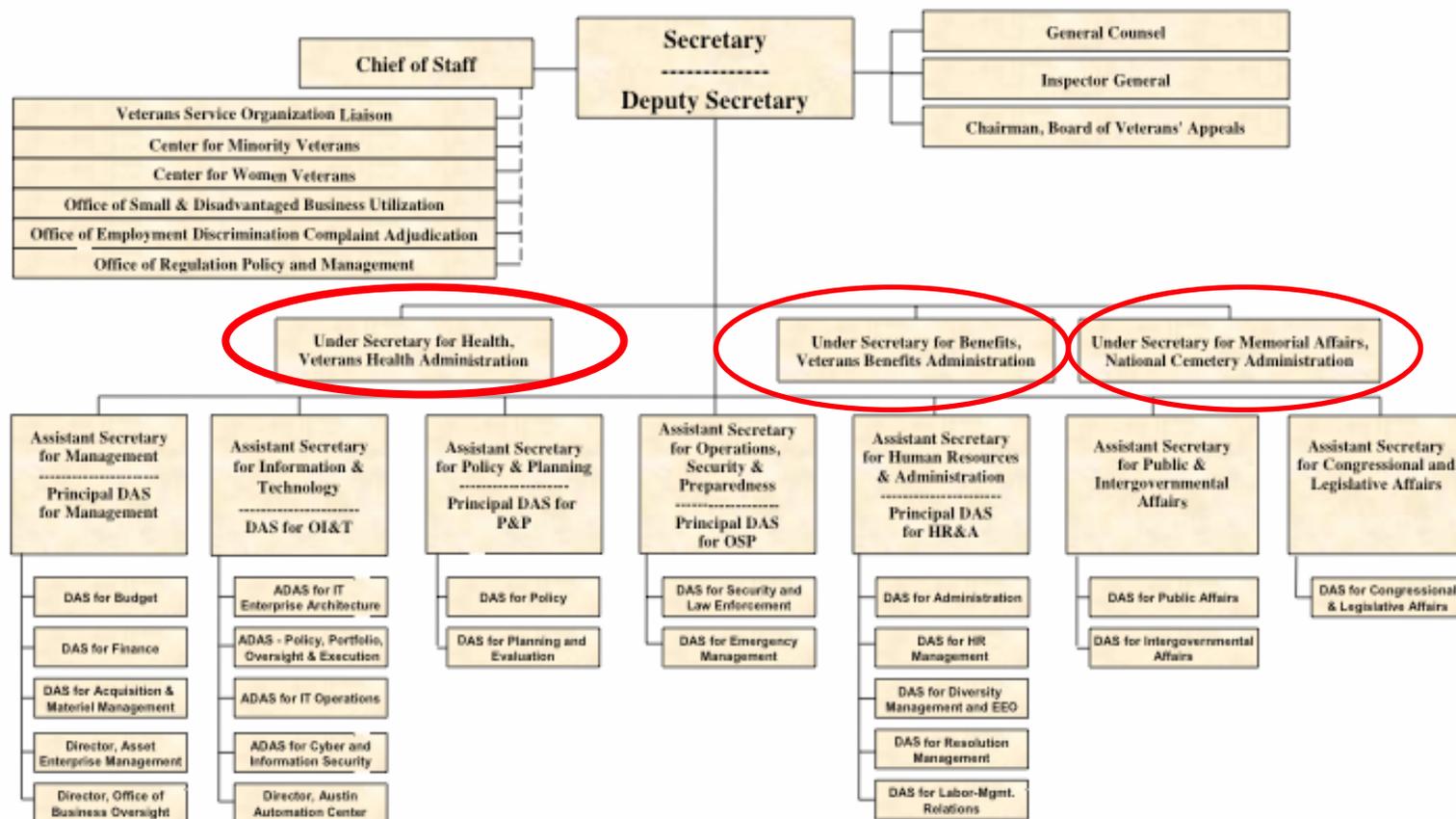
- As defined by the government
 - US Government
 - States
- As defined for participation in education, training and employment programs
 - US Department of Education
 - Department of Labor
- Individual perception and experience



History of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

- Created in 1930 by Executive Order
- 2nd Largest Department in the Cabinet
 - Serves veterans and their spouses and dependents
 - Potential population (25% or 70 million Americans)
- Three branches administer benefits
 - Veterans Health Administration (VHA)
 - Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA)
 - National Cemetery Administration (NCA)

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS





Veterans Benefits Administration

- Compensation and Pension
- Home Loans
- Education
- Life Insurance
- Appeals Services



National Cemetery Administration

- Burial Services
- State Grants Program
- Provides headstones and markers to private cemeteries
- Maintains cemeteries as National Shrines
- Presidential Memorial Certificates
- Memorial Services



Veterans Health Administration

- Health Care
 - Acute, Outpatient
 - Long Term Care
 - Home and Community-Based Care
- Vocational Rehabilitation Services



Veterans Benefits Administration

- Compensation and Pension
- Education
- Home Loans
- Life Insurance
- Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program including Vocational and Educational Counseling



National Cemetery Administration

- Mission: To honor veterans with final resting places in national shrines and with lasting tributes that commemorate their service to our nation
- Purpose
 - Provide burial space for veterans and their eligible family members.
 - Maintain national cemeteries as national shrines, sacred to the honor and memory of those interred or memorialized there.
 - Mark veterans' graves with a Government-furnished headstone or marker and to provide Presidential Memorial Certificates in recognition of their service to a grateful nation.
 - Administer grants for establishing or expanding state veterans cemeteries.



Burial Benefits

- Who can be buried in a VA cemetery
 - Veterans
 - Any members of the Armed Forces of the USA who die on Active Duty
- Eligibility criteria
 - Before 1980
 - Honorably discharged
 - 24 months of active duty
 - After 1980
 - Honorably discharged
 - 24 months of active duty
 - Not guilty of capital offense



Burial Benefits

- Burial benefits in a National Cemetery
 - Gravesite in any of the 124 national cemeteries with available space
 - Opening and closing of grave
 - Perpetual Care
 - Government headstone or marker
 - Burial flag
 - Presidential Memorial Certificate
 - Some veterans may also be eligible for Burial Allowances
 - Burial benefits available for spouses and dependents



Burial Benefits

- Burial benefits in a private cemetery
 - Government headstone or marker
 - Burial flag
 - Presidential Memorial Certificate
 - Some veterans may also be eligible for Burial Allowances
 - No benefits available to spouses and dependents



Burial Allowances

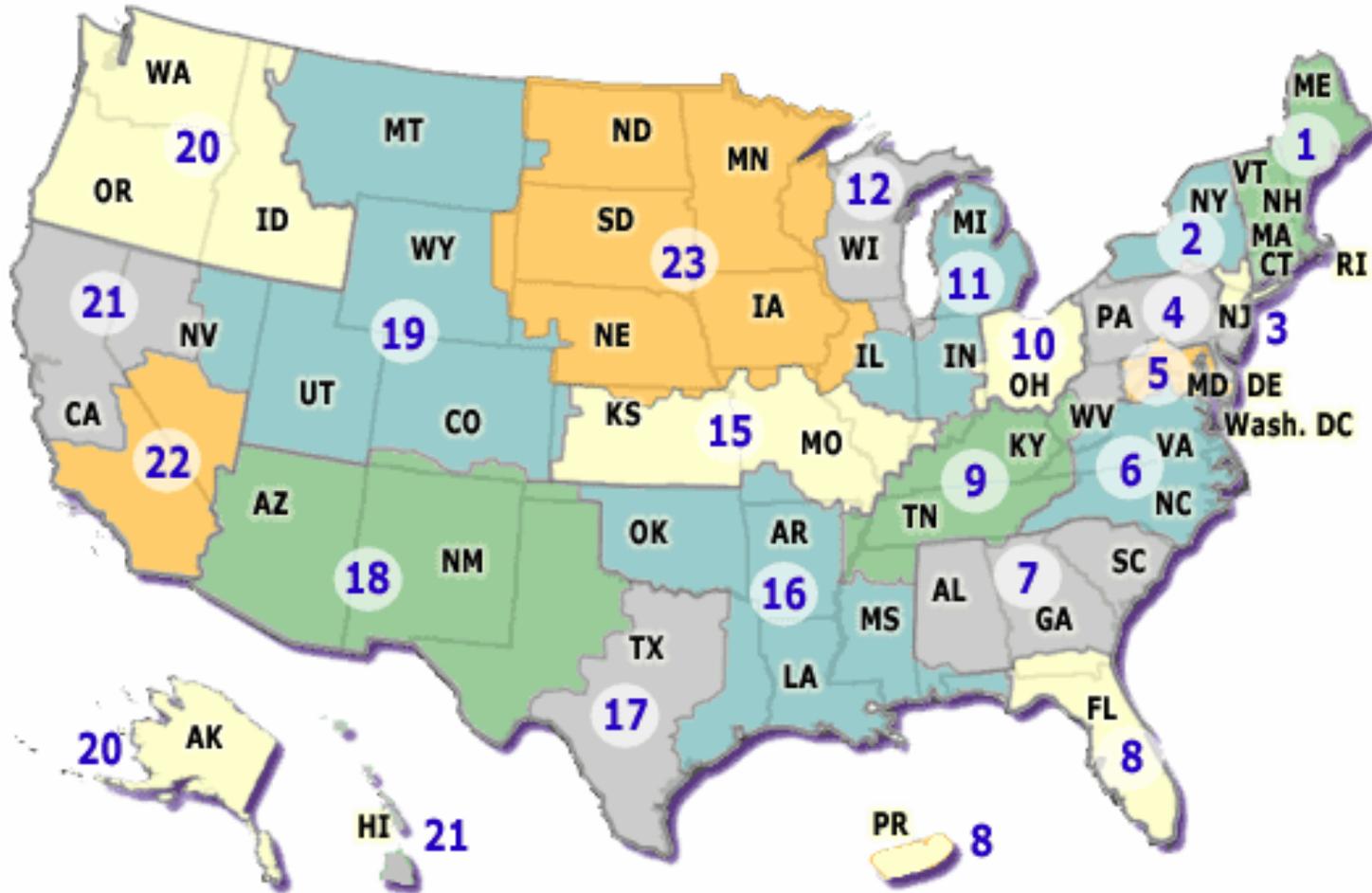
- Partial reimbursements of an eligible veteran's burial and funeral costs
- Burial Allowances based on eligibility
 - Up to \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses
 - Up to \$300 plot-internment allowance
 - If the veteran died because of a service-related disability, the burial allowance increases to up to \$2,000



Veterans Health Administration

- Medical Benefits Package
- Basic eligibility
- Co-pay
- Venues of care
 - Acute
 - Nursing Home
 - Outpatient clinics
 - Vet Centers

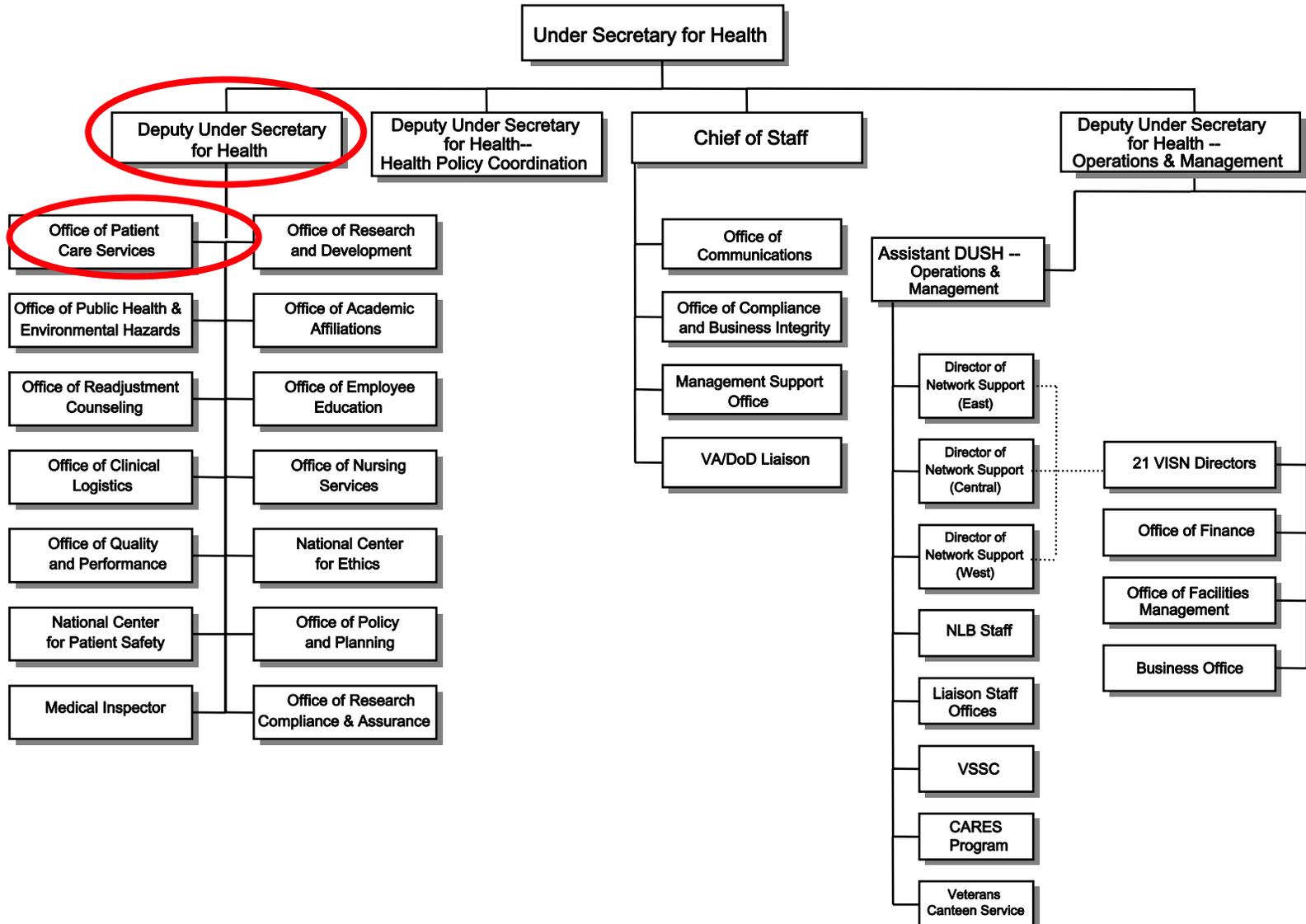
Veterans Health Administration 21 Veterans Integrated Service Networks



Department of Veterans Affairs

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR HEALTH

VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION





Health Benefits

- Health Benefits
 - Veterans Health Care Eligibility Reform Act (1996) established Medical Benefits Package
- Eligibility
 - Must be honorably discharged from active service in Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, Environmental Services Administration, or National Atmospheric Administration



Health Benefits

- Enrollment, Eligibility and Costs
 - Most must enroll for benefits
 - Enrolled veterans assigned to priority group 1 - 8
 - Geographic Means Test utilized to assess cost-share (co-pay)



Medical Benefits Package (Standard Benefits)

- Preventative Care Services
 - Immunizations
 - Physical Examinations
 - Health Care Assessments
 - Screening Tests
 - Health Education
 - Ambulatory (Outpatient) Diagnostic and Treatment Services
 - Emergency outpatient care in VA facilities
 - Medical
 - Surgical
 - Chiropractic Care
 - Mental Health
 - Bereavement Counseling for families of veterans in hospice and select mental health programs
 - Substance Abuse
 - Inpatient Diagnostic and Treatment
 - Emergency Inpatient Care in VA facilities
 - Medical
 - Surgical
 - Mental Health
 - Substance Abuse
 - Medications and Supplies *
 - Prescriptions medications
 - Over the counter medications
 - Medical and Surgical supplies
- *Generally medications must be prescribed by a VA provider and be available under the VA's national formulary system



Special and Limited Health Care Benefits

- Agent Orange Exposure Treatment and Registry Examination
- Automobile Assistance
- Beneficiary Travel (including Ambulance)
- Bereavement Counseling
- Bind Veterans Services
- CHAMPVA
- Combat Veteran Eligibility
- Dental Care
- Domiciliary Care
- Emergency Care in Non-VA Facilities
- Extended Care
- Eyeglasses
- Foreign Medical Program
- Gulf War Illness
- Hearing Aids
- Home Health Care
- Home Improvement and Structural Alterations
- Homeless Programs
- Ionizing Radiation Exposure Treatment and Registry Examination
- Long Term Care
- Maternity Care
- Military Sexual Trauma Counseling
- Non-VA Health Care Services
- Nose and Throat Radium Treatment
- Nursing Home Care
- Project 112/SHAD Participants
- Prosthetic (Medical Equipment and Sensory Aids)
- Readjustment Counseling
- Women Veterans Services



Health Benefits General Exclusions

- Abortion and Abortion counseling
- Cosmetic Surgery
- Drugs and biologicals not approved by the FDA
- Gender Alteration
- Health Club or Spa Membership
- In vitro fertilization
- Special private duty nursing
- Services not ordered and provided by licensed, accredited professional staff
- Care for a veteran who is a patient or inmate in an institution of another government agency if that agency has a duty to give the care or services.



CHAMPVA and TRICARE

- CHAMPVA
 - Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs
 - VA shares the cost of covered health care services and supplies with eligible beneficiaries
- TRICARE
 - Program of the Department of Defense
 - Regionally managed
 - Active duty and retired members of the uniformed services