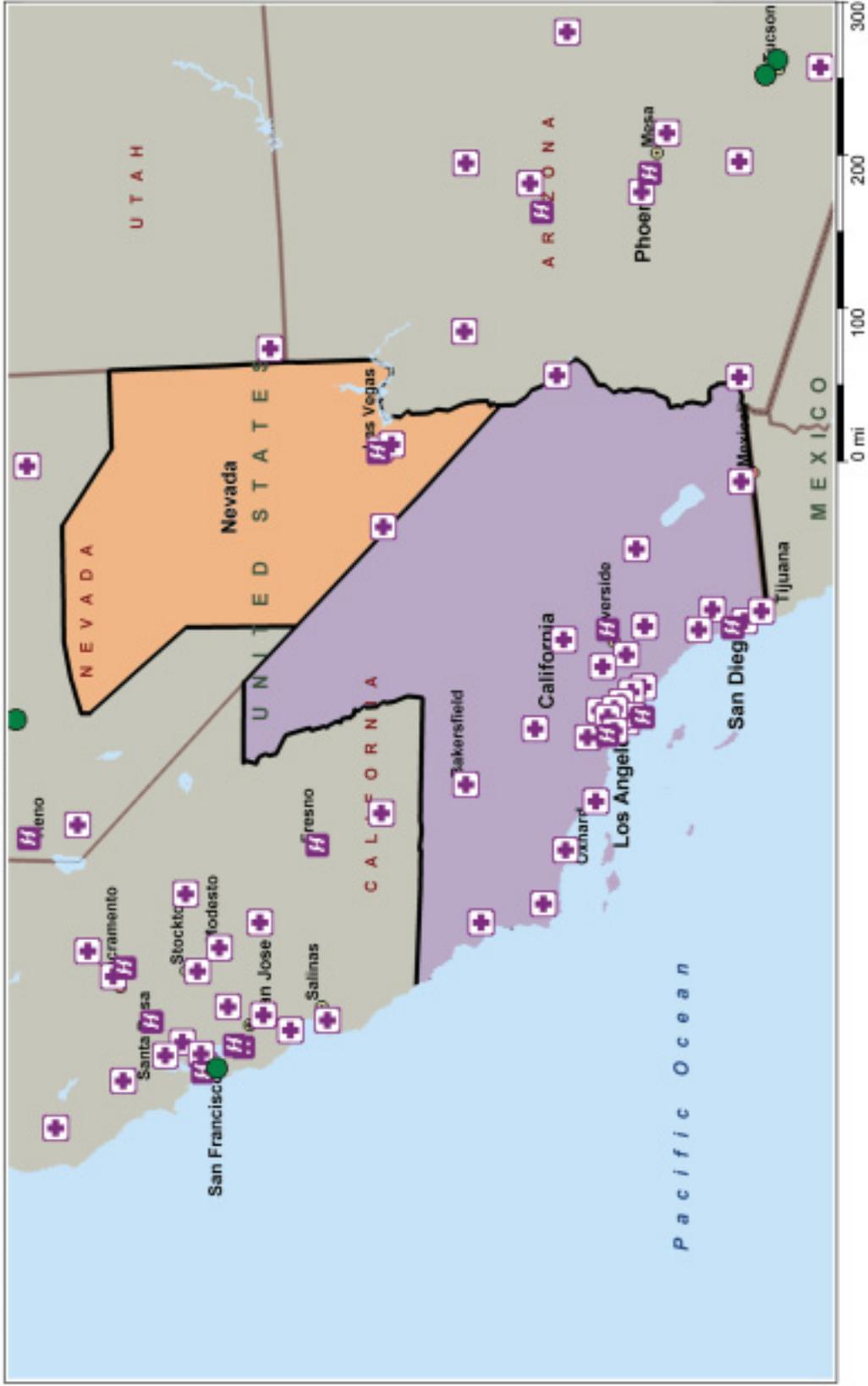


# VISN 22



- Pushpins**
- VA Clinic
- VA Hospital
- Planned New CBOC
- Markets**
- California
- Nevada

© Copyright 1988-2003 Microsoft Corp. and/or its suppliers. All rights reserved. <http://www.microsoft.com/mappoint>  
 © Copyright 2002 by Geographic Data Technology, Inc. All rights reserved.  
 © 2002 Navigation Technologies. All rights reserved. This data includes information taken with permission from Canadian authorities  
 © 1991-2002 Government of Canada (Statistics Canada and/or Geomatics Canada), all rights reserved.

## CARES DECISIONS FOR VISN 22

### *CARES Commission Recommendation*

#### I New Hospital – VA/DoD Sharing

##### *Las Vegas*

- 1 The Commission recommends that VA continue the joint venture with the Michael O’Callaghan Federal Hospital at Nellis AFB in Las Vegas for inpatient beds and that the partnership be expanded to meet VA’s increased need for acute care services. This partnership allows for shared services that support inpatient beds and will reduce redundancies and be more cost-efficient than operating two separate hospital facilities.
- 2 The Commission recommends that VA provide a collocated multi-specialty outpatient clinic and nursing home care unit in the Las Vegas area.
- 3 The Commission recommends that, given the uniqueness of the Las Vegas situation and the increased need for VA inpatient care in southern Nevada, if DoD cannot continue the partnership by fulfilling the medical needs of veterans, the VA should exercise the option of constructing a new VA hospital in Las Vegas, as recommended in the DNCP.

### *Secretary’s Decision*

#### I New Hospital – VA/DoD Sharing

##### *Las Vegas*

The Nevada market is experiencing rapid growth in demand for VA health care and the need for additional services for Las Vegas area veterans is urgent. Currently, VA is treating Las Vegas veterans in community-based clinics located throughout the city, fragmenting care across ten sites. Compounding the problem are referral patterns that require many Las Vegas area veterans to travel long distances to Los Angeles and San Diego for a range of inpatient procedures and at added expense to the Department. VA will move forward to develop a VA medical center campus that will include multi-specialty outpatient, nursing home, and inpatient services to care for the rapidly growing Las Vegas veteran population.

VA will begin planning for the new Las Vegas facility by developing a Master Plan for a new medical center campus. The Master Plan will include careful consideration of the size and location of the campus as well as a cost-effectiveness analysis to ensure VA maximizes use of its resources. VA will develop plans for the size of the nursing home using its long-term care and mental health strategic plans, and will explore the opportunity to collaborate with the University of Nevada as it plans for the new facility.

VA will continue to pursue sharing opportunities with DoD at the Michael O'Callaghan Federal Hospital at Nellis AFB. This has been a successful collaboration and VA will work closely with DoD to ensure continued sharing.

This significant expansion of services to Las Vegas veterans will greatly improve the quality and coordination of care in an area that is experiencing rapid growth. As VA plans for development of the new facility in Las Vegas, it will consider what other ancillary facilities are necessary to support the new medical center campus allowing potential for additional DoD sharing.

VA will continue to work closely with its stakeholders to ensure that development and implementation of the Master Plan are managed effectively. While this transition is expected to take place over several years, VA will complete the Master Plan by the end of 2004 (*Reference – VADoD Sharing, Long-Term Care: Crosscutting*).

### ***CARES Commission Recommendation***

#### **II Realignment/Consolidation of Services Due to Proximity** ***West LA and Long Beach VAMCs***

The Commission concurs with the DNCP proposal to maintain existing facilities at the Long Beach and West LA campuses, and to integrate services where appropriate.

### ***Secretary's Decision***

#### **II Realignment/Consolidation of Services Due to Proximity** ***West LA and Long Beach VAMCs***

VA will maintain the Long Beach and West LA campuses as separate tertiary care facilities, but will continue to consolidate administrative and clinical services between both facilities as recommended in the DNCP.

***CARES Commission Recommendation*****III Inpatient Care**

The Commission concurs with the DNCP proposal to address the need for additional inpatient medicine beds in the California market through the conversion and renovation of existing space and to use contracted services to meet demand during peak periods.

***Secretary's Decision*****III Inpatient Care**

VA will meet increased demand for inpatient care through new construction, by converting and renovating existing space, and by using existing authorities and policies to contract for care where necessary (*Reference – Contracting for Care: Crosscutting*).

***CARES Commission Recommendation*****IV Outpatient Care**

- 1** The Commission concurs with the DNCP proposal to address capacity gaps through new construction, shifting workload, and expansion of services.
- 2** The Commission recommends that the Secretary and USH utilize their authority to establish new CBOCs within the VHA medical appropriations without regard to the three priority groups for CBOCs outlined in the DNCP.

***Secretary's Decision*****IV Outpatient Care**

VA will meet anticipated gaps in outpatient care through new construction for additional space, shifting workload between facilities, expansion of services, and use of existing authorities and policies to provide contract care where necessary. VA will consider addition of new CBOCs through the National CBOC Approval Process (*Reference – Contracting for Care: Crosscutting*).

### ***CARES Commission Recommendation***

#### **V Special Disability Programs**

- 1** The Commission concurs with the DNCP proposal to establish a new blind rehabilitation center on the Long Beach campus.
- 2** The Commission concurs with the DNCP proposals for Long Beach to realign 30 beds from acute spinal cord injury and disorders (SCI/D) to long-term SCI/D. The Commission recommends that VA conduct an assessment of acute and long-term bed needs for SCI centers to provide the proper balance of beds to better serve veterans and reduce waiting times.

### ***Secretary's Decision***

#### **V Special Disability Programs**

As part of the implementation process, VA will validate the number of SCI/D beds to ensure the appropriate need for and distribution between acute and long-term beds. Validation also will consider referral patterns as well as location and inter-VISN collaboration as appropriate. Implementation plans for SCI services at the Long Beach VAMC will be included in the FY 2005 VISN strategic planning submission.

VA will include plans to develop a new 24-bed blind rehabilitation center on the Long Beach campus in the FY 2005 VISN strategic planning submission (*Reference – Special Disability Programs: Crosscutting*).

### ***CARES Commission Recommendation***

#### **VI Infrastructure and Life Safety**

The Commission recommends that patient safety be the highest priority for VA CARES funding. VA should seek the appropriation of necessary funding to correct documented seismic/life safety deficiencies as soon as possible.

### ***Secretary's Decision***

#### **VI Infrastructure and Life Safety**

VA will improve patient and employee safety by correcting seismic and life safety deficiencies at the West LA, Long Beach, and San Diego facilities (*Reference – Patient and Life Safety: Crosscutting*).

## *CARES Commission Recommendation*

### **VII Excess Land Use**

#### *West LA Campus*

- 1 The Commission concurs with the DNCP proposal for the Network Land Use Planning Committee to address the use of VA land, especially the property on the West LA campus, with stakeholder input. The Commission recommends, however, that the committee be augmented with the addition of stakeholder representation on the committee in an advisory capacity.
- 2 The Commission concurs with the DNCP proposal for construction of a new clinical addition to consolidate clinical services.
- 3 The Commission recommends that any study involving excess or surplus property should consider all options for divestiture, including outright sale, transfer to another public entity, and a reformed enhanced use leasing process. VA should also consider using vacant space to provide supportive services to homeless veterans.

## *Secretary's Decision*

### **VII Excess Land Use**

#### *West LA Campus*

Spread across 387 acres in an urban neighborhood, the West LA campus is a unique resource and it is important that VA preserve the integrity of the land originally granted for use as an Old Soldiers home. VA is committed to maintaining the property for uses that serve to enhance the Department's mission.

To ensure that VA has a clear framework for managing the vacant and underused property at the West LA campus, VA will develop a Master Plan for the campus in collaboration with stakeholders who will have input into the plan's development.

The Master Plan will be completed by the end of 2004 (*Reference – Excess VA Property: Crosscutting*).

### ***CARES Commission Recommendation***

#### **VIII Long-Term Care/Facility Condition**

- 1** The Commission concurs with the DNCP proposal for upgrading existing long-term care and chronic psychiatric care units recognizing that some renovations are needed to improve the safety and maintenance of the facilities' infrastructure and to modernize patient areas.
- 2** The Commission recommends that VA provide for nursing home care, collocated with a multi-specialty outpatient clinic, in the Las Vegas area.
- 3** The Commission recommends that prior to taking any action to reconfigure or expand long-term care capacity or replace existing long-term care facilities, VA should develop a long-term care strategic plan. This plan should be based on well-articulated policies, address access to services, and integrate planning for the long-term care of the seriously mentally ill.

### ***Secretary's Decision***

#### **VIII Long-Term Care/Facility Condition**

VA will develop a long-term care strategic plan based on well-articulated policies. Until VA completes a long-term care strategic plan, it will only proceed with maintenance and life safety projects at existing long-term care facilities that are necessary to ensure the quality and safety of patient care (*Reference – Long-Term Care: Crosscutting*).

### ***CARES Commission Recommendation***

#### **IX Research**

The Commission concurs with the DNCP proposal for new research facilities at Loma Linda, San Diego, and West LA locations.

***Secretary's Decision*****IX Research**

VA will explore opportunities to develop new research facilities at the Loma Linda, San Diego, and West LA campuses that are consistent with its patient care mission.

***CARES Commission Recommendation*****X VA/DoD Sharing and Other Collaborations**

- 1** The Commission recommends that VA/DoD collaboration should be a major consideration in addressing health care needs in a local area.
- 2** The Commission concurs with collocating the VBA office to West LA campus and providing VBA space in the proposed outpatient clinic in Las Vegas, NV.
- 3** The Commission concurs with collocating an NCA columbarium on 20 acres of the West LA campus.

***Secretary's Decision*****X VA/DoD Sharing and Other Collaborations**

VA will continue to pursue sharing with the Air Force at Nellis Air Force Base as stated in discussion of the proposal for a new medical center campus in Las Vegas. VA also will pursue other sharing opportunities with DoD in VISN 22 (*Reference – VA/DoD Sharing*).

VA will explore the feasibility of collocating the VBA Regional Office at the West LA VAMC. VA will also plan to collocate VBA space in the new medical center campus planned for Las Vegas, NV. These collaborations will not only improve access to services, but will redirect savings from rental costs into claims processing, vocational rehabilitation and employment, education, loan guaranty, and other VBA priorities. VBA will develop collocation feasibility studies for these collaborations by September 2004.

VA will collocate an NCA columbarium on 20 acres of available land at the West LA campus and pursue additional opportunities for expanding the NCA presence on the West LA campus. VA will develop a plan for this collocation by September 2004 (*Reference – OneVA Collaborations: Crosscutting*).