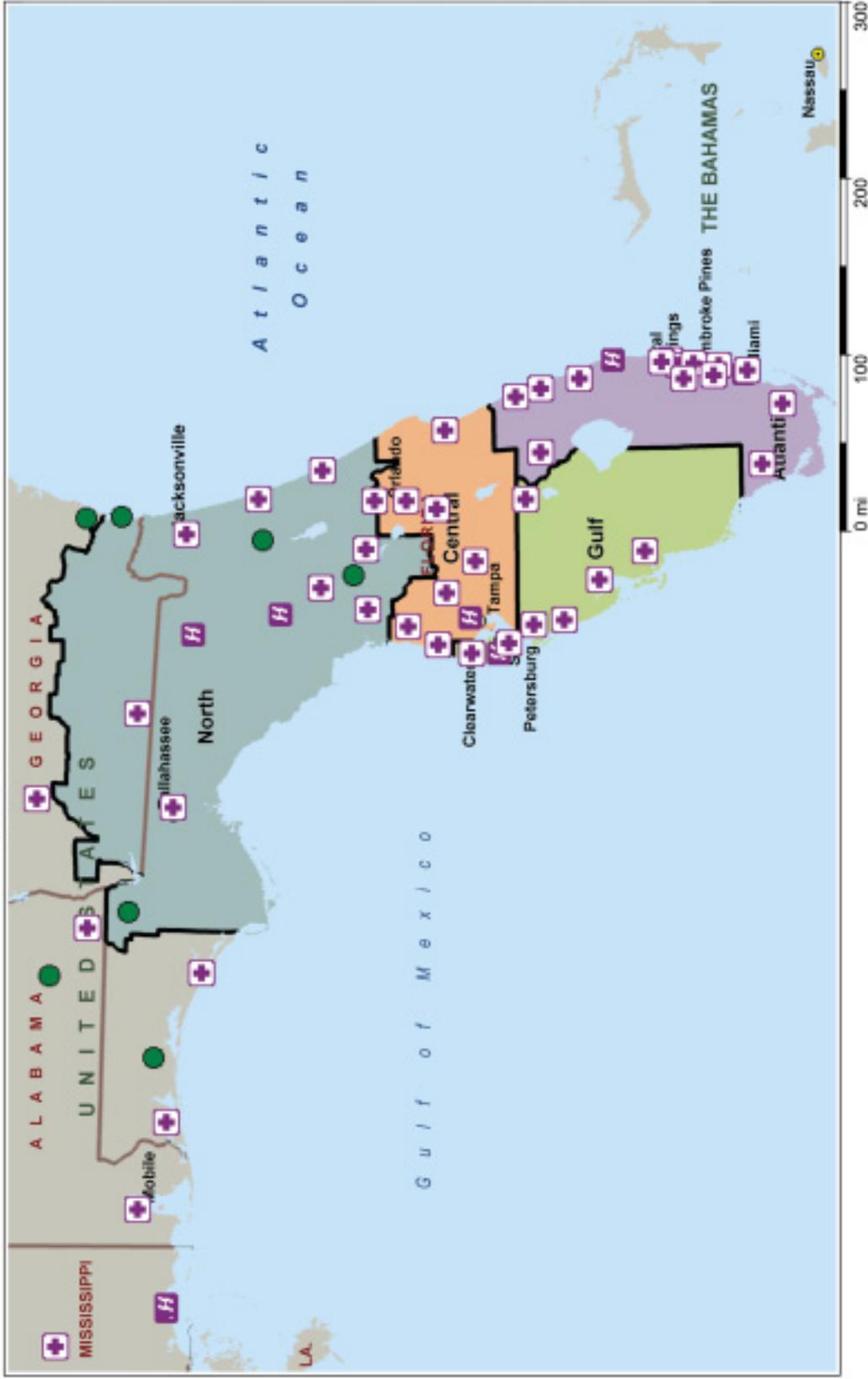


VISN 8



- Pushpins**
- H VA Hospital
 - + VA Clinic
 - Planned New CBOC
- Markets**
- Atlantic
 - Central
 - Gulf
 - North

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CARES DECISIONS FOR VISN 8

CARES Commission Recommendation

I New Hospital (Access)

Orlando

The Commission concurs with the DNCP proposal on the construction of a new inpatient facility in Orlando and recommends the number of beds in the proposal be validated in relation to the proposed new Tampa VAMC bed tower.

Secretary's Decision

I New Hospital (Access)

Orlando

VA will construct a new medical center in Orlando to meet the growing needs of a Central Florida market that is currently underserved. With only 45 percent of area veterans within access standards for hospital care, the Orlando area needs a new medical center.

VA will develop a plan for the design and construction of this project by September 2004.

CARES Commission Recommendation

II Realignment (Mission Change)

Lake City VAMC

- 1** The Commission does not concur with the DNCP proposal to move Lake City's inpatient surgery services to Gainesville at the present time.
- 2** In light of the projected growth of enrollees and the access gap in the North market, the Commission further recommends that any consideration of a transfer of inpatient services from Lake City to Gainesville be delayed until FY 2012.
- 3** The Commission concurs with the DNCP proposal to maintain nursing home care and outpatient services at Lake City.

Secretary's Decision

II Realignment (Mission Change)

Lake City VAMC

The Secretary will not consider transfer of surgical services from the Lake City VAMC to the Gainesville VAMC at this time. The proposal to transfer surgical and other inpatient services will be reconsidered after construction of a new bed tower in Gainesville is complete. In the interim, there will be no change to the mission of the Lake City VAMC.

CARES Commission Recommendation

III Inpatient Care

Tampa VAMC

- 1 The Commission concurs with the DNCP proposal for construction of an inpatient bed tower at the Tampa VAMC primarily on the basis of infrastructure and safety issues.
- 2 The Commission recommends that as the planning for the bed tower at Tampa proceeds, the number of beds in the proposal be validated in relation to the proposed new Orlando inpatient facility.

Secretary's Decision

III Inpatient Care

Tampa VAMC

VA will proceed with plans to build an inpatient bed tower at the Tampa VAMC. The Tampa VAMC is an active medical center that is aging and in need of significant upgrades to ensure that patients receive care in a safe and efficient health care environment designed to provide high quality health care. The addition of a new bed tower at the facility will resolve pressing infrastructure and safety issues.

VA will develop a plan for the design and construction of this project by September 2004.

CARES Commission Recommendation**IV Other Inpatient Care*****Gulf South Market, North Market***

- 1** The Commission concurs with the DNCP proposal to address the access gap for inpatient services in the Gulf South market (Bay Pines VAMC) by contracting for care. The Commission also concurs with the VISN proposal to realign the number of operating beds in the Gulf South market.
- 2** The Commission concurs with the DNCP proposal for a DoD/VA joint venture with the Naval Air Station Hospital at Jacksonville and a contractual arrangement with University of Florida/Shands and new construction at Gainesville to meet inpatient demand in the North market.
- 3** The Commission recommends that VA direct inter-VISN coordination and action to address the demand for inpatient care in the Panhandle of Florida.

Secretary's Decision**IV Other Inpatient Care*****Gulf South Market, North Market***

VA will increase access to and availability of services to veterans in the Gulf South and North markets of VISN 8 and to the Florida Panhandle area, currently shared by VISNs 8 and 16, through sharing opportunities with DoD, new construction, shifting of resources, and use of existing authorities and policies to contract for care where necessary.

VA will evaluate establishment of contractual relationships with the University of Florida/Shands and the Naval Air Station Hospital at Jacksonville to provide inpatient services for the North market.

VA also will plan for new construction to increase inpatient capacity at the Gainesville VAMC.

VA will improve collaboration between VISNs 8 and 16 to ensure veterans living in the Florida Panhandle receive quality care in locations accessible to them (*Reference – VISN 16, Inpatient Care*).

CARES Commission Recommendation

V Outpatient Care

- 1 The Commission concurs with the DNCP proposal for adding four new points of primary care in the North market and by expansion of existing CBOCs in all five markets.
- 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 CBOC's outlined in the DNCP.

Secretary's Decision

V Outpatient Care

VA has seen enormous growth in veterans relocating to VISN 8 over the past several years and forecasts indicate that growth will continue into the future. VA will increase capacity for outpatient care by expanding existing CBOCs throughout the VISN.

The VISN also will develop new CBOCs through the National CBOC Approval Process. VISN 8 has four new CBOCs targeted for priority implementation by 2012.

Parent Facility	Planned New Facility Name	State
Gainesville VAMC	Jackson County	FL
Gainesville VAMC	Putnam	FL
Gainesville VAMC	Camden	GA
Gainesville VAMC	Summerfield (South Marion)	FL

These new sites of care will help the VISN, which currently is below access standards in its North market, to meet national access standards (*Reference – Contracting for Care, Community-Based Outpatient Clinics: Crosscutting*).

CARES Commission Recommendation**VI VA/DoD Sharing**

The Commission recommends that the VISN plans for the DoD collaborative opportunities in VISN 8 include clear, written evidence of a joint commitment.

Secretary's Decision**VI VA/DoD Sharing**

VA will continue to work with DoD to develop sharing opportunities in VISN 8 (*Reference – VA/DoD Sharing: Crosscutting*).

CARES Commission Recommendation**VII Special Disability Programs*****Spinal Cord Injury/Disorder (SCI/D) Beds at Tampa***

- 1 The Commission does not concur with the DNCP on the addition of 30 SCI/D beds in Tampa. The Commission recommends that, prior to a final decision to increase the number of SCI/D beds at Tampa, VA's Chief Consultant for SCI/D consider alternative locations in or near VISN 8 for an additional SCI Center.
- 2 VA should 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 wait times.

Secretary's Decision**VII Special Disability Programs*****Spinal Cord Injury/Disorder (SCI/D) Beds at Tampa***

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, the location, and inter-VISN collaboration. Implementation plans for development of a new or expanded SCI presence in South Florida will be included in the FY 2005 VISN strategic planning submission (*Reference – Special Disability Programs: Crosscutting*).

CARES Commission Recommendation

VIII Excess VA Property

The Commission concurs with the DNCP proposal for further exploration of enhanced use lease project opportunities at Bay Pines and Miami.

Secretary's Decision

VIII Excess VA Property

VA will explore enhanced use lease project opportunities at the Bay Pines and Miami VAMCs (*Reference – Excess VA Property: Crosscutting*).

CARES Commission Recommendation

IX Infrastructure and Safety

The Commission recommends the expeditious construction of a new seismically safe bed tower in San Juan. The Commission recommends the VISN validate the bed, space, and cost requirements given the projected decreasing demand for inpatient care in that market.

Secretary's Decision

IX Infrastructure and Safety

VA will build an appropriately sized, seismically safe, and operationally efficient inpatient bed tower at the San Juan VAMC. The San Juan VAMC is an active medical center that is aging and in need of significant upgrades to ensure that patients receive care in a safe and efficient health care environment that is designed to provide high quality health care. The addition of a new bed tower at the facility will resolve pressing infrastructure and safety issues.

VA will develop a plan for the design and construction of this project, to include validation of bed needs by September 2004.

Secretary's Decision

X OneVA Collaborations

VA is in the process of identifying a site for establishing a new national cemetery in the Sarasota area and will evaluate the feasibility of potential collocation opportunities within the site selection process (*Reference – OneVA Collaboration: Crosscutting*).