



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Veterans Health Administration
Washington DC 20420

APR 09 2004

In Reply Refer To:

To All VHA Employees:

On April 5, Dr. Robert H. Roswell resigned the position of Under Secretary for Health. VA Secretary Anthony J. Principi has asked me to serve as Acting Under Secretary for Health while a search is conducted for a permanent Under Secretary for Health.

I am honored to direct the activities of America's finest health care organization and to serve the more than seven million veterans who have entrusted us with their health care needs. I am also honored, and humbled, by the opportunity to lead the finest and most dedicated group of professionals in the health care industry – the 200,000 employees and 100,000 volunteers who together embody our Nation's commitment to care for those who have borne the battle and their families.

With your support, I will do everything I can to improve health care delivery during this transitional period. I am confident that we can succeed in accomplishing our mission of serving veterans because VHA employees will continue to display the dedication to duty, innovative thinking and devotion to the needs of America's veterans that are the hallmarks of VHA.

Your past efforts have made VHA the standard for excellence in the health care industry. Together, we will continue to improve the quality of health care we provide to the men and women who have risked their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor in defense of our Nation and the freedoms we enjoy.

Let us each resolve to redouble our commitment to heal the wounds and cure the illnesses – both physical and mental – of the brave men and women we are privileged to serve. Thank you all for your support.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jonathan B. Perlin".

Jonathan B. Perlin, MD, PhD, MSHA, FACP
Acting Under Secretary for Health