

# **PRIORITY CARE FOR IRAQI FREEDOM VETERANS**

## **Highest Priority Care**

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs has emphasized that Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans have the highest priority for care. If the care the veteran needs is not available immediately, the care will be provided by another VA Medical Center or in the community at VA expense.

## **What Health Care Is Available?**

This benefit includes free health care services and nursing home care to combat veterans for a period of two years from their date of separation from active duty.

In addition to other care that may be provided to these veterans (e.g., Dental care, Counseling Services, Rehabilitation, etc.), all Iraqi Freedom veterans should be referred to the Deployment Health Clinic for care. The purpose of this clinic is to help ensure that veterans will be provided coordinated treatment for illness, disease, or injury that happened in “theater.”

## **How Does a Veteran Get An Appointment to the Deployment Clinic?**

Please contact the VA Puget Sound Deployment Health Clinic Coordinator at 206-764-2636, or call toll free at 1-800-329-8387 and enter extension 62636 for the Seattle Division for an appointment.

## **What do employees need to do?**

Ensure that Iraqi Freedom veterans are provided the care they need immediately. If the care cannot be provided immediately, contact Health Plan Management at extension 62876 or the AOD after hours at extension 62810 and send a consult to Fee Services to arrange for care outside Puget Sound. In addition, contact the Deployment Clinic at extension 62636 to schedule a future appointment for the veteran.

