

Federal Services and Benefits

A primary requirement for the Task Force was to catalog the services and benefits currently being provided to returning Global War on Terror servicemembers. At the current time, there is no single repository available— in written or electronic format —to find a comprehensive list of the services and benefits available to them.

The needs of GWOT servicemembers, veterans, and their families are addressed by the Federal government through a multiplicity of programs. The two Federal agencies providing the majority of services and benefits to returning Global War on Terror servicemembers are the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs. VA and DoD locations delivering health care and benefits are illustrated in Exhibits 1-4.

Within other Federal agencies, there are both direct and indirect services available to returning Global War on Terror servicemembers. Indirect services are those arranged or financed by the agency but not provided by Federal employees such as educational assistance and community medical services. Additionally, the Task Force recognized that states and local government agencies offer veterans and their families many benefits ranging from health care to free college tuition to property tax relief.

The Department of Defense (DoD) provides active duty military personnel with a wide variety of benefits ranging from health care to housing to family support services. DoD offers military personnel many benefits similar to those offered by public and many private sector organizations such as annual leave, convalescent leave, retirement pay, disability retirement, life insurance, educational assistance, and paid time off for holidays. DoD also provides myriad benefits to military personnel, dependents, and retirees beyond standard workplace benefits such as tax-free discount shopping, space available travel, legal assistance, community services, and health and morale programs.

There are approximately 24 million veterans living today and about twenty-one percent of the Nation’s population – approximately 61 million people – is potentially eligible for VA benefits and services because they are veterans, eligible family members, or survivors of veterans. A wide range of services and benefits are available from VA to veterans who leave the service after retirement or after their military obligations have been met as well as to individuals meeting certain eligibility requirements such as National Guard and Reserve members who serve in active duty status for a prescribed period of time. (The required length of time in active duty status varies from benefit to benefit and can range from one day to 180 days.) VA provides comprehensive and specialized health care services as well as disability compensation, pension, education, life insurance, home loan, burial, and vocational rehabilitation benefits.

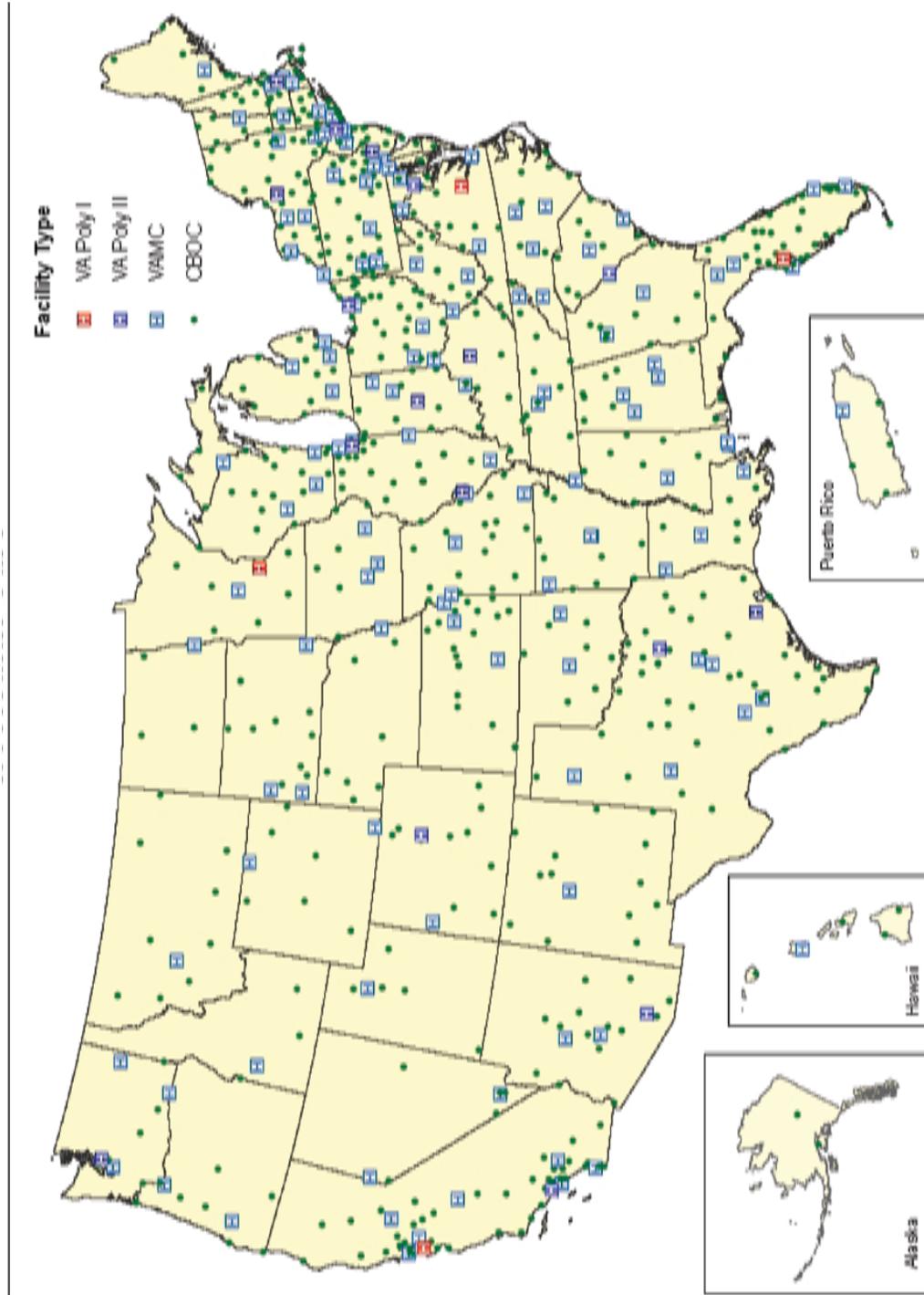
Within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Department of Labor (DOL), Department of Education (ED), Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Small Business Administration (SBA), and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), there are many services and benefits that can be accessed by all citizens as well as certain services and benefits that are in place specifically for military personnel, veterans, and eligible family members.

Task Force agencies provided descriptions of current services and benefits for active duty personnel, National Guard, Reserves, and veterans for which GWOT servicemembers are eligible for. The Task Force aligned the services and benefits by health care, benefits, outreach, employment, education and vocational rehabilitation, and housing and homelessness. This approach was used to present the information from a Federal delivery system perspective. The inventory of Federal services and benefits in place for servicemembers, veterans, and eligible family members is provided in Appendix B.

In addition, examples of interagency collaborative efforts supporting the delivery of services and benefits to GWOT servicemembers are provided in Appendix B.

Exhibit 1

VA Health Care



VA Veteran Centers

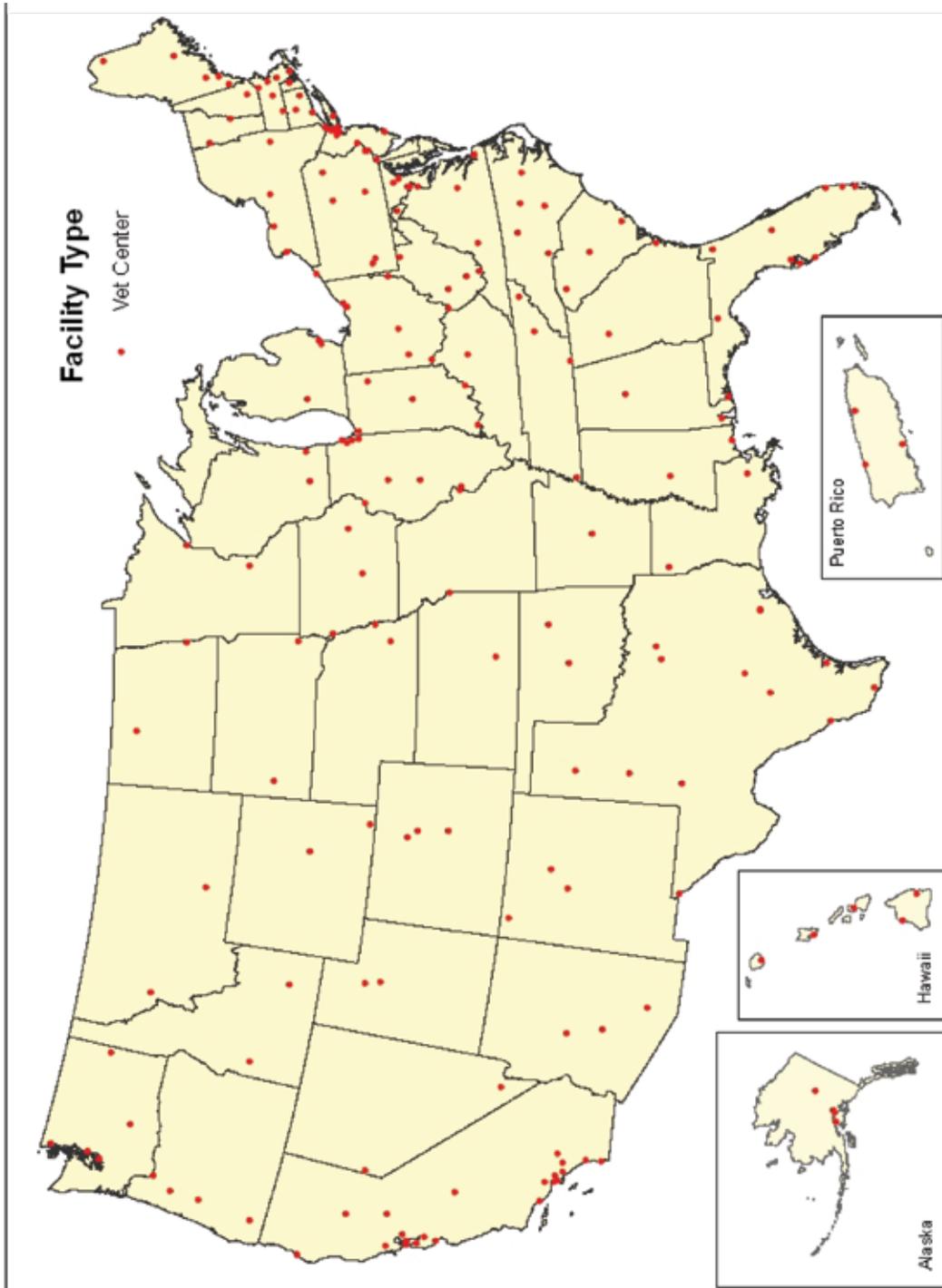


Exhibit 3

VA Benefits — Regional Offices, BDD Sites, VR&E Outstations

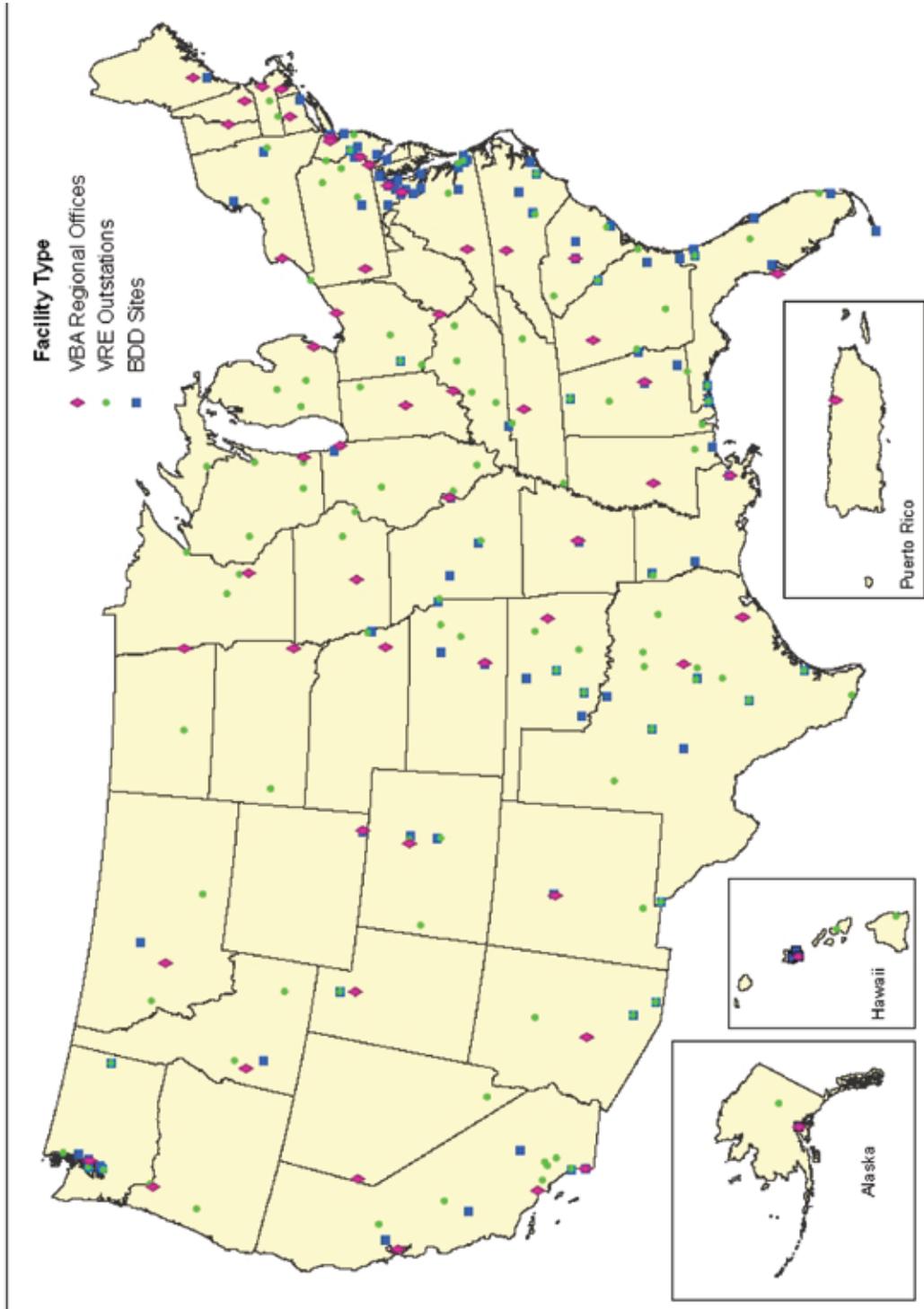


Exhibit 4

DoD Treatment Facilities — Hospitals and Clinics

