### Vet Center Mission

Vet Centers serve veterans and their families by providing a continuum of quality care that adds value for veterans, families, and communities. Care includes professional readjustment counseling, community education, outreach to special populations, the brokering of services with community agencies, and provides a key access link between the veteran and other services in the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.



## Vet Center Values

- Veteran Focused Services
- Quality
- Community Based Care
- Honoring and Respecting the Service of Our Nation's Veterans and Their Families
- Delivery of Cost-Effective Services
- Health, Wellness, and Preventative Services
- Diverse Composition and Experiences of the Veterans We Serve



## Vet Center Locations

The Vet Center program consists of 303 communitybased counseling centers located in 50 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the District of Columbia and Guam.

The Vet Centers are located outside of the larger VA medical centers in convenient community-based sites that promote ease of access for local veterans and family members.



## Vet Center History

The Vet Center program was established in 1979 to address the unmet service needs of Vietnam veterans, at the time an underserved and alienated veteran population.

The Vet Center program was the first program in VA, or anywhere, to address the social and psychological readjustment problems of combat veterans.



## Vet Center Staffing and Eligibility

Vet Centers are staffed by small teams of 3 to 6 staff composed of mental health professionals and counselors from other disciplines, a majority of which are themselves combat veterans.

Current Vet Center eligibility includes any veteran who served in a combat theater. Or suffered from military sexual trauma.



### Vet Center Services

Readjustment counseling is a mix of services designed to assist veterans make a successful readjustment from military to civilian life.

- •Community outreach, education and referral
- •Individual and group counseling
- •Family counseling for military-related issues
- •Employment counseling and referral
- •Substance abuse counseling and referral
- •Military sexual trauma counseling and referral
- •Bereavement counseling for military families
- •Assistance with VA benefits



#### Vet Centers Promote Easy Access

- Vet Center services are provided at no cost to the veteran.
- Upon request from veterans, Vet Centers offer non-traditional appointments after normal business hours and on weekends to accommodate working veterans and family members.





#### Vet Centers Promote Easy Access

Vet Centers have no waiting lists.

Veterans without appointments are welcome to walk in a Vet Center, where they will be seen by a counselor within 30 minutes for evaluation and follow-up appointment.



#### Vet Center Services are Confidential

Vet Centers guarantee the veteran maximum confidentiality for protection of personal information. No information disclosed in counseling sessions is provided to any agency outside the Vet Center without the veteran's signed authorization.



#### How to Locate Your Nearest Vet Center

Vet Centers are listed in the yellow pages as well as under The federal government listings in the blue pages of the local phone book. The listing in both places is under "Vet Center".

Vet Centers are listed on the internet web site: <u>www.vetcenter.va.gov</u>.

Vet Centers are listed by state with other VA facilities in VA's booklet, "Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents".



### **Local Vet center Phone Numbers**

Miami Vet Center: (305)-718-3712

Fort Lauderdale Vet Center: (954)-356-7926

Pompano Beach Vet Center: (954)-984-1669

Palm Beach Vet Center: (561)-422-1201

Jupiter Vet Center: (561)-422-1220





