

Department of Veterans Affairs
National Cemetery Administration

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Bakersfield National Cemetery

1801 Westwind Drive (Temp Office)

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- The new 500-acre national cemetery near Bakersfield, California will serve veterans' needs for the next 50 years. It is located about 25 miles east of SR 99 near Arvin along SR 223 in Kern County.
- In October 2007, VA awarded a design contract to Huitt-Zollars, Inc., of Irvine, California. By the end of 2008 VA will develop a 20-acre early burial area with temporary facilities (Phase 1A) followed by the second construction stage of the project (Phase 1B). When completed, the 50-acre Phase 1 development will provide 6,200 gravesites, including 2,380 pre-placed crypts, and 720 in-ground cremation sites and 3,000 columbarium niches. Phase 1 consists of approximately 50 acres including roadways, an entrance area, an administration and public information center, a maintenance complex, a flag assembly area, a memorial walkway, committal service shelters, as well as interment areas. Other infrastructure improvements will include grading, drainage, fencing, landscaping, irrigation system, and utilities.
- VA anticipates burials to begin in early 2009. The new cemetery will serve approximately 200,000 veterans in central California who are not currently served by a nearby national or state veterans cemetery. It will become the state's eighth VA national cemetery. The others are Fort Rosecrans, Golden Gate, Los Angeles, Riverside, Sacramento Valley, San Francisco and San Joaquin Valley.
- For more information, call the cemetery staff at (661) 632-1894. To make burial arrangements call (800) 535-1117.
- More information about VA's National Cemetery Administration is available on its website, www.cem.va.gov.