

# VA/DoD Partnership UPDATE

PROUD TO PARTNER



EXCELLENCE IN FEDERAL HEALTH CARE!  
North Chicago VA Medical Center Naval Health Clinic Great Lakes

Summer 2008

## Phase III of VA/DoD Partnership Moving Forward



parking. Immediately following the activation of the parking garage construction work will begin on the ambulatory care center.

Following the Groundbreaking and Ribbon Cutting ceremony, members of the 7 National Task Groups (Leadership, Human Resources, Finance/Budget, IM/IT, Clinical, Administrative, and Communication) convened for a two and a half day conference at the NCVAMC. In our Fall Issue we will have updates on what each group is working on.

On Monday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new parking garage was held along with a groundbreaking ceremony for the ambulatory care center. The \$16 million parking and infrastructure project is complete and soon work will begin on the \$71 million four-story ambulatory care center that will be adjacent to Bldg. 133 at the VA. This is the final phase of the VA/DoD Partnership.

Over 350 people were in attendance including officials from DoD, VA, staff from Naval Health Clinic Great Lakes and North Chicago VA Medical Center, US Congressman Mark Kirk from the 10<sup>th</sup> District of Illinois, veterans and active duty military and community members. Also in attendance was James A. Lovell, retired Navy captain and astronaut who the federal health care center will be named in 2010, the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center.

The parking garage is scheduled to open in mid August. The garage will be utilized for patient, handicapped and visitor



*Congressman Kirk addresses VA and Navy staff at Task Group Conference.*

## Introducing our VA/DoD Support Staff

As we move forward with our Partnership we would like to introduce our VA/DoD Support Staff. These individuals provide the day-to-day support for Captain McGue and Mr. Sullivan.



*Pictured from left: Kelvin Parks, HMI Debra D. Lewis, John Manczko, HMC(FMF) Brian Cazzell, Mark Weisenberger, CDR Ruth Kline.*

**CDR Ruth Kline** is the VA/DoD Integration Office team leader at the Naval Health Clinic Great Lakes (NHCGL). She joined the integration team October 2007 and is overseeing all of Naval Health Clinic Great Lakes integration efforts with the North Chicago VA Medical Center. She is very excited in being a part of "history in the making" by creating the first Federal Health Care Center in the nation.

She has been a Naval Officer since 1992, completed numerous assignments and held a vast variety of leadership positions. This combined with her educational background led itself to this assignment. She obtained her Masters Degrees in Business and Nursing Administration as well as Risk Management from Loyola University in Chicago and is currently attempting to complete her PhD in Organizational Behavior.

**HMC (FMF) Brian Cazzell** serves as the Leading Chief Petty Officer on the VA/DoD Integration Team at NHCGL. He joined

the integration team in October 2007 and is responsible for coordinating and managing a myriad of administrative tasks for the project. He was responsible for the initial drafting and arrangement of the Concept of Operations for the federal health care center (FHCC) and instrumental in drafting several Executive Decision Memoranda for the National Clinical Task Group. He is also an active participant on numerous other local and national joint integration committees and workgroups.

HMC (FMF) Cazzell's prior project management experience includes the construction of the Burkey Mall Satellite Pharmacy for NHCGL at the Navy Exchange on Green Bay Road and the establishment of medical readiness databases for Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point. He completed his Bachelor of Science degree in Management at Park University and will complete his Master of Science degree in Industrial Management from the University of Central Missouri in July 2009. He is a member of the Project Management Institute, American Society for Quality, and Society of Manufacturing Engineers.

**HM1 Debra D. Lewis** serves as the Leading Petty Officer for the VA/DoD Integration Team at Naval Health Clinic Great Lakes. She joined the team in December 2007 and is responsible for the administrative management of Joint Incentive Fund projects along with other administrative requirements for the integration team and coordinating presentations and briefs for leadership. She is also an active participant on numerous other local and national joint integration committees and workgroups.

HM1 Lewis' prior project management experience includes the inventory and revision of the Navy Dermatology Technician School curriculum. She served as the Course Director for the program and was responsible for curriculum development mandated by BUMED. She will complete her Bachelor of Health Care Administration at University of Phoenix in Fall of 2008 and will go on to achieve her Master of Human Resource Management with Webster University starting in January 2009. She is a Licensed Practical Nurse and is a member of the Dermatology Nurses Association.

**John Manczko** began working VA/DoD issues at NCVAMC as a Health Systems Specialist in July 2004. His 18 years civil service experience at the former Naval Hospital, Great Lakes earned him the second highest award given to a civilian in the Department of Navy, the Meritorious Civilian Service Award. His first-hand knowledge of our VA/DoD Sharing initiatives provided additional synergy for activation of Phase I and Phase II of the three-phased approach of integrating VA and Navy medical assets.

**Mark Weisenberger** is the VA/DoD Finance Coordinator at the North Chicago VA Medical Center (NCVAMC) VA/DoD integration team. Mark arrived at North Chicago last September and is very excited to participate in the bright future of federal health care center. Born and raised in Cincinnati, Mark obtained his law degree and master of health administration at Saint Louis University. He completed his undergraduate studies at Miami University, majoring in Marketing and Human Resource Management.

Prior to arriving at North Chicago, Mark was an administrative fellow at the Madison VA. Mark is a licensed attorney in the State

of Illinois and his legal interests include access to health care, elder law, and HIV law and policy.

**Kelvin L. Parks** serves as the VA/DoD Human Resources Coordinator. He came to North Chicago in January 2008, and is responsible for managing all staffing aspects related to the integration of NHCGL and the NCVAMC. Kelvin was instrumental in the editing and arrangement of the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center (JALFHCC) Concepts of Operations, and the design and structure of the JALFHCC Organizational Charts. He is also an active participant on numerous other local and national joint integration committees and workgroups.

Prior to joining our team, Kelvin worked at the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) Regional Office, Chicago as the Education Compliance Officer for the State of Illinois. He is a native of Chattanooga, Tennessee and retired Navy Chief Yeoman (Aviation Warfare). He holds a Bachelors of Science Degree in Organizational Management and currently pursuing a MBA (Leadership) at Webster University.

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## FAQs

**Question:** When the parking garage is opened, who can utilize it?

**Answer:** The parking garage is for patients, visitors, and handicap parking. We anticipate evenings, nights, and weekends the garage will be available for open parking.

**Question:** Once the parking garage is complete, will the shuttle and valet services continue?

**Answer:** Valet services for patients and individuals that need the service will continue; at least until the new ambulatory care center is complete in the summer of 2010. Shuttle services will also continue for patients so they can get from the parking garage to our new temporary front entrance by the Canteen.

**Question:** When will the name change take effect?

**Answer:** Once the full integration is complete, which is expected to be October 2010, we will be called the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center.

**Question:** If I have questions about the VA/DoD Partnership, who should I ask?

**Answer:** First ask your supervisor and if he/she doesn't know, send an e-mail to either:

*[Teresa.Hawkins@med.navy.mil](mailto:Teresa.Hawkins@med.navy.mil) or [Douglas.Shouse@va.gov](mailto:Douglas.Shouse@va.gov)*

### **October 2002**

Department of Defense and  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
agree to share Health Care Services

### **October 2003**

Navy Inpatient Behavioral Health  
Services relocate to North Chicago  
VAMC

### **December 2004**

Navy/DoD Blood Processing Center  
relocates to North Chicago VAMC

### **June 2006**

Emergency services, operating  
rooms, and inpatient medical and  
surgical services relocate to  
North Chicago VAMC

### **July 2008**

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for  
Parking Garage  
and  
Ground Breaking Ceremony for  
new Ambulatory Care Center

### **October 2010**

**Captain James A. Lovell  
Federal Health Care Center**