

Office of Public Affairs Media Relations Washington, DC 20420 (202) 273-6000 www.va.gov

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 18, 2007

Veterans Affairs

VA To Modernize Hudson Valley Campuses Also Developing Housing and Other Services for Veterans

WASHINGTON – To ensure veterans in the Hudson Valley receive their care in the highest quality facilities, Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs Gordon H. Mansfield announced today the Montrose and Castle Point areas will obtain new world-class facilities according to the selected strategic plan by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The business option selected by Mansfield maintains the residential treatment program and builds a multi-specialty state-of-the-art ambulatory care facility at the Montrose campus and a complete modernization of the Castle Point campus.

"VA is committed to providing Hudson Valley veterans with world-class facilities at these campuses" Mansfield said. "This decision represents another important step toward meeting that goal."

Mansfield also said the Department will use VA's Enhanced Use Leasing (EUL) program to seek potential reuses for unused and vacated land and buildings on both campuses, such as senior housing, that will provide benefits to veterans. Under the EUL program, VA retains ownership of the land and can determine and control its reuse.

"Interesting reuse proposals have been put forth during the CARES process that we hope will become part of the competitive process to ensure veterans get the highest values from any reuse," Mansfield said.

"I thank the Local Advisory Panel for their input, which assisted VA in this decision, along with many others, including the New York congressional delegation, veterans groups, state and local leaders, other stakeholders and VA employees," he added.

Today's announcement was based upon a study that began in 2004 to upgrade VA's health care facilities across the country.