



Department of Veterans Affairs

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News Release

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Governor Crist and Lt. Governor Kottkamp announce Miami VA Healthcare System as a recipient of the 2007 Governor's Sterling Award

The Miami VA Healthcare System will receive the prestigious Governor's Sterling Award on June 1, 2007, at the J.W. Marriott Grande Lakes in Orlando, Florida. For 15 years, the Governor's Sterling Award has recognized organizations and businesses in Florida that have successfully achieved performance superiority within their management and operations. Each winner has undergone an in-depth assessment and evaluation that included an expert team of examiners conducting an on-site review of the organization's management systems and organizational performance results.

In making the announcement, Governor Charlie Crist said: "I am honored to congratulate and recognize the 2007 Governor's Sterling Award recipients. The process required for receiving this award is recognized as one of the most comprehensive methods for any organization to improve performance and drive excellent results."

The Florida Sterling Council recognized the Miami VA Healthcare System for having the largest number and breadth of physician specialties in the national Veterans Health Administration (VHA) healthcare system. With more than 2,290 employees, the Miami VA Healthcare System offers medical, surgical, mental, and extended healthcare to more than 55,600 veterans in South Florida, with more than 20 percent of its workforce being veterans. Miami VA Healthcare System has been recognized for establishing national benchmarks and has achieved role model status for its innovative approaches and success targeting potential customers. It has also made incredible contributions in emergency preparedness, Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom, as well as various clinical outcomes, such as long-term care and prescreening. Healthcare services associated with preventive pre-screening all exceed national VHA targets, with alcohol screening at 100 percent.

The Miami VA Healthcare System was also the proud recipient, in 2005 and 2006, of the Secretary of Veteran's Affairs Robert W. Carey Performance Excellence Award for providing the highest quality care by an organization in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Established in 1992, the Florida Sterling Council is a public/private not-for-profit corporation supported by the Executive Office of the Governor. Sterling's Annual Conference is exclusively designed to teach participants how to elevate performance and increase productivity. More than 1,200 executives and professionals gather at this event for a one-stop source for education, information, and inspiration. The conference concludes with the recognition of best practices, the Team Showcase Champion, and presentation of the Governor's Sterling Awards.