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## **News Release**

## **Mobile Vet Centers**

VA has procured fifty (50) Mobile Vet Centers to support readjustment counseling services for combat veterans and their families. These vehicles will be utilized to provide outreach and direct readjustment counseling at active military, Reserve, and National Guard demobilization activities. This includes Post Deployment Health Reassessment (PDHRA) events where Vet Center Staff has been on site at all these events. The vehicles will be utilized to provide follow-up services at National Guard Armories, often located in rural areas with limited services, following mobilization. Services available will also include healthcare enrollment, preventative care health screenings, mental health medical support, and a variety of other options as appropriate to the event. The vehicles will also be a valuable and highly visible asset during local community activities involving veterans and their families such as homecoming events.

The procurement of these vehicles will enhance all three primary Vet Center functions of outreach, direct service delivery, and referral. Outreach service will be provided closer to veterans and their families, direct readjustment will be available on site at all events, and referrals can be facilitated immediately. The vehicles include highly visible contact information with VA and Vet Centers logos. The vehicles do not exceed 39 feet so that no specialized licensure for drivers is required. The vehicles include confidential counseling space to be utilized at events where privacy and/or confidentially are challenges (i.e. PDHRA). Each vehicle is equipped with two confidential offices/counseling rooms where Vet Center counselors and outreach specialists can meet individually with veterans and family members and provide readjustment services. The counseling areas will be separated by a door and designed specifically to maximize confidentially. These spaces can be converted to staff sleeping quarters after hours.

The vehicle has been maximized for multi-use applications by adding portable exam tables that can be configured within the existing confidential counseling areas to provide primary care capability. Additionally, the installation of rear doors, wheelchair lift, and state of the art litter system within the vehicle provide emergency patient evacuation capability.

