

# VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System

## VSO and Community Partner Update

January 2020



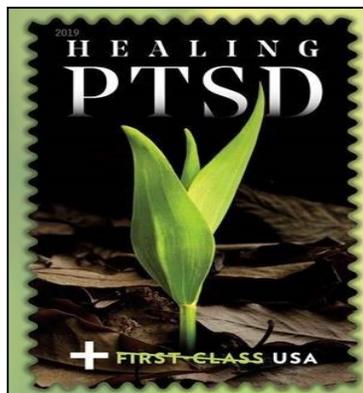
### Commissary, Military Exchange and MWR Privileges

Starting January 1, the DoD and Department of Homeland Security are expanding commissary, military exchange, and morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) retail privileges to Veterans who are Purple Heart recipients, Veterans who are former prisoners of war, all Veterans with service-connected disabilities, and individuals approved and designated as the Primary Family Caregivers enrolled in the VA Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers.

DoD sets the conditions for access to DoD installations. See page 3 for more details.

### New Stamp to Raise Awareness for PTSD

On December 3, the U.S. Postal Service announced that proceeds from sales of a new postage stamp will go to support post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) research and education at VA's National Center for PTSD.



The "Healing PTSD" stamp features a photo illustration of a green plant sprouting from ground covered in fallen leaves, symbolizing the PTSD healing process. The stamp is part of the semipostal fundraising series and is sold at 65 cents for a 2 year period, with a potential to reach \$150 million.

### Compare your VA Facility

It is now easier for Veterans and the community to view VA facility data for wait times, quality of care and Veteran satisfaction. Users can visit our website at [www.denver.va.gov](http://www.denver.va.gov); at the home page on the left will appear a menu. As illustrated right, select "Compare Your VA Facility" (shown with the red arrow) and the user can chose the three different comparison tools.

Each site explains the data, how it is gathered and it's respective comparisons.



### Upcoming Dates.....

#### VSO and Congressional Stakeholder Monthly Meeting January 15, 1200-1400

See page 2 for location and the agenda for this month's meeting.

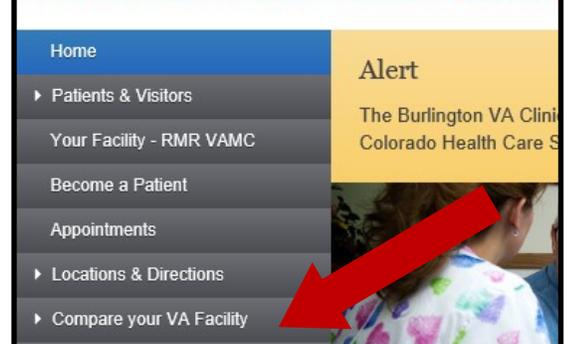
### VA Mobile Apps

Veterans are using many of VA's nearly two dozen patient-facing web and mobile apps. These online tools assist Veterans with issues ranging from weight loss and mental health to refilling prescriptions and scheduling their medical appointments. Peruse the various apps through your app store or go to: [mobile.va.gov/appstore](http://mobile.va.gov/appstore).

### Flu Shots at Urgent Care Clinics

Please note, Veterans can only get their flu shots from an Urgent Care Clinic when they are being seen for another reason. For example, a Veteran that goes to an Urgent Care clinic for a possible fracture is eligible to get his/her flu shot.

### VA Eastern Colorado Health



Check us out on Social Media



Questions? Contact Khristie Barker, Public Affairs at (720) 723.6522



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Health Administration  
Eastern Colorado Health Care System

# Monthly VSO/Congressional Stakeholder Meeting January 15, 2020 from 1200-1400

## Physical Location:

PFC Floyd Lindstrom VA Clinic  
3141 Centennial Blvd, Colorado Springs  
Conference Room: Mt. Princeton/Mt. Yale

## V-tel Locations: Join us via v-tel at one of the following locations.

Rocky Mountain Regional VAMC  
1700 N. Wheeling Street, Aurora  
Conference Room: A2-102, Prairie Sage CR

PFC Dunn VA Clinic  
4776 Eagleridge Circle, Pueblo  
Conference Room: #2302

## Conference Call: If you can't join us at any of the above locations, join us via teleconference.

Dial in number: 844-364-7554  
Conference ID number: 507023739#

## Agenda

Time	Topic
12:00 – 12:15 p.m.	<b>Introductions</b>
12:15 - 12:45 p.m.	<b>Health Care System update</b> POC: Director Michael Kilmer
12:45 – 1:00 p.m.	<b>Veteran Transportation Service / Bene-Travel</b> POC: Thomas Talamante
1:00 – 1:15 p.m.	<b>Voluntary Services Driver</b> POC: Daniel Warvi V-Tel from RMR
1:15 – 1:30 p.m.	<b>Heritage Prescription Program</b> POC: Timothy Lobner
1:30 – 2:00 p.m.	<b>Q&amp;A's</b> Next briefing scheduled for February 19 <sup>th</sup> in Pueblo

## Commissary, Military Exchange and MWR Privileges...Additional Details

The following credentials are approved by DoD:

- Veterans can present their Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC) to gain entry to DoD and Coast Guard installations and some commissary stores. The VHIC must display the Veteran's eligibility status (i.e., Purple Heart, Former POW, or Service Connected).
- Veterans in category 8e who are not eligible for a VHIC may present their HEC form H623A to demonstrate eligibility for the DoD benefit along with acceptable identification (REALID) credential to gain entry.
- Primary Family Caregivers will receive a letter from the VA Office of Community Care that indicates they are the approved and designated Primary Family Caregiver of an eligible Veteran under the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers and are eligible for the privileges. Eligible caregivers will need to show an acceptable identification (REALID) credential along with their eligibility letter to gain entry.

Veterans with questions about the VHIC or HEC form H623A should be referred to speak to someone in the VAMC Enrollment/Eligibility Office. Caregivers with questions should be referred to their local Caregiver Support Coordinators.

Attached to this email is the Fact Sheet compiled by DoD.

### ECHCS Hosts "Suits for Warriors"

On December 19, the entire 1,100 feet of the Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center's concourse was lined with Veterans, active duty service members and reservists. America's heroes all attended the first ever 'Suits for Warriors' event hosted in partnership with Boeing, H.E.R.O.E.S. Care, Dress For Success Denver and VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System (ECHCS).

Approximately 750 men's business suits were donated by Men's Warehouse and another 100 women's suits were donated by Dress For Success Denver. The value of these donations is approximately \$143,000. In total, 572 of America's heroes presented in hopes of finding a suit and at the end of the day, every last one of these men and women took a suit of their very own home.

"I cannot thank our community partners enough for the work they do in support of the military and our Veterans. Transitioning into civilian life and a new career path can be challenging. One suit can make all the difference in helping a Veteran's confidence while preparing for interviews, job fairs or networking events," VA ECHCS Director Michael Kilmer said.

VA ECHCS Voluntary Services helped to make this event a success and hopes that this can become an annual event in support of helping those who may not have the means to purchase a suit, just like it did for Hawaii native, Army National Guard Veteran Tony Diec who said he hasn't needed a business suit until recently. "I'm in between jobs right now and am grateful for services that provide business suits like this so I can dress the part at interviews," Diec said.

