

**Kings County
Military and Veterans Coalition
August 8, 2023 - 2pm PDT**

Microsoft Teams Meeting Agenda

Meeting ID: 266 004 589 548 Passcode: d3WSa9
Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 323-433-2320,,839169384#](#) United States, Los Angeles
Phone Conference ID: 839 169 384#

Introductions

Previous Items

- **Veterans Service Office Status – M/Th, 8:00am – 5:00pm and Friday, 8:00am – 12:00pm**
 - **Lobby Hours:**
 - ***** Update: M-Th 8:30 am – 4pm; Friday*****
 - Certain questions may be answered by support staff, without having to speak with a VSR. Feel free to call anytime to ask for assistance. The Kings County Veterans Service Office can still complete the DMV Veteran Status Verification Form (VSD-001) for the Veteran Designation on your California driver's license/ID Card. We are no longer issuing the locally-generated Veteran I.D. cards.
- **Kings County Veterans Support Group– (See Attached)**

Speaker Topic: ***Kings County Behavioral Health***
Mental Health Awareness/Cohen Veterans Network Clinic

New Items –

- **VA Homeless HC Outreach - (See Attached)**
- **VA Expanded Breast Health Screenings - (See Attached)**
- **VA/NAACP Partnership - (See Attached)**
- **VUB Flyer - (See Attached)**

Round Table –

Next Meeting – September 12, 2023 – Location: MS Teams Meeting



Kings County Veteran's Support Group

It's our turn to serve those who serve on our behalf!



Veteran's Support Group

Meets the 2nd & 4th Tuesday
of the month via Zoom & in person

Time: 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

For Zoom link/meeting info call (559) 852-2444

Seating is limited, so please call to reserve your seat.



Due to the nature of the group, we can only allow adults to participate.



460 Kings County Drive Suite 101
Hanford, CA 93230

VA launches mobile medical units to increase access to health care for homeless Veterans

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

10:00 am

WASHINGTON — Today, the Department of Veterans Affairs announced that it will deploy 25 mobile medical units across the country during the next six months to provide health care and support to homeless and at-risk Veterans. The first MMU arrived today at the VA Orlando Healthcare System, and the full deployment schedule for upcoming MMUs can be viewed [here](#).

Mobile medical units are vans or trucks that move from one location to another to provide a private space for eligible Veterans to meet with medical providers, including mental health clinicians, social workers, and other staff that provide primary care, women’s health, audiology, laboratory, and telehealth services to those who may not have access to a local VA medical center.

Ending Veteran homelessness is a top priority for VA, and President Biden has made supporting Veterans a key pillar of his [Unity Agenda](#) for the nation. In 2022 alone, [VA housed more than 40,000 formerly homeless Veterans](#), prevented more than 17,700 Veterans and their families from falling into homelessness, and helped nearly 191,700 additional Veteran families who were experiencing financial difficulties retain their homes or avoid foreclosure. Thanks in part to these efforts, the number of Veterans experiencing homelessness has fallen by 11% since early 2020 and by more than 55% since 2010. In 2023, VA has set a goal to house [at least 38,000 Veterans](#).

“Veterans experiencing homelessness face a variety of barriers to accessing health care, including a lack of transportation,” said **VA Secretary Denis McDonough**. “With these new mobile medical units, homeless and at-risk Veterans don’t have to visit VA hospitals — we come right to them.”

This announcement builds on sweeping new investments to address Veteran homelessness [announced](#) by the White House in June.

VA’s efforts to end Veteran homelessness are built upon the evidence-based “Housing First” approach, which prioritizes first getting a Veteran into housing and then providing them with the wraparound support they need to stay housed, including health care, job training, legal and education assistance, and more.

These MMUs have been made available through VA’s [Homeless Patient Aligned Care Teams](#), whose mission is to address the unique needs and distinct challenges homeless Veterans face both accessing and engaging in health care. In addition to MMUs, VA already has 83 [Mobile Vet Centers](#) around the country to provide confidential counseling and outreach to eligible individuals in communities that are distant or remote from existing services.

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If you are a Veteran who is experiencing homelessness or at risk for homelessness, call the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at 877-4AID-VET (877-424-3838). Visit the [VA Homeless Programs website](#) to learn about housing initiatives and other programs for Veterans exiting homelessness

VA expands breast cancer screenings and mammograms for Veterans with potential toxic exposures

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

9:15 am

WASHINGTON – Today, the Department of Veterans Affairs announced that Veterans under 40 who may have been exposed to burn pits and other toxins during their service are now eligible for breast cancer risk assessments and mammograms (as clinically appropriate) at VA.

Veterans are eligible for these screenings regardless of age, symptoms, family history, and whether they are enrolled in VA health care. Generally, VA follows American Cancer Society guidelines for breast cancer screenings, meaning that — aside from those covered by this new policy — most Veterans become eligible for screenings and mammograms at age 40. This potentially life-saving expansion advances President Biden’s Unity Agenda and drives progress toward the goals of the Biden [Cancer Moonshot](#).

VA is expanding eligibility for breast cancer risk assessments and clinically appropriate mammograms as a part of implementing the [Dr. Kate Hendricks Thomas SERVICE Act](#). Dr. Hendricks Thomas was a Marine Corps Veteran who deployed to Iraq in 2005, where she was exposed to burn pits. In 2018, she was diagnosed with stage 4 breast cancer. She tragically passed away April 5, 2022, at the age of 42.

“We at VA are expanding breast cancer screenings for toxic-exposed Veterans because early detection saves lives,” said **VA Secretary Denis McDonough**. “This is an important step toward making sure that breast cancer is diagnosed early, treated early, and — hopefully — sent into remission early.”

These services are available to Veterans who served in the following places and timeframes:

- Iraq between Aug. 2, 1990, and Feb. 28, 1991, and from March 19, 2003, until VA determines burn pits are no longer used in Iraq.
- The Southwest Asia theater of operations, including Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Qatar (but not including Iraq), from Aug. 2, 1990, until VA determines burn pits are no longer used in such locations.
- Afghanistan, Djibouti, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, and Yemen from Sept. 11, 2001, until VA determines burn pits are no longer used in such locations.
- Other locations and time periods as determined by the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry.

The risk assessment is a series of questions about a patient’s toxic exposure(s), family medical history, and other risk factors to determine whether they should have a mammogram. Getting screened for breast cancer is an important part of maintaining overall health, and mammograms are the best way to find and treat breast cancer early, when there is a 99% survival rate. That’s why early detection is a central pillar of the [Biden Cancer Moonshot](#), which is mobilizing efforts toward achieving two clear goals: to prevent more than 4 million cancer deaths by 2047, and to transform the experience of people who are touched by cancer.

Breast cancer is also a presumptive condition under the [PACT Act](#), the largest expansion of Veterans care and benefits in generations. Since President Biden signed the PACT Act into law Aug. 10, 2022, VA has delivered more than \$1.6 billion in PACT Act-related benefits to Veterans and their survivors, and more than 4 million Veterans have received VA's new [toxic exposure screening](#). VA encourages all toxic-exposed Veterans and their survivors to apply for their PACT Act-related benefits today at [VA.gov/PACT](#).

Veterans who are interested in the breast cancer risk assessment screenings can contact their VA primary care provider or reach out to their [local VA medical center](#). Veterans can enroll in VA health care [here](#).

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VA and NAACP announce partnership to improve quality of life for Black and minority Veterans

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 28, 2023

12:00 pm

WASHINGTON — Today, VA and the NAACP announced an agreement to work together to advance and improve the quality of life for all Veterans, including minority Veterans.

As a part of the partnership, VA and the NAACP will seek to increase the number of Black Veterans enrolled in VA health care, increase awareness of VA benefits and services among Black Veterans, and increase recruitment of culturally-competent providers at VA. VA and the NAACP will also meet regularly, share expertise and knowledge, and coordinate on outreach to minority Veteran communities.

“At VA, it’s our mission to serve all Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors as well as they’ve served our country,” said **VA Secretary Denis McDonough**. “This historic partnership with the NAACP will help us deliver on that promise, enhancing our outreach to Black Veterans and helping ensure that we provide every Veteran with the world-class care and benefits they deserve.”

“As we commemorate the 75th anniversary of the integration of our armed forces, we must acknowledge the fact that Black Veterans have not always received the just treatment they deserve,” said **NAACP & CEO Derrick Johnson**. “That’s why the NAACP is proud to embark on this historic partnership with VA to further our commitment to ensuring that representation does not come without respect. We look forward to all that we’ll accomplish together on behalf of our Black Veterans.”

This partnership will be critical to VA’s goals to eliminate barriers and inequalities for Veterans who have historically been underserved, and to provide world-class care and benefits to all Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors. As a part of these efforts, VA also recently [created](#) a new Agency Equity Team — known as the I*DEA (inclusion, diversity, equity, and access) Council — which is responsible for helping VA improve outcomes for historically underserved Veterans, identifying and eliminating any disparities in VA health care and benefits, creating and implementing a VA Equity Action Plan, listening to and learning from historically underserved Veteran communities, and more. The Council is also working to eliminate disparities and barriers to recruit, hire, develop, promote, and retain employees, including those from historically underserved communities.

Data recently released by VA shows that since 2017, VA has delivered disability compensation benefits to a higher percentage of Black Veterans than other Veterans. However, grant rates for Black Veterans were lower. Through this partnership and VA’s Agency Equity Team, VA is actively looking into these differences and working to address them.

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Veterans

UPWARD

BOUND

What VUB has to offer:

- Individualized career assessment and planning
- College Application assistance
- Financial aid and GI Bill® information
- Help obtaining Military and other Transcripts
- Academic Counseling
- Access to other resources: study area, computer labs, student union

Some Eligibility Criteria

- Meet military service requirements
- Received other than a dishonorable discharge
- Completed a minimum of 180 days of active service
- U.S. Citizen, resident or applying for residency
- Low-income and/or first-generation
- Was a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces called to active duty for a period of more than 30 days; or was a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces who served on active duty in support of a contingency operation on or after September 11, 2001

**SCAN TO
START AN
APPLICATION**

