

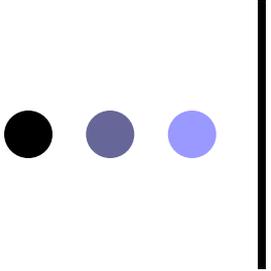


# Caring for America's Military Heroes and Public Services:

## *The Role of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in Addressing Military and Veterans Health Care*

Sheila Cullen, Director  
VA Sierra Pacific Network (VISN 21)  
Department of Veterans Affairs

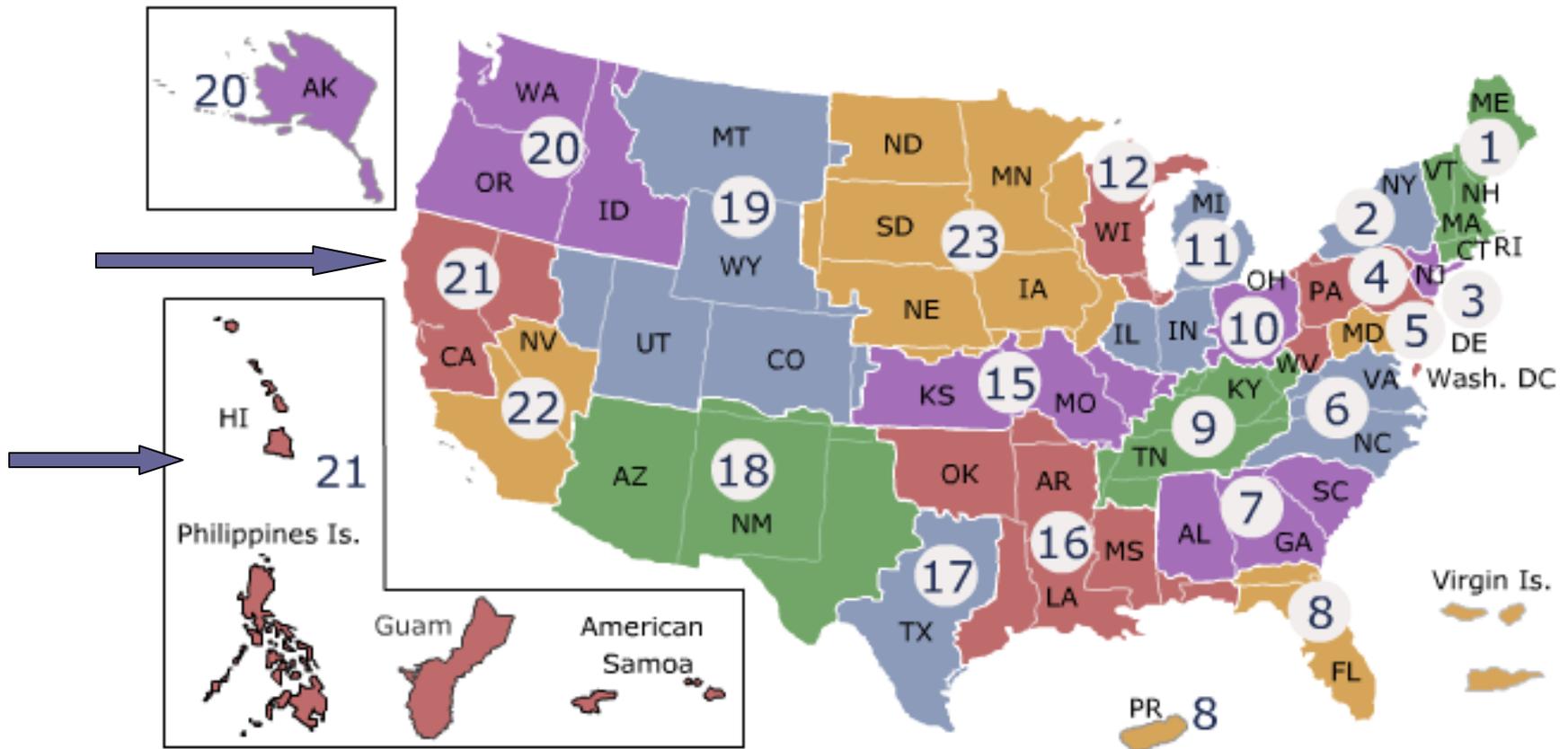
*Future of Health Care in the Insular Areas: September 29, 2008*



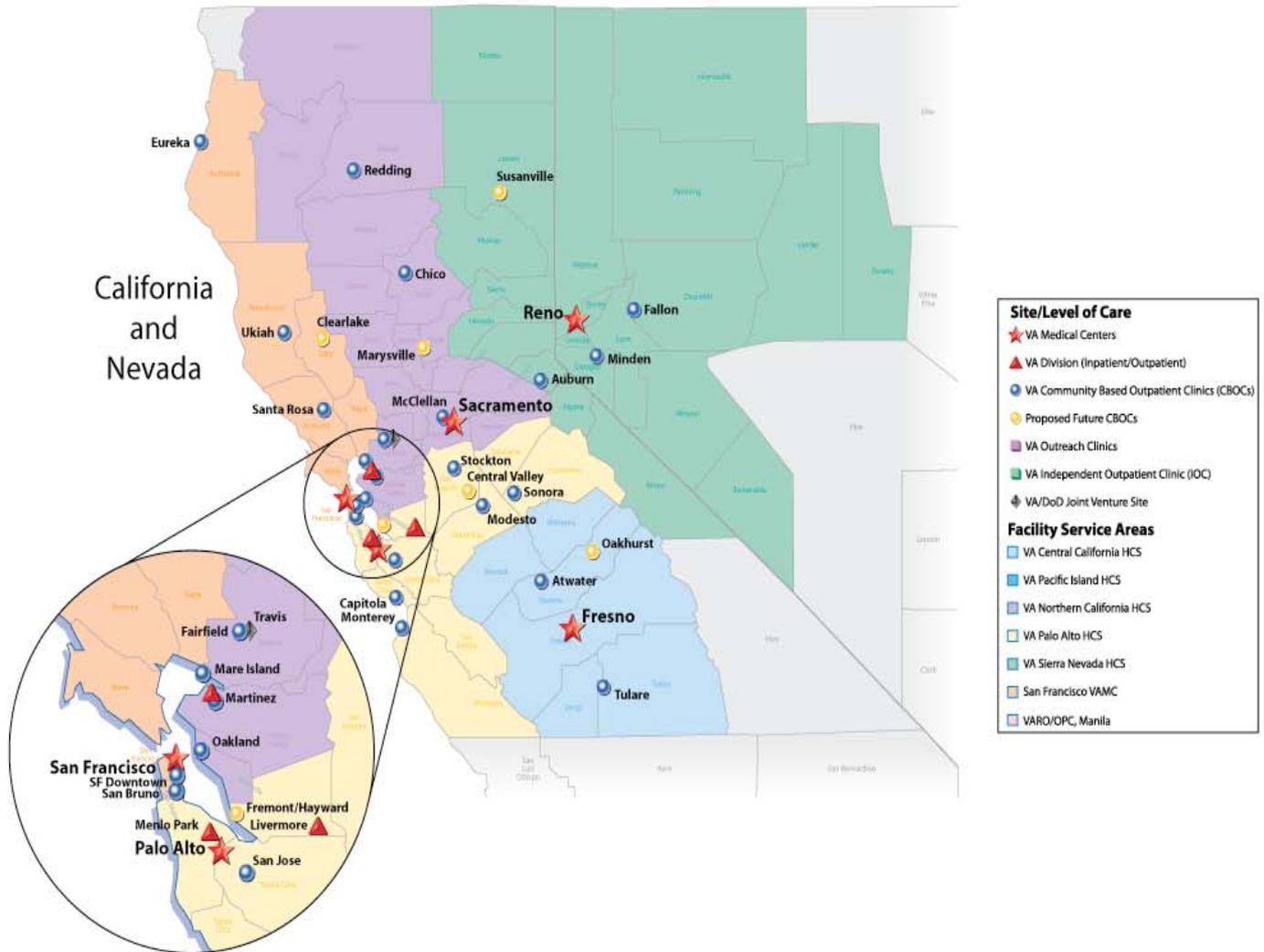
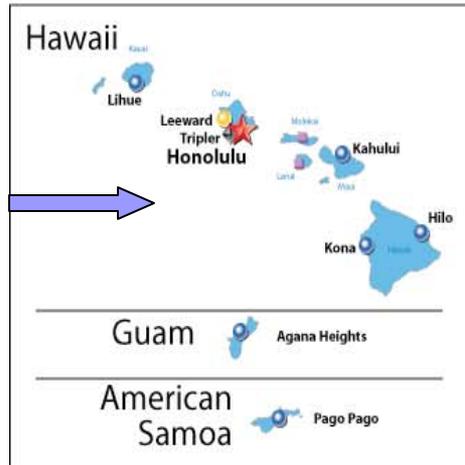
# Overview

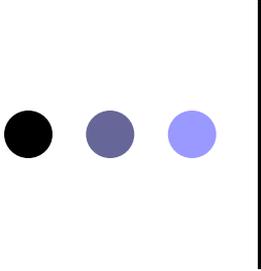
- Context
  - Organization
  - Geography
- Veterans Access to Care: Pacific Insular Areas
  - How/What/Where
- Challenges
- Opportunities

# Veterans Health Administration (VHA)



# VA Sierra Pacific Network (VISN 21)





# Veterans Access to Care: Pacific Insular Areas

## ○ Who:

- Guam, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, and Palau

## ○ How:

- Community Based Outpatient Clinics
- Telemedicine
- VA/DoD Sharing Agreement
- Community Providers

## ○ Where:

### ● VA Facilities:

- Guam
- American Samoa
- Hawaii
  - Honolulu
  - Maui, Kauai, Hilo, and Kona
    - Molokai, Lanai
- U. S. Mainland
  - Palo Alto & San Francisco

# American Samoa: Veteran Profile

FY 2007	
Vet Pop	1,073
Enrollees	880
VA Users (NOTE: CBOC activated in late FY07)	Total= 528 CBOC = 199 OEF/OIF = 23
Age	<34= 11 35-54= 78 55-74= 99 75+= 11
Gender	Male= 188 Female= 11
Priority	1-6= 185 7-8= 14



# Guam: Veteran Profile

FY 2007	
Vet Pop	8,962
Enrollees	3,218
Users	CBOC = 1,564 OEF/OIF = 92
Age	<34= 107 35-54= 481 55-74= 869 75+= 107
Gender	Male=1,482 Female=82
Priority	1-6=1,396 7-8=168

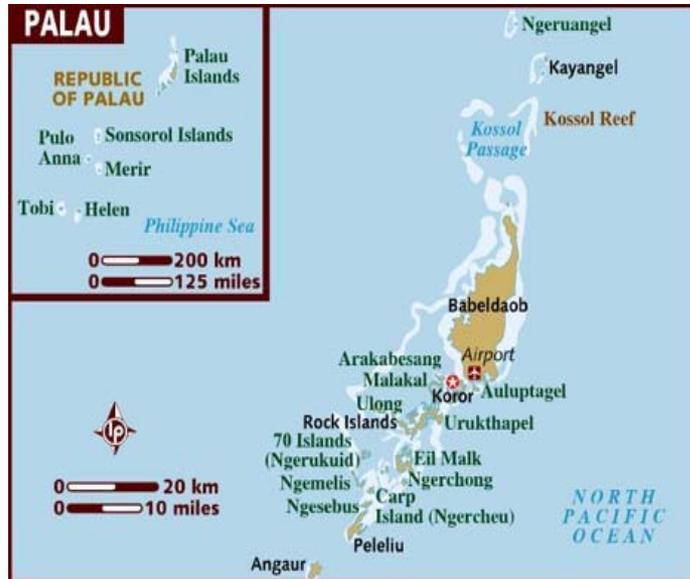


# Northern Mariana Islands: Veteran Profile

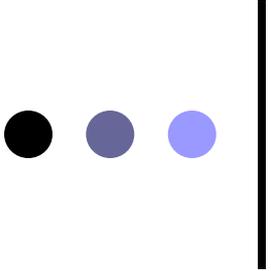
FY 2007	
Vet Pop Enrollees	868 196
VA Users Guam CBOC	Total = 101 30
Gender (users)	Male= 99 Female= 2



# Freely Associated States: Veteran Profile

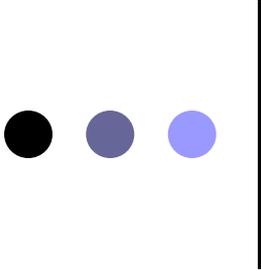


FY 2007	FSM, Marshall Islands, Palau
Vet Pop	~100 (est.)
Users (Total)	Total=15
Gender	Male=15 Female=0



# Access for Insular Area Veterans - Challenges

- Variable access to care
- Jurisdictional regulations, policies, and boundaries
- Availability of trained allied health professionals/physicians
- Volume of veteran patients
- Travel for care to Hawaii and/or Mainland
- VA Foreign Medical Program
- Distance technology infrastructure



# Access for Insular Area Veterans - Opportunities

- Increase use of telemedicine
- Increase use of technology for distance learning
- Consider the use of outreach clinics
- Increase VA/DoD, federal, and community partnerships
- Develop alliances to support emerging/unique needs of veterans/reservists/active duty returning from Iraq and Afghanistan
- Leverage resources to address common needs (i.e. transportation, health care service deficits)



**Questions?**