



Defining
EXCELLENCE
in the 21st Century

Network Director's Update

December 2011



National News: *(Click on titles to read full press release)*

[VA-HUD: Homelessness among Veterans Declines 12% in 2011](#) -

The Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development today announced that a new national report shows that homelessness among Veterans has been reduced by nearly 12 percent

between January 2010 and January 2011. The 12 percent decline keeps the Obama Administration on track to meet the goal of ending Veteran homelessness in 2015. (12/13/11)

[Commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of the Attack on Pearl Harbor](#) -

Few dates in American history are as deeply burned into our consciousness as December 7, 1941. Seventy years ago today, American forces on Oahu, Hawai'i withstood an unprovoked attack, and the fleet at Pearl Harbor suffered devastating losses. More than 2,400 Americans were killed, many great ships of the Pacific Fleet lay torn and burning, and our Nation was thrust headlong into the largest global conflict in human history. (12/7/11)

[New Online Tools for Veteran Job-Seekers](#) - Veterans now have on-demand access and can download official data about their military training and experience, which can be used to help them find jobs and continue their careers. Their service data can be uploaded to job search and networking sites to help identify employment opportunities. (12/7/11)

[Holiday Wreaths to Honor Veterans at VA National Cemeteries](#) - Volunteers will place holiday wreaths at Department of Veterans Affairs national cemeteries on Saturday, Dec. 10, to honor the Nation's Veterans. (12/7/11)

[VA Salutes World War II Vets on Pearl Harbor Day](#) - On the 70th anniversary of the United States' entry into World War II, the men and women of the Department of Veterans Affairs salute the members of "America's greatest generation" for their sacrifice, love of country and concern for their fellow Veterans. (12/6/11)

[New Videos Feature Military Service Stories of Women Veterans](#) - The Department of Veterans Affairs has released a series of videos in which women Veterans describe their experiences serving in the military, ranging

from their significant contributions to national safety and security to the challenges they faced during their service and after returning to civilian life. (12/5/11)

[Traumatic Injury Benefits Now Payable for Genitourinary Injuries](#) - Servicemembers who suffer severe injuries to the genitourinary organs will now be eligible for Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Traumatic Injury Protection, or TSGLI. (12/2/11)

[New Members Appointed to VA Committee on Women Veterans](#) - Six new members have been appointed to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Advisory Committee on Women Veterans, an expert panel that advises VA on issues and programs affecting women Veterans. (12/2/11)

[VA Recognizes World AIDS Day](#) - The Department of Veterans Affairs is observing World AIDS Day on Thursday, Dec. 1, the 30th anniversary of the identification of the disease caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Some of the first cases of HIV/AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome) were seen by VA clinicians. Since then, VA has continued to be a national model for outstanding HIV care and has made significant strides in treatment of Veterans infected with the virus. (12/1/11)

VISN 19:

Network Director Retires After 40 Years of Distinguished VA Service

During a distinguished 40 year career with the Veterans Health Administration, Mr. Glen Grippen has accomplished numerous outstanding achievements in Federal health care management while serving in a variety of progressively responsible positions.



Most recently, he served as the Director of the Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 19, a position he held since July, 2007. As Network Director for the Rocky Mountain Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 19, he was responsible for planning, budgeting, and service delivery in the provision of healthcare to veterans within a geographic region which includes six medical facilities and their community based outpatient clinics in

the states of Colorado, Utah, Montana and Wyoming, as well as portions of Nebraska, Idaho, and Nevada.

Prior to his assignment in VISN 19, Mr. Grippen served as the Medical Center Director at the Milwaukee, Wisconsin VA Medical Center from July 1997-July 2007. Mr. Grippen came to the Milwaukee VA Medical Center from the Iron Mountain, Michigan VA Medical Center where he served as Medical Center Director. Previous to this, he served as Associate Director at the New Orleans VA Medical Center, Associate and Assistant Director of the Minneapolis VA Medical Center, Health Systems Specialist for the Great Lakes Region in Ann Arbor, Michigan and received his Associate Director training at the Allen Park VA Medical Center in Allen Park, Michigan.

Prior to his Associate Director training, Mr. Grippen served as Chief, Fiscal Service at the Ann Arbor, Michigan and Fort Howard, Maryland VA Medical Centers, Assistant Chief of Fiscal Service at the Tomah VA Medical Center and Chief of the Accounting Section at the Spokane VA Medical Center. Mr. Grippen started his VA career in 1972 as an Accountant Trainee at the Iron Mountain VA Medical Center.

His passionate commitment to the VA is based in part on a proud family history of VA service as both his mother and father were loyal employees of the VA.

Glen's diverse career experience led to his being called upon to serve in national leadership roles as well as a mentor to up-and-coming leaders in the Department of Veterans Affairs. Whenever called upon, he served as Acting DUSHOM, Assistant DUSHOM and as the national Contracting Manager as needed. He maintained oversight of his operational duties responsibilities as Network Director, while simultaneously fulfilling the scope of these Acting responsibilities.

Glen's consistent demonstration of strength, integrity, industry and a relentless commitment to excellence was seen in his performance and contributions to the Department's initiatives and resulted in significant value-added accomplishments for the Department.

In VISN 19, his superlative activities and successes in TeleHealth set the national pace for the initiation and expansion of the program and reflected positively on the Department, as VA has been identified as a leader of TeleHealth.

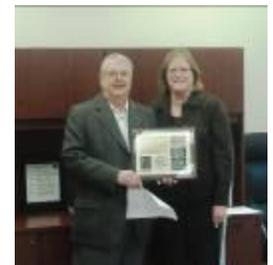
Under Mr. Grippen's guidance, and in conjunction with the VA Office of Rural Health, the VISN 19 made significant progress in providing health care to Veterans who live in rural and highly rural areas. He supported the creation of a national TeleHealth Training Center and was recognized as a leader in outreach to Native American Veterans on reservations across the Network. His network pursued an aggressive schedule for expanding rural care, opening new community based

clinics and Primary Care TeleHealth Outreach Clinics under his tenure.

Glen Grippen is also recognized for his strengths in change management and operations management. He led a national strategic alliance joint effort of VA, DoD, VBA and VHA to improve benefits delivery and services as he successfully navigated a sensitive VA/DOD joint partnership with the Air Force Academy (AFA) on O.R. capabilities which allows veterans to access outpatient surgery at the AFA and strengthened other VA/DoD sharing initiatives: the DES pilot, plans for joint VA/DoD lease of MH beds in Colorado Springs, and Peterson AFB clinic space in the new Denver replacement hospital.

Glen's approach to those with whom he dealt, whether patients, VA staff, or others with an interest in the Department of Veterans Affairs, was always caring, thoughtful, and professional. His attention to detail was always apparent, and he never lost sight of the overall goals of the VA. This philosophy has served him well throughout his distinguished career, and veterans and their families across the Nation have benefited tremendously as a result. Glen performed his duties in an exceptional manner during his entire VA career.

True to form, Glen has spent his last few weeks in the VISN visiting every VAMC in VISN 19 ...receiving more recognition awards for VISN 19.



We will miss Glen greatly!



Holiday Greetings from the VISN 19 Network Staff

Eastern Colorado Health Care System



Holiday Greetings from the ECHCS Leadership Team!!!

Sheridan VAMC:



Holiday Greetings from the Sheridan VAMC Leadership Team!!!

VA Grand Junction VAMC



Holiday Greetings from the Grand Junction VAMC Leadership Team!!!

Cheyenne VAMC:



Holiday Greetings from the Cheyenne VAMC Leadership Team!!!

VA Montana Health Care System:



Holiday Greetings from the VAMTHCS Leadership Team!!

VASLCHCS



Holiday Greetings from the VASLCHCS Leadership Team!!!